

Greetings, Friends of New Song,

It is my distinct pleasure to let you know we have an exciting announcement to share regarding our staff!

After reviewing our ministry needs, and an extensive candidate search, the Bishop and Cabinet have joined with our Staff-Parrish (Personnel) Team to bring on **Nickie Moreno Howard** as part of our staff as our new Associate Pastor!

With great anticipation, we look forward to all that God will bring through Nickie's skills, gifts, and talents. Nickie will help lead our youth and a new ministry for young adults, in addition to adding her skills as a Pastor for preaching, teaching, and leading.

Nickie and her husband, Christian, are the proud parents of 2-year-old Sofia and 6-month-old twins, Isaiah and Taya (and we can't leave out their beloved Goldendoodle, Miles!).

Our team has been hard at work to find just the right person to fill this role ever since Ms. Lesa needed to step down earlier this summer after TEN years of dedicated ministry. (Thanks, again, Ms. Lesa!)

Nickie has most recently served as the Conference's Youth Director while the Director of Learning Ministries. From this position, Nickie was able to oversee children, youth, young adults, higher education, justice and advocacy, and senior adults. She has previously served as an Associate Pastor at St. Matthew's UMC and Dulin UMC, where she also leaned into an emphasis on youth ministries.

Nickie holds a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and has recently completed the Princeton Youth Ministry Academy. She is a Certified Facilitator from our denomination's coaching center and is gearing up to pursue her Doctorate in the near future. In the year ahead, Nickie will be applying to become Ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church. Note: Nickie stays VERY busy!

Growing up, her father was a campus minister. Nickie has always enjoyed watching her parents grow in faith throughout her years - especially now as they have moved nearby and are able to help with childcare!

Nickie excels at listening and coaching generations toward the goals God has laid upon their heart. She is passionate about justice and empowering everyone to live their faith out loud.

Nickie has already begun to transition into our new space from the Conference Office. She reports she is excited to get back into the routine of Sunday mornings, working alongside adults and students, and getting to know our congregation. Her first day on staff will be this coming Tuesday, September 6, as she joins us for our staff meeting. She's also planning to participate in this Saturday's "Messy Kickball Kick-off!" Make plans to come on out and introduce yourself to Nickie!

Now without any further delay...

Welcome, Pastor Nickie!

We're so glad you're here!