

Bio Statement

Rev. Craig R. Henderson, "Craig" to his congregation and friends, began serving Saint Paul United Church of Christ in Denver on November 1, 2010. He graduated with a M.Div. in pastoral ministry from Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania on 15 May 2010. At Lancaster, Craig was recognized by faculty with the Raymond W. Albright Prize in American Christian History, the Jacob Y. Dietz Prize for best papers in Pastoral Theology, the Paul Reid Pontius Memorial Award for excellence in the field of worship, and the Fauth Prize for Academic Excellence. He served as Seminarian Intern at Salem UCC at Campbeltown, PA during 2009-2010, his senior year. Prior to that, he served an internship at Disciples United Community Church in Lancaster, PA. On August 18, 2010, Craig was ordained by the Southwest Conference (AZ-NM-El Paso, TX) of the United Church of Christ at Scottsdale Congregational UCC.

In addition to his prior church service, two of the highlights of Craig's education were an international cross-cultural trip to Egypt in January 2009, focused on Coptic history and interreligious dialogue between Christianity and Islam, and participation in the Hispanic Summer Program at Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology in June 2008.

Craig is a life-long member of the United Church of Christ. A native of Casper, Wyoming, Craig is the son of a high school social studies teacher and a librarian. He earned a B.A. from The University of Iowa with honors in political science and holds a M.P.A. degree from the University of Wyoming in public administration. After experimenting with law school and living for two years in Georgia, his first career was as a governmental and university archivist, initially in Salt Lake City, Utah and then at the University of Idaho at Moscow. He followed that with six years as a research supervisor in labor economics for the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Wyoming. Immediately prior to seminary he chose to care for his young children at home in Arizona as a full-time dad. He also volunteered in many capacities for his home church, Scottsdale Congregational UCC; served as a citizen member of the Arizona Supreme Court Foster Care Review Board; and offered archival consultation to the Grammy Award-winning, Phoenix Boys Choir.

For 15 years Craig has been married to Vicki L. Henderson, M.D., most recently a regional medical director for Inspiris, a company of home visiting physicians. They are parents to a son, Blair, now 13, and daughters, Greer, 11, and Greta, 9, all of whom have proven themselves to be highly independent young people and good friends. When time permits, Craig enjoys travel, reading fiction and non-fiction, writing, cooking with his family and friends, supporting local theatre and the arts, swimming, and hiking.

Craig believes the core of the Jesus' message to us today is that no love is lost in this world. As pastor, in his preaching and teaching and pastoral care, he mostly looks forward to extending God's love to all the people!