

Rev. Maria Tafoya

Rev. Maria Tafoya comes to First Christian Church in Selma from Southern California, where she served a small Disciples congregation for 12 1/2 years. She is a second career minister, having heard the call to serve God's people in her early 40s. After working as a secretary for most of her adult life, at age 44 she entered Disciples-related Chapman University in Orange, CA, as a freshman, where she earned her B.A in Religious Studies and Sociology in 1999. Her Master of Divinity degree (2003) is from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana. While in seminary she served in several different settings, including chaplaincy in a Disciples related retirement community; administrative work in a not-for profit agency providing support and continuing education for university level chaplains; student pastor in a small Indianapolis congregation; and chaplain at LaRue Carter Hospital, the Indiana State Mental facility. Those experiences helped her to understand that her call really is to serve a congregation. Maria shares her home with four Feline Overlords - Doofenschmirtz, Nermal, Captain and NoMas, who make sure she always knows who is in charge at the house, keeping her busy, grounded and humble.