

Rev. Lisa Gaston

Pastor

Lisa Olsen Gaston was called to serve as Edwards Congregational UCC's pastor in February 2020.

Rev. Gaston grew up in Chicago's western suburb of Villa Park, IL. After living a year as a high school exchange student in Hanover, Germany, she earned her undergraduate degree in history from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Inspired by several women in her teens, she then pursued a Masters of Divinity degree, graduating from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA.

Shortly after receiving her M. Div. Lisa began her pastoral career as an Associate Pastor at Pilgrim Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Oak Park, IL. She served at Pilgrim for five years before taking a break from her ministry after her second child was born to be a stay-at-home mother.

In 2006 Lisa and her family moved to the Quad Cities when her husband Lee accepted a position with the Scott County Family Y. Shortly thereafter, with her children now older, Lisa re-activated her ministry as a hospice chaplain for Unity Point Health, a role she held for 6 years. She then accepted a residency in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) with Genesis Health System, and was subsequently engaged as a hospital chaplain for Genesis', serving primarily at the East campus from 2015 until 2019.

When not engaged in her pastoral roles, Lisa unwinds by designing quilts which she finishes on the long-arm quilting machine that fills much of her basement. Lisa also has been a life-long singer, and currently enjoys her participation in the Edwards-based gospel group "Promised Land".

Lisa and her husband Lee have three grown children and two grandchildren.