

**An Excerpt from Pastor Laura's Statement of
Ministry shared originally with the
Search Committee and then in
her sermon on November 9, 2003**

"At the heart of my call to be a pastor of a local congregation is my desire to nurture the spiritual life of each member of the church at every stage of the life-cycle...."

"Central to my call to ministry is the importance of cultivating the inward and experiential aspects of faith through prayer, worship, and biblical study, as well as the outward and practical expressions of faith through concrete acts of justice and service."

"In my understanding, the Church is first and foremost a living and breathing organism animated by the Holy Spirit and made up of human beings who are in a covenanted relationship with God, with one other."

"In I Corinthians 12, the apostle Paul likens the Church to a human body that has many members each with different gifts, each dependent on the other for the functioning of the whole. In light of this biblical metaphor, I understand my role as your pastor to be that of a fellow member of the Body of Christ."

"However, as one called to ordained ministry, I am particularly called by God to exercise my gifts of preaching, leadership, administration, teaching, exhortation and encouragement so that the members of this congregation can discover and develop their God-given gifts, and be equipped to use them creatively in the service of God, one another, and the world."

"As a leader, my style is to encourage communal vision setting and planning, as well as a spirit of teamwork and mutuality in carrying out the various ministries of the Church."

"As a pastor, I believe that the most important thing I can do is to listen for the movement of the Holy Spirit within individuals and within the congregation as a whole, and to allow myself to be used as a vehicle through which the Spirit can inspire, nurture, and guide people to respond to the call to love God, neighbor, and self."