

A New Season

March 31, 2025

In 2014, Sali Honess Ondrey, Rev. Kari Lindholm Johnson and I began to meet and pray and dream together about what would eventually become Journey Center of Chicago in 2016. Because people can be wounded and excluded through the church, the desire was to create a safe, sacred, inclusive place where all truly belong, where people could experience radical hospitality and acceptance, being loved and heard, and experience a deeper awareness of God. The Journey Center Association was a place that aligned with our mission and so we joined them, which has been a tremendous blessing.

After these last 10 years, I am now entering semi-retirement and am letting go of the Executive Director role. It has been a joy and a privilege to partner with God and so many others in this ministry, people who gathered in the beginning to dream and pray and lean into God for the unfolding of what was to come. I am grateful for all who came afterwards, the teachers and volunteers who offered workshops, retreats, and those who led in contemplative spaces, as well as the participants. I am deeply grateful to all who supported us through their contribution of gifts, prayer, and time, especially our board, which currently consists of Kitchie Ranillo Bakken, Rev. Aaron Johnson, Rev. Janet Lundblad, and Jeff Ondrey.

As I semi-retire, it is with a full heart and deep gratitude. I will continue to do the things that I love, continuing the ministry to parents of LGBTQIA+ individuals, and directing the spiritual direction training program. I have been blessed through the incredible people I met through these ministries.

There is more to come for Journey Center of Chicago which is very exciting. You will hear more in a couple of weeks. It is wonderful how God continues to lead and expand this ministry.

Thank you one and all.

I pray God's deep blessings on you in every way.

Rev. Eva Sullivan-Knoff