

Faith Statement

The Rev. Susan Scott –

Retired

About me: When I was three years old, I came home from Sunday School and sat my two-year-old sister down so I could teach the lesson to her. Some family members at the time thought that meant I wanted to be a preacher, but a woman pastor wasn’t a possibility in those days, so I aimed to be a teacher. After college I worked in a church office and then as a parish worker for a congregation. Somewhere during that time, I quite hesitantly decided to go to seminary. One of my pastors was surprised when I told him: Really? I was sure you’d decide to go to missionary school. The other pastor said: Susan, you’re too emotional to be a pastor. Despite that, I ventured forth to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. I loved my studies, my summer of CPE, and my year of internship at a long-term care facility. After earning my Master of Divinity degree, I served in three congregations. During my time working in the third congregation, the senior pastor died suddenly and it became an extremely stressful time for me personally with members being angry with me. I decided to do another year of Clinical Pastoral Education which became three years at Stanford Hospital. I worked as chaplain of a bay area long term care facility and then for 14 years I was the Decedent Care Chaplain at Stanford Hospital in the bay area. I’m a Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. I retired from my position in February 2020; I continue to work remotely a few days each month for Stanford.

Given many of my life experiences, I have two favorite verses:

• 2 Corinthians 12:9 – But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” • Lamentations 3:19-23 – The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I’ve been on the Candidacy Committee since January 2020. I like being on the committee for several reasons: I like working with the group of folks who form the committee. I like hearing the stories of those who are preparing for professional ministry because their stories help me to think about my own continued call to ministry. In recent months, our committee is looking seriously how the committee can address the ways systemic racism has affected the committee works. These conversations and actions have spurred me to pay much more attention to the ways and places where systemic racism plays out in my life and helps me with my lifelong goal of continuously learning.

I live in Sacramento. I tell people I’m a “dog nanny” taking care of a small Pomeranian who belonged to my mother who died earlier this year. In my free time, I particularly enjoy arts and crafts: knitting, crocheting, and cardmaking.

I confess I’m slow to respond to emails, but if something is urgent send a text and I will get back to you quickly.