

SMT 9/7/2018

“Meet Rev. Jessica Vaughan Lower” by Rev. Jeff O’Grady, Pastor, SMCC

San Marino Community Church has called The Rev. Jessica Vaughan Lower as its new Associate Pastor for Contemporary Worship and Community Outreach. Rev. Vaughan Lower has served the past five years as the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in El Paso, Texas. A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and University of California, Irvine, she is currently a candidate enrolled as a Ph.D. student at the Graduate School for Leadership and Change at Antioch University. Jessica begins her duties in contemporary worship at San Marino Community Church on September 23rd at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

In the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Ministers of Word and Sacrament are elected by the congregation rather than appointed by a church board or bishop. The congregation voted unanimously to elect Rev. Vaughan Lower to the post at a meeting on July 22nd. Her family joins her in the move from Texas, including husband Andy, and children, Marloe and Levi, who join the church community and the broader community of San Marino as well.

Rev. Vaughan Lower writes, “My experiences in pastoral leadership are diverse, but they are each characterized by the theme of congregational growth and change. Whether through helping to plant a church, re-structuring youth and young adult programs for a large programmatic church, working to bring joy and efficiency to committees and staff teams that were stagnant with distrust and fatigue, starting a new worship service for college students in an aging congregation, or merging three legacy congregations into one, thriving worshiping community, I have taken great joy in witnessing the Spirit of Resurrection transform both congregations and individual hearts. . . I serve the church out of the unshakable belief that the best days are not behind us, but rather, the best days of the Church stretch on ahead of us until we are joined in eternity.”

Please join the San Marino Community Church in welcoming Rev. Jessica Vaughan Lower and her family to the area. An installation service is being planned for the end of October at the church. In the meantime, feel free to join the congregation for worship to see for yourself this new, young, and dynamic associate pastor, September 23.