



Bishop Daniel Schwerin and the Northern Illinois Cabinet are pleased to appoint Sam SangMyung Park as Pastor at Mount Prospect: Trinity United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2024 for the following missional reasons:

- Connect with the community for missional impact
- Continue creative worship and proclamation as a way to shepherd the people
- Continue to build connections with space-sharing partnerships, including children's groups and Sam Mool Korean Church.
- Strengthen partnership with the laity to envision God's call for the next steps in ministry in the community.
- Strengthen the connectional system through apportionment giving to make a difference for mission and ministry in our conference and the world.

The Rev. Sam SangMyung Park was born and raised in JeJu, South Korea where he was deeply involved in a church revival movement. "SangMyung" is a middle name given by his parents. Its meaning is "Let there be light." Even though he doesn't have any dramatic burning-bush experience like Moses in his calling story, he truly believes that he was born and called to be a pastor sharing the light of God at all times and in all places. Even now, his heart has been warmed strangely for the mission and ministry of God whenever his name is called.

While exploring his calling for ordained ministry, he discovered his faith as powerless and hopeless as dealing with hunger, poverty, and death when the whole country faced the Internal Momentary Fund Crisis in 1998. This eye-opening experience had led him to extend his faith journey with injustice around the marginalized, isolated, and excluded people whom God still loves so much. As soon as realizing a new path of faith, he had promptly joined a "Institute of the Differently Abled Right" refashioning a Christian symbol for the people with disabilities. Here, he discovered that many churches were excluding by pursuing perfect image of divinity. It triggered him to search and find more perfect and inclusive God who loves all, no matter what! Indeed, God used his painful tears in a new spiritual journey to create a balanced faith between personal and social holiness.

Rev. Park earned his Bachelor of Arts at Hansei University, in Seoul and Master of Divinity at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. For one year, he took Clinical Pastoral Education at University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago, as part of Theology of Master degree of Chicago Theological Seminary, specializing in Pastoral Care Ministry. Now, Rev. Park is an Ordained Elder in full connection in the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2014. For fourteen years, he has served the Community UMC at La Moille and Bethany of Fox Valley UMC at Aurora in sharing passionate joy and creative energy.

Rev. Park believes every experience in his life has formed his faith and guided his spiritual journey through God's unwavering love and unique call to become an inspirational preacher, visionary leader, and pastoral caregiver to the church and its community. He is also passionate to open church doors to the communities and to share God's love and hope through the grace of Jesus Christ to ALL.

He and Haena, his wife, enjoy walking and traveling together near and far. Their lovely daughter, Hanuri, meaning "God's World," is preparing to explore God's wonderful world at Boston University from this September. Their gentle son, Channuri, meaning "Praise the Lord," is a tennis player of high school and a great musician playing cello praising God. At last, their furry and cute daughter, Joy, a 12-year-old dog, always brings joy and happiness with everyone she meets.

For spiritual practice, Rev. Park is a peaceful gardener who enjoys cultivating good soil and witnessing that something grows surprisingly in God's care. Also, he is a recreational tennis player who loves to chase the balls and expel all stresses in his heart.