My first call was to Prince of Peace in Missoula, Montana starting in late February 1985.  I had finished seminary the previous May, but the following year was the first opportunity I had to interview with a congregation.  Few were willing to consider women for solo positions in those days, even though I had more paid professional experience in the church as a layperson than all of my seminary classmates added together.  I’m grateful that Prince of Peace gave me a chance, and thankful to my colleagues who helped me though my first call.

I remember the scenery in Montana, so different from the south side of Chicago where I grew up.  Some days off I would put hundreds of miles on the car just driving around looking at the mountains.  Missoula was the smallest town in which I had lived at that point.  I was amazed to have horses and a bull in pastures adjoining the church property.  We shared our building with a Roman Catholic congregation, so there were lots of ecumenical events and shared programs.  I still have a Jesuit priest friend from those years.

I served 3 years in Montana and then had the opportunity to go to the Northwest Washington Synod.  After 15 years in parish ministry I got a call to serve the ecumenical campus ministry at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington in 1999. In 2002 I moved to Albuquerque, NM to serve the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of New Mexico.  Along the way I developed good relationships with Pueblo and Navajo people in the Southwest and became an adjunct faculty member at Vancouver School of Theology in their indigenous studies program.

After retirement in 2017 I got a call from ELCA Global Mission to serve with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary.  I am currently in Albuquerque waiting to return to Budapest when the pandemic restrictions are lifted.  I’m leading three Bible studies each week on Jesus and Nonviolence for my congregation, including one with young adults in Budapest.  I foster kittens for Animal Humane New Mexico, which has brought me a great deal of joy.  It’s amazing to think that 35 years have passed!  I’m grateful for the opportunities I have had in ministry, and especially grateful for the people who have been part of my life.

In Christ our Hope,

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