



A Fresh Start

July 18, 2022

Rachel Yates

The cross-country caravan is over. My family arrived in Boise safely and has begun to settle in. I'm also starting to settle in as your new Transitional Presbyter/Stated Clerk. Having completed our 24-hour road trip from Wisconsin, I now have some pro tips that I can share with you. Whether you are on a short trip or a long one, I think these tips will serve you well.

Pro Tip #1: Make sure the lid to the pickle jar is on tight before you pack it.

Pro Tip #2: Same for the honey.

Pro Tip #3: After you've carefully set aside in a safe place the things you'll need right away (e.g., scissors, shoes), make yourself a note about where to find that safe place.

My greatest conundrum upon arriving has been unpacking familiar things into an unfamiliar space. For example, where do I put all the kitchenware? How do I organize my clothes closet?

I have long noticed how we can fall into patterns that are hard to break, especially as the church. Letting go of what no longer holds significance or changing up our programming or our approach is challenging. This is true even though the pandemic has given us the extraordinary opportunity to try new ways of being the church.



So, there I am in a brand new space and wondering how do I organize myself. Boy, oh boy, it was sooo tempting to organize the closet the way I always have. Shirts above the pants; dresses over there. Then I tried to take my advice to heart. What if I changed things up entirely? What if I mixed my husband's clothes in with mine? What if I organized everything by color, rather than type of item? It made me smile to consider all my options.

The same was true for the kitchen. The layout of my kitchen is different, so I was forced to make some changes. Some drawers are time-tested and proven; they are NOT to be changed. For example, hot pads need to be next to the oven. I'm not changing that. Where I put the casserole dishes, however, meh... I'm not wedded to a particular spot, so it gave me some freedom to imagine. None of these are life-changing decisions, but collectively they offer a new beginning.

I hope to rest in this liminal space as long as I dare, staying open to new possibilities and giving my belongings a fresh start. I pray that I will apply to that to my ministry in Boise as well. Sometimes you will find me literally spinning circles as I look for something; sometimes you will find me figuratively opening drawer after drawer to explore what the Spirit wants to reveal. I'm glad we're on this journey together, and I look forward to getting to know you and your desires for Boise Presbytery and your ministries here.