

Minute for Mission – The Work of Connection

By Ashley Sherard

On July 6, 2016 my 52-year-old husband passed away. It was sudden, it was my darkest hour. He and I were planting a new Disciples congregation in Louisiana at the time, raising our three young daughters, and making plans for our future once our contract with the new church was completed. Now I was a widowed mother who would be jobless in almost exactly one year.

I was only a commissioned minister which meant that I would have to have the help and support of Regional Ministers to make a move to a new congregation. I had a number of wonderful conversations with some wonderful Regional Ministers, but it was my conversation with Carolyn Reed on Valentine's Day 2017 that was a life changer for me. We had a wonderful conversation, full of holy moments, and she ended the conversation by telling me she believed she had the perfect church for me.

On July 16, 2017, I preached my first sermon in that perfect church. Because of wonderful Regional Ministers I was able to find my perfect home with wonderful people who loved us through our hardest times and the joyful moments of new life and ministry. I have been so very blessed by Regional Ministries and the generous support they receive through the Christmas offering!

