



Meet Steve

You might be surprised to know that as I was growing up my family wasn't overly religious. We might have been referred to as those CNE (Christmas and Easter) Christians. We were in the pew for those big festival celebrations, were baptized, attended Sunday School and were confirmed in the Lutheran Church, we were members of record but honestly not a whole lot more.



Steve Hoffard, M.Div.
Pastor,
Beloved Child of God,
Follower of Jesus,
Lover of Creation,
Seeker of Justice,
Continual Work in Progress.

Around the time my son turned 5 years old I got a little more active in a local congregation because I felt some form of faith education was important. I wanted him to attend Sunday school and I thought attending church myself would set a good example. So, we transferred our membership to the closest Lutheran church and began attending regularly.

I ended up being much more than involved than I intended, serving on various committees and eventually ending up as chairperson. That congregation was an internship site for students studying to become pastors and they planted in me an interest in progressive theology. I began to see faith, believe, and the divine in a new and exciting way I learned that the stories of the bible were not literal history but had much deeper meaning, I learned that Christianity wasn't the only way to view the world. This new learning expanded my yearning for a more equitable and just world.

All of this was exciting for me as I began to view God in a new way, not as that bearded old white guy in the sky granting favour to those who pleased them and damnation to those who didn't. Instead I began to see the face of God in those often tossed to the margins.

I found myself wanting to share this new knowledge with others, and to work with others to help make the world a better place. One thing led to another and I found myself enrolled and studying to become an ordained pastor. No one was more surprised than me!

Something else was also happening at the same time. As I was getting more involved in my home congregation and beginning to study theology, the wider church was having an important conversation about human sexuality and more importantly how LGBTQIA+ people fit into divine creation. As a closeted gay person, I listened closely to that conversation having assumed for years that there was something wrong with me.

You might be surprised to learn that the church taught me that there was nothing wrong with me and that I was created to be gay and that was good. After more years of discernment and now having been ordained for 4 years I decided to share that good news with the rest of the world too and came out to family, friends, and the church.

There is so much good news to share with the world and I am excited to see how that continues to unfold in my life.



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