



Biographical Sketch for Pastor Jill E. Rowland, Keynote Speaker for the 2008 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly, ELCA

Pastor Jill E. Rowland

June 5 – 7, 2008

Pastor Rowland is an enthusiastic runner of trails; a lover of college football and basketball; a committed and crazy fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes; a reader of poetry (especially Mary Oliver, Rumi, Hafiz, and David Whyte); and one who enjoys good food, a glass of red wine, and most anything chocolate! She has a passion for working with congregations and their leaders as they re-imagine and re-image what it means to *be church* and join in God's mission in the world. Jill is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and has served congregations in Arizona and Oregon. Her journey has taken her from Ohio to Arizona to California back to Arizona and finally to Oregon, where she lives in Hood River with her 10-year old daughter, Emelia; 8-year old son, Alden; a Siamese cat, Sushi; and an energetic Golden Retriever, Carmen. In Hood River, Jill serves as pastor at Soul Café and in the Department of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital. She will graduate on May 25 with the Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Mission & Leadership degree from Luther Seminary.

"Jill has a unique variety and wealth of experience in the world that can help the institutional church *be the church* in a new way." --Rev. Randy Olson, Phoenix, AZ

"Jill is a chosen one—in the prophetic tradition as found in Scripture. Her openness to God's Spirit, the transparency of her witness to this Spirit-formed journey (not of her own choosing), and her willingness to perichoretically engage her life and faith with the rest of us are gifts of God's grace for all of us. Jill's voice is uniquely suited for today. I have worked with Jill in the Doctor of Ministry program for five years; she is courageous in her quest, honest with herself and those around her, deep in her reflection, and willing to genuinely, faithfully, missionally imagine what God is doing and desires in our world. Partnering with Jill's leadership will invite you into the larger realm of God's passion for the whole world! --Rev. Fritz Wehrenberg, Interim Campus Pastor, University of Minnesota—Twin Cities

Jill is the essence of truly human community, a face of God that I can look upon without fear. She looks past the exterior factors intent on seeing me as I am. Jill puts her words into action in her own life, looking inward at her own heart with the same unbiased but loving eyes the Spirit looks into each of us. --Tim Norgren, Soul Café Community

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Educational Background

Bachelor of Arts in English Education—1987

Arizona State University

Tempe, AZ

Master of Divinity with Honors—1994

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Berkeley, CA

Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Mission & Leadership—2008

Luther Seminary

St. Paul, MN

