

Biosketch

Christel E.A. Weber

Reverend Christel E.A. Weber (55), DMin, is an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Church of Westphalia, Germany (EKvW) and currently working on a PhD in Practical Theology (“Prophetic Preaching”) in Leipzig.



She ministered a church of 3200 members in nearby Paderborn for 18 years and has been a member of the subcommittee for the ‘Kirchengemeinschaft’ between the UCC (Ohio and Indiana/Kentucky Conference) and the EKvW since 2009.

In 1987 she came to the US for the first time to volunteer in a House of Hospitality of the Catholic Worker Community in Davenport, Iowa. When, years later, delegates from the UCC brought the banner “God is Still Speaking” to the Westphalian synod and hung it up right in front of her, she couldn’t get her eyes away from it for an entire week: “The banner seemed to reflect so much of what had become important for me by then: a church deeply committed to inclusiveness, hospitality and justice.”

Later, two of her children spent a high school year with UCC families in Ohio and had a great time there. In 2012 she enrolled at Chicago Theological Seminary for a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program and graduated in 2015.

Her professional focus has long been on preaching that nurtures the church’s mission. She is deeply influenced by Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s “church for others.” With other congregations, she experienced the blessing of a church “forgetting itself” when a good number of refugees came into her village to seek asylum. “In fact, they rescued us,” she says. “They helped us stop rotating around ourselves.”

Christel is the chairperson of the Tanzania partnership in her district, does regularly radio devotions and writes plays with references to Bible stories.