

JOANNE GALLARDO, bio

My name is Joanne Gallardo and I'm very excited to be the candidate of choice for Indiana Michigan Conference's Co-Minister position.

I'm originally from NW Ohio. I grew up in a "dual denomination" household; my dad was Catholic and my mom was Independent Fundamental Baptist, so I grew up in 2 very different traditions. I loved both churches from an early age but never considered myself working in ministry because I was taught that it was something women "just don't do." After separating from the church for a bit during my adolescence, I was invited to MYF by a friend, and it just so happened that the pastor of this church, Randy Nafziger, was also a bus driver for my school. I slowly crept into MYF, first going to the once a month "fun" events, and then I became a full time youth groupie. In 2001, I was baptized for the 3rd time in my life.



It was my church that helped me make the decision to go to Goshen College in the fall of 2002. I started as a Music Education major, but after an internship at Kern Road Mennonite Church in South Bend, IN, I decided to drop the "education" part of my major and add Bible/Religion/Philosophy (as it was referred to in those days). I graduated in 2006. I spent the summer of 2006 doing an SST alternative in Guatemala.

In 2007 I started at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary where I earned my Master of Divinity degree in 2010. After graduating, I worked at Eastern Mennonite University as Associate Campus Pastor. After that, I worked in mental health, most recently, Pathways to Housing in Washington, D.C. I was a case manager for the chronically homeless and severely mentally ill.

In 2017 I accepted a call to be Pastor of Faith Formation at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, where I continue to pastor today. As this is a half time position, I joined the staff of Goshen College 2018/2019 as Campus Pastor. This is work close to my heart and familiar to me.

I have a passion for a diverse church that actively engages itself in the community of which it is a part. I hope for a church that one day sheds its weights of white supremacy, greed, exclusion, and harm and puts on a mantle of prophetic voice, opening the way for the Mary Magdalenes and Elijahs of our day to speak, convict, and lead. I also have a passion for Biblical literacy and long for a church that embraces Scripture as living, breathing text.

I currently live in Goshen, IN with my dog, Jasper, and a lot of plants. In my free time I knit, write, watch documentaries, garden, read, and listen to interesting podcasts.