

Hannah Martin licensed for special ministry as Associate Pastor of Children



On March 6, Hannah Martin was licensed for special ministry as the Associate Pastor of Children at Beth-El Mennonite Church in Colorado Springs. Since September 2021, Pastor Hannah has been serving children and their families at Beth-El by sharing Bible stories, teaching kids about Jesus, coordinating craft projects, and connecting families to the broader community—whether through making cranes for a peace demonstration or making health kits for unhoused folks.

Hannah’s licensing in Mountain States Mennonite Conference was the next step in her journey as a minister.

“Hannah follows Jesus with her whole being...she loves people deeply, and she shows compassion to the marginalized,” said Sara Branham, a parent with three kids in Beth-El’s children’s ministry who shared affirmations as part of the service. Sara said that Hannah truly believes that children are beloved by God: “I love that you meet kids where they are; even if they’re rolling around on the floor or wandering around—you know that they’re still hearing about God’s love.”

Sara’s affirmations were echoed by others who spoke, including Conference Minister Amy Zimelman, Ministerial Council Co-Chair Jenelle Roynon, and Pastor Jordan Farrell.

“During the interview process it became pretty clear pretty quickly that Hannah would not bring one part of herself to this role but she would bring her whole self to this pastoral call,” Pastor Jordan said. “Pastor Hannah does not simply bring her love for Jesus or her teaching experience or her passion for peace to this work—she weaves it all together, and I’m so thankful that she does.”

The service began with Pastor Amy reading of a children’s book entitled *This is the Church*, and included her leading the congregation in an affirming blessing with laying-on of hands, presenting a certificate, and presenting a piece of participatory artwork for the congregation.

“While we Mennonites take seriously the priesthood of all y’all believers,” Pastor Amy said, “Today we say YES to Hannah, that we are calling her out for certain roles in this time and place, because we believe God has given her gifts and would love for her to keep using them.” Pastor Amy named some of Hannah’s gifts of lamenting injustices, taking initiative, getting a crazy amount of tasks accomplished in a day, and shaping young minds.



Pictured: (Left) Laying on of hands blessing; (Right) Sara Branham sharing affirmations

Ministerial Council Co-Chair Jenelle Roynon affirmed Hannah both as a parent herself and in her role on Ministerial Council.

“When I told them [my two girls] that we would be celebrating Hannah as pastor today, I asked what they thought about her and they both said, ‘WE LIKE HER!’ very excitedly,” Jenelle said. “To see the Bible come alive for them is exciting as a parent.”

And Jenelle went on to share Ministerial Council’s perspective after interviewing Hannah as part of the licensing process: “We could all very confidently say that we were moved by what you shared and your heart for ministry and for faith.”

Jenelle closed her remarks with a blessing from Ministerial Council: “May you sense the overwhelming and empowering spirit of God as you embark on this new journey knowing that those who surround you today support you and join with you in celebrating the work that God is doing at Beth-El. [We] will be praying for God’s richest blessings as you fulfill God’s calling in your life.”

Amen.

[View the entire licensing service here at Beth-El’s website](#), starting at 34:04.