

INTRODUCING...



REV. STEPHANIE KENDELL

Dear National City Christian Church,

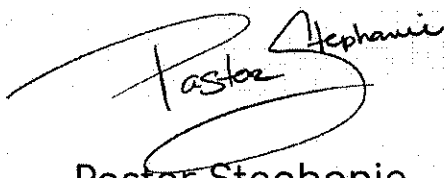
Over a decade ago, I found myself on the steps of National City Christian Church, staring up at a church that amazed me with its presence. Little did I know that years later I would be overwhelmed once more, this time not only by the church building but by the loving care, grace, and faithfulness of the people inside. There is truly something special happening with God and God's people at National City Christian Church!

Philippians 1:6 is a verse that continues to bring me great hope and this season of life and ministry is no different. It says, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." I know God is doing incredible, visionary, and hope-filled good work in this community, and I am beyond excited at the prospect of getting to be a part of it.

Over these past few months, it has been an honor to hear your stories that range from growing up in this church to becoming a member during the pandemic to raising up the next generation. I am so grateful for the ways I've already been invited into your hopes, fear, joys, and dreams for your beloved church. It has felt like a holy invitation that I am humbled to receive. I look forward to deepening the bonds of our shared faith in Christ Jesus and getting to know each person who calls National City Christian Church home.

In worship I always end my prayers with, "What a gift it is to be your people, O God, and get to love you in return." What a gift it is to know and love God with you and through you, and I look forward to all that is yet to come.

In God's great justice and joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Stephanie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S" that loops around the word "Pastor".

Pastor Stephanie

Rev. Stephanie Kendell



ABOUT ME

Bold preacher, caring pastor, and inspiring leader with over 15 years experience in executive leadership. Most recently served a historic, female-led, diverse, open and affirming, multilingual, urban congregation and helping it grow in size and faith through community engagement, creative partnerships, and equitable justice seeking ministries. An accomplished theatrical marketing Producer, digital connector, and storyteller who followed God's call into ordained ministry to become a faith leader known for casting sustainable visions for God's beloved community. An outstanding preacher, teacher, and author who is passionate about genuine Christian community and publicly shared prophetic faith grounded in the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

DENOMINATIONAL WORK

- Current First-Vice Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- RCOM Member for Northeastern Region

PUBLICATIONS

- *Are You still Watching: Using Pop Culture to Tune In, Find God, and Get Renewed for Another Season* (Chalice Press, 2022), Author and Editor
- *99 Prayers Your Church Needs: But Doesn't know it Yet* (Chalice Press, 2019), Author
- *Two On One Project Weekly Podcast*, Co-Host

EDUCATION

Drew University

Doctor of Ministry: Women's Religious Leadership and Politics
e. 2023

Indiana University

Executive Certificate: Religious Fundraising
2022

Brite Divinity School

Master of Divinity School: Theology, Ethics, and History
2017

University of Redlands

Bachelor of Arts: Musical Theater and Theater Arts
2005

EXPERIENCE

Park Avenue Christian Church Executive Minister and C.O.O.

Park Avenue Christian Church is a historic, Open and Affirming, urban, multi-lingual, justice seeking church with worshipping communities both in person and online. Our digital worship is a globally recognized experience. The Park is the oldest continuously worshipping congregation in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and also affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Ignition Creative Producer and Operations

Ignition Creative is a multimillion dollar globally recognized and award-winning advertising agency focusing on theatrical marketing, digital content, branding, production, and original content.

Some Reflections from the Search Committee:

"With great pleasure we present Rev. Stephanie Kendell, the unanimous choice of the search committee, to serve as our senior pastor. Pastor Stephanie comes with a diverse background before coming to the ministry. She will be uniquely able to serve the needs of our local congregation and strengthen the national voice of the Disciples as she leads our National Church to live into the gospel." -Jane Campbell, Search Committee Chair

"I was inspired and enriched by our time with Rev. Kendell. She is smart, thinking organizationally which is needed here at NCCC, but more importantly, her compassion and empathy came shining through, which I believe are the most important qualities of all. I believe she is the senior pastor NCCC needs at this moment and for many years to come." -Paul Guequierre

"Pastor Stephanie is passionate about National City. Her energy for the work of the church and for its members is unrivaled. She is deeply interested in the people who make up National City, wanting to build relationships with each of us!" -Teresa Swihart

"Pastor Stephanie brings warmth, energy, compassion, and vision to our church - at a time when we're eager to see our congregation and community engagement grow. We are blessed to call a pastor who loves National City and wants to learn our stories, as we create new ones together." -Aixa Diaz

"We are excited to begin our work with Pastor Stephanie as we continue to build a welcoming and enriching community of faith. Her passion and commitment to the work of the local church have prepared her to lead us into the future." -Alan Williams, Congregational Moderator

"Reverend Stephanie Kendell is an experienced, energetic, and forward thinking spiritual leader." -Loretta Franklin