

**The Pastor Nominating Committee
of
SAINT MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Joyfully Presents**

The Rev. Dr. Jay L. Moses



A PERFECT MATCH

We on the PNC liked Pastor Jay Moses from the start. The more we got to know him, the more confident we felt he was a perfect match for Saint Mark! Our first impression was formed by his own words, describing his ministry and the church he feels called to serve:

“Over the years I have always seen myself as a stabilizer and calm presence even in difficult times. A key element of the church to me is the ministry of reconciliation, of which our increasingly pluralist and polarized communities are so in need. I would like to serve with those who are dedicated (even as we stumble) to the grace of God shown in the face of Jesus Christ, but always transformed in service to the stranger. The spiritual gifts that have been confirmed in me are those of compassion, wisdom, humor, teaching, and bridge-building across religious and cultural boundaries. I seek to enact and teach the love of Christ seen in the gospel accounts of Jesus. Specifically, I feel called to be a pastor to people: to love, to teach, to cry, to laugh, to hurt, and to live with them; this is an incarnational context.”

JAY'S STORY

Jay Lynn Moses was born in Silicon Valley, San Jose, California. He is a sixth-generation minister in his family, whose ministry pedigree goes back to the Civil War and the Baptist faith. He was reared in a traditional/conservative home, but after his parents' divorce and relocating to Sacramento with his father, his younger years were a time of displacement, searching, longing for a spiritual home, and finding sacred guidance outside of a church that did not condone divorce. In high school a good friend, now a Presbyterian Pastor, invited him to youth group, where he began to discover our tradition. While it was different than what he was used to, he became aware for the first time of an educated clergy and broader biblical and theological perspectives. He also encountered the social gospel and engagement with the poor. These two pillars: faith seeking understanding (intellectual inquiry); and social righteousness (care of creation and all that lies within) became an important chapter in his faith journey.



As a teen, Jay spent weekends and summers with his mother, and at the end of high school moved back to San Jose. It was the mid-80s, in the Bay Area, and it was during this time that Jay witnessed his mother's tireless service to the gay community during the AIDS crisis. It had a huge shaping effect on his understanding of the terrible tragedy the church faces when it forgets the image of Jesus upon each human being. He believes in being involved in inclusive service, interaction, and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community.

Jay headed to Southern California to study Biblical Studies and Clinical Psychology at Azusa Pacific University. He then served as the director of youth ministries at a Presbyterian Church in Los Alamitos. He longed to offer those kids what that high school youth group had offered him years before. "I have always felt a kinship with those who feel estranged and outside the gates of the church." While working on his Masters of Divinity at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, the required theological courses began to answer many of life's questions for Jay, which led him to a call to ministry, and he graduated with an emphasis on Christian Origins.

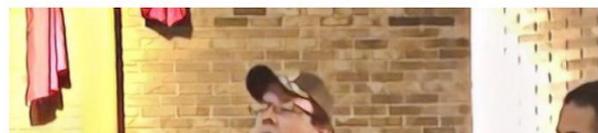
Jay was ordained into the Presbyterian Church (USA) on September 1, 2001.

Early trips to Mexico and a friendship with an immigrant Muslim family planted in him an early comfort with intra-cultural conditions. Through a call in the Presbytery of Chicago, Jay found the opportunity to work in Inter-religious and Ecumenical Dialogue, where there's a vibrant intra-cultural community of Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, etc. "Having the ability to live with these communities in seeking peace and understanding has been a great thrill, adventure, and opportunity for growth in my own spiritual understanding."



Jay met his wife Sharri in choir during his sophomore year at Azusa Pacific. They have been married 28 years, have two children, and a dog named Victoria Grace. Their daughter Halie is now a junior, majoring in Political Science at Redlands University (CA), and their son Connor will be a freshman this fall at Chapman University (CA). Jay loves music (he plays the guitar, sings, and has started songwriting), sports (Boston Celtics, San Francisco 49ers), Star Wars, and Tolkien. Sharri will be teaching third grade at Pine Crest Elementary School in Silver Spring, and when she's not tutoring in her spare time, she loves to knit, make cards, read, and see musicals. She's also a sports fan and is looking forward to rooting for new local teams (Go Caps!).

Jay and Sharri are eager and excited for this next chapter of their lives to begin, being first timers to living on the East Coast, empty nesters, and DC traffic! We at Saint Mark have been praying for their arrival and can't wait to make them feel at home in our Saint Mark family.



We are blessed. God is good!

JAY'S RESUME

FORMAL EDUCATION:

1990-1994 Azusa Pacific University: BA Biblical Studies/Clinical Psychology

1994-2000 Fuller Theological Seminary: MDiv

2005-2009 Northern Seminary: DMin (Liturgical Studies/Worship Renewal)

2009-2013 Catholic Theological Union: MA (Inter-religious Studies)

WORK EXPERIENCE:

2015- Solo Pastor/Head of Staff, Hope Presbyterian Church, Wheaton, IL (140 members)

2015 Interim Head of Staff (4 months), First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton, Wheaton, IL (1500 members)

2004-2014 Pastor of Congregational Ministries, First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton, Wheaton IL (1500 members)

2001-2004 Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Redlands, Redlands, CA (350 members)

2001 Assistant Pastor, Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Los Alamitos, CA (1000 members)

1996-2000 Director of Youth Ministries, Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Los Alamitos, CA (1000 members)

1994-1996 Director of High School Ministries/Worship Minister, Bethany Church, Covina CA (600 members)

1993-1994 Director of College Ministries/Worship Minister, Bethany Church, Covina, CA (600 members)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE & SERVICE:

2019- Adjunct Professor Benedictine College Lisle, IL *Teach regularly within the Religious Studies program*

2017- Adjunct Professor Elmhurst College Elmhurst, IL *Teach regularly within the Religious Studies program*

2015- Guest Lecturer Marion E. Wade Center Wheaton, IL *Teach seasonally on the Fiction/Literature of C.S. Lewis*

Moderator, Ecumenical/Inter-religious Work Group, Presbytery of Chicago
Staff Inter-religious Relations Coordinator, Presbytery of Chicago

Member Education Work Group, Presbytery of Riverside

The words that fill the cross were taken from our conversations with people who know Pastor Jay and were references for him...

