

Statement of Call Kathleen T Watson

God called me at a very young age to use whatever I had been given to show people the love, joy, and grace that God offers. I have done so to the best of my ability for more than 45 years, both professionally and as a volunteer in congregations, outdoor ministries, school campuses, and within my communities. Having been very active in my family church growing up, I was given many opportunities to delve into different aspects of ministry from music to preaching and teaching, to outreach development. I went to Malone College to pursue Elementary Education but perceived a calling to seek a Christian Ministries degree instead. This came to a critical point as I was tutoring a local student through a public-school program. It became clear to me that this young lady needed to hear about the love that God had for her far more than she needed to hear about adjectives, and I was obligated to refrain from any such discussion with her. This was frustrating. I went to my faculty advisor to talk about it and he walked me over to the Christian Ministries faculty offices for a totally different conversation. Eventually, this would lead to serving the Lord at 7 different camps and 5 congregations in Ohio, New York, and California.

Seemingly retired, my family appeared to be my primary ministry field. Then, a need for pastoral ministry arose in our congregation after our Pastor's retirement. When the search by the PNC was less than fruitful, and when others in leadership within our congregation identified me as one with certain gifts and potential, I began to pray, seek the Holy Spirit's guidance, and discuss with my family members what might be coming next. Pastoral/Congregational Ministry was not on my radar, nor was it something I particularly wanted to do. Soon doors opened, inspiration came, and that still, small voice got a good bit louder. I began to discern that God was indeed inviting me to a new adventure.

I believe that God is calling me to assist with the spiritual formation of our congregation, to lead worship, to help equip these Saints for ministry, and to love the people who gather in community on Beech Street in Alliance, Ohio. Whatever gifts I have I willingly offer for Christ's service in this congregation and community.