The Rev. Dr. Laura Barnes is thrilled that UCC Austin has invited her to serve as the next Interim Senior Minister. This will be a time where we can reflect, engage in spiritual wondering and creatively envision a new future together. Dr. Barnes has most recently been serving an urban church in her hometown of Dallas as Interim Minister for Mission and Evangelism.

Prior to her return to Texas, she served in the Northern California Nevada Conference (NCNC) of the United Church of Christ (UCC) for 14 years. She has led both the Congregational Church of San Mateo, and the Danville Congregational Church as their educational Minister for Children, Youth and Families. While her ministry has centered on youth, young adults and education, she also has a heart for mission and social justice work.

Before attending seminary, Laura was a commercial banker (Chase Manhattan and Bank of America) and a full time mother. She is a trained Interim Minister who has experience in assisting congregations during times of transition and transformation.  She served on the Board of Trustees at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), associated with the University of California in Berkeley, CA.

Laura received a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree from the University of Creation Spirituality (now Wisdom University of Graduate Studies) in Oakland, CA and her Masters of Divinity (MDiv) from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Undergraduate studies were completed at the University of Texas in Austin (she LOVES Austin!) and she is a graduate of Highland Park High School in Dallas.

She currently serves on the executive board for Focus on Teens, an outreach program for homeless students in the Dallas Public School System. She has previously served on the board for Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) in Pleasant Hill, CA – a permanent, supportive housing development for formerly homeless families. As a past Moderator for the NCNC of the UCC, Laura has extensive experience in leading and participating in effective committee and task focused gatherings.

Laura currently lives in North Dallas and has two grown children, Mac (32) and Becca (30) who live in the San Francisco Bay Area with their spouses, Laura’s two grandchildren and four grandogs…she misses them ALL!

Feel free to find her on Facebook, where she posts a daily meditation… or two…<https://www.facebook.com/revlaura>

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