

## Background and history

Laurene is originally from the Pacific Northwest. She attended Whitworth College in Spokane, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies & Philosophy. She then attended Princeton Theological Seminary, earning her Master's of Divinity in 1987.

Laurene has lived in Denver for the past 26 years, serving churches, non-profit organizations as well as teaching and coaching at a local college prep high school. In 1991, she became the founding executive director of the AIDS/HIV Interfaith Network of Colorado and then went on to work for LGBT civil rights directing the Voices of Faith Program for Equality Colorado. She taught AP Euro and World History at St. Mary's Academy in Englewood, Colorado. Since 2000, she has served churches with 50, 300, and 1200 members. She has been a parish associate at Montview Blvd Presbyterian Church since 1991. She has great success with grant writing and fundraising.



## Hobbies and Interests

Laurene loves being outside. On her days off, you might find her on a long bike ride, bird watching or hiking nearby trails. She's eager to learn all about the flora, fauna, and terrain of Southeastern Minnesota, and hopes to visit the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in the future.

Laurene is an accomplished bicyclist, having ridden the Oregon and California coast, and completed the daunting "Triple Bypass" ride in Colorado, which takes participants up and down three major mountain peaks in a single day.

Laurene will be moving to Minnesota with her dog, Gypsy, and three cats: Ellie, Abby and Dante.



# Introducing Laurene Lafontaine

Community Presbyterian Church

3705 55<sup>th</sup> St. NW Rochester, MN 55901

<http://www.cpcroch.org>

Pastor, CPC

Pending COM and  
Congregational approval

# A Pastor for Our Future



Laurene has many important qualities to help us grow as a congregation. She took over a small struggling church made up of older members who literally had the mindset that they were going out of business and after a year, the congregation began to grow and operate with a surplus. Working with the Columbine and Montview youth groups, she helped them through some traumatic events. She redesigned church web sites, taught adult education classes that increased attendance, and reinvigorated the volunteer program. She's served on key committees in the Denver Presbytery as well as worked on General Assembly level, so she understands how to leverage the gifts and resources of our larger denomination.

“I get excited about serving a church that wants to grow...”



## Laurene Comes Highly Recommended

*“Laurene is very good with young people, she’s very intelligent, well educated, high energy, a very good preacher, knows her Presbyterian polity, and understands how churches work.” –Rev. Sheri Fry*

*“Laurene gives a message of empowerment: ‘You are not alone, I’ll walk with you.’ She is not afraid of conflict, she handles it well.” -- Rev. Steve Poos Benson*

*“She’s generous, gregarious, creative, has a big heart, cares, is passionate, a good collaborator, is proactive.” – Aaron Toso*

Laurene is definitely a “people person,” and you will be struck by her enthusiasm and energy. She’s passionate about the Presbyterian faith and by our ability to grow as a community of faith.

Because Laurene has worked for congregations of varying sizes, she has a keen understanding of the challenges we face as we look to grow. She says, “Over the years, I have developed an ability to examine a system, hear the desires, hopes and dreams of the members, and then working together,

create new ways to achieve our goal of being a vibrant community.” She believes in collaborative leadership, and the people who have worked with her in the past wholeheartedly agree that this is her style.

Laurene was drawn to us because of our motto, “Open Hearted, Open Minded.” She studied our web site before talking with us, and was thrilled by the mission and outreach projects that we complete, despite our small size.