



Rev. Dr. Paul Koch has provided emotional and spiritual care for individuals and congregations for 25 years. He feels blessed that for the past three years, he does this as Regional Minister in the Christian Church of Mid-America, relating to communities in northeast and central Missouri. Based in Moberly, he has also served in Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ and interfaith ministries in Columbia, Des Moines, and Huntsville, Alabama. Paul is a proud Drury University 1986 alum. The learning bug had bit so he received his masters from Eden Theological Seminary in 1993 and his doctorate from Eden in 2007. He was ordained as Pastor and Teacher at Webster Groves Christian Church in 1993.

As part of the Regional Minister Team, Dr. Koch has a portfolio that includes Church Consultation, Search and Call, Youth and Outdoor Ministries, Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Justice Ministries, Seniors' Ministries, Leadership Development, African-American Convocation, Ecumenical Relations, and Mid-American Men and Friends. Pertaining to the latter, he authored *When the Gym Is a Man's Church* (Scholars Press, 2013) and numerous men's group discussion guides (Chalice Press/Chalice Pages), has led a weekly men's group called Wild Wise Men, several annual men's retreats and youth events. He dedicates himself to helping Mid-America men seek encounters with nature and avenues for spiritual transformation through annual retreats in the Ozarks, New Mexico, and the North Woods of Minnesota in partnership with Illuman and the Center for Action and Contemplation.

Shortly after graduation from Drury, Paul married his college sweetheart, Marcia, and they have passed their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary milestone. They have three children and are proud that their oldest, Aaron, graduated from Drury and has returned for a Master of Education. Second son, Joel, graduated from the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University in Orange, California, and is now working at the World Trade Center in New York, and their daughter Grace is working on an Education degree at TCU. Marcia and Paul are proud that all three children found different Disciples-related universities to attend.

Paul enjoys the outdoors, namely biking and hiking, the humanities, and teaching. For relaxation he likes reading, movies, watching a certain cable news network especially during the political season, and "hanging out with the people Jesus loved being with."