

Listening and Talking ...

Hello – I’m Rev. Tom Cici, and I am delighted to be your new minister as of January 1, 2022. Kip Hayden asked me to write a brief profile about myself and enter it into this issue of “In the Loop.”

Although I was born in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan, I was primarily raised in Evansville, Indiana. I first felt the call to ministry while attending Reitz Memorial High School but was hesitant to relinquish myself to that calling while matriculating from St. Meinrad College with a Bachelor of Science degree. This science degree was put to good use while working as the chemist at a photofinishing plant in Evansville where I met my wife, Marian. After marrying her in 1983, I began working for the family business, Cici Engineering Sales and Service.

During the twelve years of working for my dad, I continued to teach Sunday school and become a Leader of Steven Ministry at Holy Rosary Church. Once again I felt the call to Christian ministry and matriculated from St. Meinrad Seminary with a Master of Theological Studies. Marian and I left Evansville in 1995 so that I could pursue Youth Ministry at various places in southern Indiana. In 1999, I became a licensed minister with standing from the Christian Church (DOC). While being the pastor of Milton Christian Church, I matriculated from Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) with a Master of Divinity in 2005 and remained in Milton for twelve years.

Marian and I moved to Hoopeston, Illinois where I was called to be the pastor at First Christian Church of Hoopeston from 2015 to March of 2021. We moved to Springfield, Illinois when Marian retired after fourteen years of employment at Menards, and the COVID-19 pandemic was physically challenging. However, I enjoy Christian ministry too much to retire any time soon. I received a Certificate in Interim Ministry from the Interim Ministry Network (IMN) and served as pulpit supply at Parkway Christian Church in Springfield while waiting for my next call in ministry.

As the current pastor of Centennial Christian Church, I would like to continue teaching Bible study and spiritual development to everyone ... everyone ... everyone who has an interest in these subjects. I am very interested in helping you develop or renew or maintain other ministries while continuing to follow COVID protocol to maintain the health and safety of all ages. I will provide pastoral care and visit nursing homes as necessary. I look forward to doing ministry with you.

Please do not hesitate to call me if I can be of any assistance. The TRUTH about LIFE may just be the unconditional, self-giving, gracious and compassionate LOVE of God flowing through each of us, and that LOVE may just be the WAY. Let us continue to center ourselves in this loving way of Christian life in, for and with our communities.

Blessings to all,

Pastor Tom Cici