



BIOGRAPHY

Charlotte has been married to Gene Shipman for 18 years. Gene careered in city management and now is a partner in a family-owned business. They have two daughters, Rosina (13) and Rebecca (10). The family includes a Weimaraner that still thinks it is a puppy, two guinea pigs and a mouse. She was born in Kansas, but moved frequently with the petroleum business and grew up in Presbyterian and reformed



churches in US and Canada. She felt called to the ministry since kindergarten. She is an honors graduate of Lehigh University, majoring in science writing and biology, and was awarded her Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School in 1985. Ordained in 1986, Charlotte has served as an Associate Pastor, an Interim Pastor / Head of Staff (5 locations, CT, MD, and VA), a Designated Pastor and Stated Supply pastor. She has denominational service including Committee on Ministry and Crisis Team leadership.

I am deeply grateful for the abiding sense that God is a living being, present to me, to all people and in creation; faith comes as a gift and we have to respond to what we are called to do and the people we are called to serve.

I feel called to equip the saints for ministry; I bring energy and intelligence to holy conversations where we envision our common life. I am committed to serving with excellence and rejoicing, in the sacred work of bringing that vision to reality. I respect others' ability to act faithfully. I assess talents, fit person to purpose, teach skills or lend encouragement, building relationships and rest, so service is a joy, not a burden. Varied service, a light spirit, openness to human and scriptural guidance, inspire my approach to different personalities.

I will attend the General Assembly this year as a member of the leadership team to support Cindy Bolbach's stand for moderator of the General Assembly.

My favorite comment as I made the transition from science writing to ministry came from the Dean of the School of Science and Engineering, John Karakash, "That makes sense. You have been translating science for people to understand. Now you will be translating about divinity so people will understand."

Why Faith

Faith Presbyterian looks like a congregation that has gotten hold of the Good News of Jesus Christ and enjoys being God's people together. That is a powerful combination, which draws people in to experience fellowship, join in worship and be of service. While Faith is richly blessed with an excellent location in a growing and changing city, a beautiful building, and a tradition of engaging worship, its people appear to be its greatest asset. I have been impressed by the thoughtfulness, thoroughness and graciousness of the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee and imagine they reflect the creativity, intelligence and spirit of the congregation. Faith sounds like a church where people care

for one another and expect to be a welcoming and supportive presence in the community; those are both hallmarks of a healthy congregation. It is inspiring to think of serving your church as it builds on its gifts, develops its leadership, celebrates God's love and discovers new ways to offer grace. It would be a joy to "equip the saints for ministry" as you move out on fresh journeys of Faith.

Quotes from References

- "With Charlotte, it's all about the church."
- "She can speak hard truths with love."
- "Charlotte's appeal as a minister is to all different ages and groups, she is a warm person who engenders trust and is able to meet people where they are."
- From a reference who was clerk of session: "very effective at getting session to work together", "she was energizing and key to reviving committee structure", "there was more session spiritual development under her leadership"

FIVE YEARS FROM NOW

- Participating in a warm, trusting relationship with my congregation, knowing members by name and circumstance, and, also, by gifts and personality
- Benefiting from grief and joy shared, decisions mutually made, hurts healed, stories formed and told together
- Continuing to equip the saints for ministry, with leadership that shares a vibrant, Christ centered vision for our congregation, is trained to care with compassion and volunteers whose faith is strengthened in service
- Leading a talented, committed staff that works collegially for our congregation and community, creating worship that offers grace and expects response, developing faith formation that is biblically-based and scripturally relevant, ministering to God's people in need and advocating for our ability to be ambassadors for Christ
- Encouraging sound stewardship of the resources that bless us – including the location, facilities, finances and unique constellation of members – modeling generous giving, conserving with care and gratefully investing in the ministry of Jesus Christ
- Integrating into the broader community, familiar enough with existing structures and challenges facing residents to see opportunities to nurture those beyond the church
- Addressing with skill and humor the necessary quandaries and disputes that develop in any organization of humans, even those that belong to Christ Serving with the presbytery, especially to assist congregations in conflict and transition
- Praying about, talking about and planning for the next five years with my congregation

Faith Presbyterian Church
8170 Hague Rd
Indianapolis, Indiana 46256
317-849-1930 Phone
info@faithpcindy.org Email
<http://indianapolisfaith.com/>