



Pastoral Transitions

BY

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Rev. Dr. Janine Howard

I am thrilled to announce that we have a prospective lead pastor, the Rev. Dr. Janine Howard. Janine joined the Methodist church in her young adulthood after being welcomed and recruited by the United Methodist Women at a local Methodist Church on the Eastern Shore, where she was living. She had the unique experience of being called, ordained and then serving as the pastor at the very church that first welcomed her. Janine was ordained in 2000 and received her Dr in Ministry from Wesley in 2007. She was the lead pastor at various churches before being called to leadership at the cabinet level. Janine is currently ending her term as the District Superintendent of the Danville District.

Janine expressed excitement at serving a Reconciling Congregation. She is ready to lead us through the fallout from General Conference, wherever that takes us. Janine has been involved in Caring for God's Creation on a leadership level and personally enjoys being out in nature. She will be moving here with her dog, Kobi (see below), who chose her in a street encounter and who loves to hike with her. Janine is familiar with the area, as she has lived in Falls Church and attended George Mason Junior High and Senior Highschool.

Here is a message from Janine: *I am excited about the prospect of our shared ministry at Fairlington. I am already experiencing gracious support and encouragement offered by*

leaders, lay and clergy, of the congregation. We have a lot to learn about one another in upcoming weeks and months; our "journey of discovery" together promises to be energizing for all. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you in ministries of peace, justice and compassion with our neighbors, wherever and whomever they are!

The Staff Parish Relations Committee had a chance to meet Janine and we cannot wait until we can introduce you to her when she arrives in June. We know you will welcome her with open arms into our community, as you always do. In the meantime, we are grateful to continue our ministry with the leadership of Pastor Mary Beth, who is retiring in June and whose last Sunday will be June 16th. We are happy to report that Pastors Devon and Christian will be remaining at Fairlington.

