

Prayerfully Pondering Tippe's Pastoral Position



Setting Sail Toward New Horizons Of Possibilities...

WHO

... ARE WE?

... ARE YOU?

WHAT

... ARE WE ABOUT?

... IS YOUR BACKGROUND?

WHY

... SHOULD YOU CONSIDER US?

... SHOULD WE CONSIDER YOU?

TIPPECANOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Milwaukee, WI 53207

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Tippe Church: Our Charism, Mission, Core Values, Guiding Principles, Ministry, Missions, Transition

Charism:

A necessary synergy of head and heart focusing our sense of call upon a compassionate care that is both fluid and focused.

Mission:

Affirming our Faith with Intention

We are...

Relevant and Responsive

Open and Affirming

Engaged and Engaging

Informal and Radically Traditional

Welcoming All.

Honoring the Sacred Masculine and Feminine

Embracing the Mystic within

We Are of One Spirit....

not Necessarily of One Mind.

Mission Bound.

Educationally Engaged.

Our Youth Show us "The Way".

Elders Honored.

Visitors Expected.

Core Values:

- ❖ **God's Grace** moves from conversation/confession/self-awareness through forgiveness to new choices in action...ours is a do-over God...more fully aware, we try again with God's full support!
- ❖ **Reformed and Reforming is our process** for prayer, knowledge, worship, mission, understanding, community, relationships, and personal awareness; reshaping our questions leading to new ways of thinking, being, and doing.
- ❖ We are the **Priesthood of Believers**, for we each have a piece of truth and are holy and wise within God's eyes, gifted to both lead and to follow in the ways of Christ. We are each called to ministry within our lives and within the church.
- ❖ **God alone is Lord of the Conscience** so we agree to disagree along the way, holding the tension and seeking peace in its deepest sense together through shared wisdom.
- ❖ We fully embrace an **Action Discernment Model of Decision Making**. Between two worthy options, just choose one and then you'll know what to do next...there is no such thing as a bad choice in discernment...it's a refining process embracing our tradition of reformed and reforming. What would God have us do? God would have us try "some" thing rather than talk more and do nothing.

Guiding Principles:

**We belong. We don't go it alone.
We work together in addressing issues, people,
and life's wonderful work at hand.**

❖ **Relevant and Responsive / Informal and Radically Traditional**

Each of us is on a spiritual-psychological journey and as we become more aware, we are freed to live and act in new, life-fulfilling ways...in the "ways" of Jesus Christ who invites us to become that new human being. We then become unique expressions of faith, each one a walking, talking mission project, worshipping in God's world.

❖ **Open and Affirming / Welcoming All**

Each person has a piece of truth. We operate out of a model of shared wisdom and strongly encourage each person to "speak" in the process and that *we* listen.

We honor what God is doing in each person. We honor each person as a "whole" individual and so work holistically.

❖ **Engaged and Engaging**

We work within a collaborative sensibility discovering how God brings us together with those familiar to us and those new to us to create the divine kingdom here and now.

❖ **Honoring the Sacred Masculine and Feminine / Embracing the Mystic Within**

We worship God who names self as "the great I am". The completion of and fulfillment of both masculine and feminine energies, beyond human concepts.

Jesus shows us "the way" to *our* completion and fulfillment. He shows us how to be in right relationship with God, with others, within ourselves! We are to use all of who we are in the service of right relationship.

We embrace truth revealed through other traditions. We give ourselves to the mystery and power of transformation and reformation in our individual and corporate lives.

❖ **We Are of One Spirit...not necessarily of one mind.**

Leaders lead. Members are accountable. We support shared wisdom's decisions until that wisdom changes. We model how to move with our feelings and respond to situations and make choices.

We do not use second-hand information. No meetings outside of meetings. We model and encourage talking directly to the person and address needs at hand. We have developed a process within the church to support just this.

No rescuing. If it's worth doing, it will get done and if not, then it's time to move on. This holds all to be accountable and pay attention.

We are to be mindful of individual and community energy: to begin a new thing, let go of an old thing.

The way in is the way out / the way you end one thing is the way you begin the next. Everything on the way to heaven is heaven. The way you do anything is the way you do everything.

We are willing to try in faith, rather than not try at all.

Some people will leave as we move forward in faithfulness. We support their choices and continue to care for them.

Ministry:

- ❖ **Tippecanoe Church**, as a community, is a sanctuary place where together we can learn more deeply about...and try to be...that “new human being” Jesus invites us to become.
- ❖ **Called to be thankful**, we celebrate God’s grace in worship, reflection, and action; nurture personal discipleship through education, prayer, and fellowship; and reach out with healing into a world seeking peace and justice. We welcome people of diverse backgrounds, nationalities, lifestyles, beliefs, and relationships with God to join us on this journey.
- ❖ **Our primary ministry is our worship**, guiding us as a transformational, compassionate community seeking to be a healthy community, creating “healthy” individuals who go out into the world to build up the “kingdom” with peace and justice...starting within our homes, neighborhoods, communities, and places of school and work. Sunday morning is important, but it no longer defines what it means to belong. We offer three different forms of worship weekly to meet the expressed needs of style and times offered

From our Core Ministries flow these Specific Missions:

- ❖ **Living Waters Contemplative Life Center**

This is an outreach to unchurched, formerly churched, and people of any and many faith traditions. Its mission is to make spiritual formation opportunities available to all people, with the understanding that a faith journey isn’t a road travelled, a destination accomplished, a change made, or a goal reached. **The journey itself is the goal!**

- ❖ **Divine Intervention (DI) Ministry for the Homeless**

This ten-part collaborative ministry of over 56 intra-faith communities is administered by Tippe, but would not be possible without their support - both financial and volunteer time. These missions make a difference in the lives of those without homes and those blessed to know them.

- ◆ **Overnight Prayer Vigil / Warming Room**

Running nightly from December 1 - March 31, DI provides guests with a volunteer-prepared hot dinner, overnight sleeping arrangements, and breakfast at Tippe. Opening our doors nightly at 6pm, regardless, of temperatures, Guests stay through 8am the next morning. Guests are supported through nightly by Pastors and weekly by Outreach Caseworker. Part of Impact 211 and the Continuum of Care in Milwaukee.

- ◆ **Sharing Our Suppers (SOS) Meals**

Volunteers provide a hot meal every Friday night at 6:00 PM from April 1 - November 30. Each month is hosted by a different church in Bay View.

- ◆ **Larry Under the Bridge (LUTB)**
This food and encouragement ministry to the homeless in the Bay View area delivers volunteer-made bagged dinners to strategic locations near campsites on Sunday and Monday evenings every week all year long. Also delivered are basic needs items such as sleeping bags, tents, tarps, hand warmers, bug spray, sun lotion, toilet paper, socks, underwear.
- ◆ **Graced Saturday Mornings**
Grace Presbyterian Church hosts these morning gatherings which provide added support for guests on winter weekends.
- ◆ **DI Advocacy**
Using insights of SI Staff, Hosts, and Guests, this ministry advocates for low income housing needs locally and statewide. It also educates and advocates for support of DI in local churches.
- ◆ **DI Laundry Ministry**
Restoring personal dignity and building socialization skills, DI Overnight Prayer Vigil/Warming Room Guests have an opportunity weekly to tend to their own laundry supported by DI Hosts complete with laundry supplies and costs...good company and cookies!
- ◆ **Project Home**
Offering on-going support to those formerly homeless, this ministry coordinated the collection and distribution of all types of donated household furnishings (from beds to sofas to kitchen tables to linens to mops). Volunteers deliver these items to the apartments of newly housed individuals.
- ◆ **Hungry Hearts**
Providing healthy carryout meals to those in need on the southside of Milwaukee. Meals are purchased from private locally owned restaurants. Hungry Hearts supports both residents and these restaurants during Covid and beyond.
- ❖ **Just.Good.Food Garden - Food Justice Site as recognized by PCUSA**
Our gardens grow and donate organic produce to local food pantries and soup kitchens. The annual vegetable yield from our rooftop garden and 39 raised beds on our church property is between 3500 and 4500 lbs. This is accomplished primarily by five gardening personnel, including three interns who are former Guests moving out of homelessness. Part of our Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless, above.
- ❖ **Pantry program with nutrition education**
Our Community Garden Educator and an Intern develop opportunities for nutrition education at the pantry we serve through cooking demonstrations, taste testing, recipe sharing, and “Bake and Take” (a monthly healthy casserole making classes using each week’s fresh produce from our gardens and pantry recipient foods). Also a part of Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless, above.
- ❖ **Arts and Science Literacy Camp (ASLC) for kids**

This collaborative mission is a response to unemployment/gun and tongue violence/poverty in our local community. Especially serving low income children ASLC addresses foundational literacy skills using science as the subject and teaching the whole child through integrated use of the arts. Summer Camps serve about 530 campers and our Year Round Camp continues support as well as our Science Saturdays. This innovative mission uses licensed teachers to offer engaging, hands-on, integrated learning to educate as well as support the emotional growth of Milwaukee area children.

Horizons of Possibility for a Tippe Faithing Community Transition

We are looking for a leader who will love Tippe as much as we do. A person with an entrepreneurial sense of ministry, who is spiritual formation aware and trained, Bowen Friedman trained or sensitive, and with progressive theology in the ways of Borg, Crosson, and Spong. The Congregations says...

- ❖ “I want someone who is kind and strong. Someone willing to take risks but is cautious. Someone who is willing to think outside the box and make it happen. Open to failure and loving Tippe no matter what. I can’t wait to see what and who our future holds, but no matter what, I know God is guiding us and will not let us fail!”
- ❖ “Somebody who will value people over things, spiritual over actual.”
- ❖ “Come as you are, not as you are able. Absolutely all are welcome and belong.”
- ❖ “Having been described as “soulful misfits” we need someone who is a “soulful misfit” also, and like us, a bit loosey-goosey and creative, while appreciating input. If you have a modern view of the small church and are outgoing to people and organizations in the community, Tippe might be a good fit.”
- ❖ “My vision is Tippecanoe remain the family-oriented, tight-knit worship community that has held me here for nearly 35 years. Having a community when we had a young family was a safe zone as well as haven for Chris and I to find our worship niche. We served and were served, and made life-long connections.”
- ❖ “The success with which Tippe has been blessed, has resulted from many different people contributing over the years. People with reasonable ideas, and those which originally sounded strange, have created the missions we treasure today.”
- ❖ “It’s been said that the past and current diversity of members and ideas are what has created Tippe’s “Special Sauce.” This Special Sauce, blended in the past and still being mixed today, has led to blessed results. Every special sauce has a “key ingredient”. We are wondering if you will be the next Key Ingredient in Tippe’s Special Sauce.”

This is who we are, what we are about, and why we believe you should consider “Tippe” as your pastorate.

Now it’s your turn...

- ❖ Who are you?
- ❖ What is your background?

- ❖ How is God delighted you are here and how do you see us working well together for God's purposes here and now? What will we come to know about you in 6 months from now that we can't possibly know now? And, let us share what you will know about us!

Blessed by God,
The Session
Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church

PS - Whether or not you choose to respond, may blessings abound in your life and the lives of your loved ones.