



Desiree Ann Lawson

Biographical Information

Desiree Lawson has been a member of the Roxbury Presbyterian Church in Boston, Massachusetts for over 16 years. She is married to a wonderful, caring and godly man, Anthony, who serves as a deacon at Roxbury. Together they have five daughters. Desiree earned a bachelors degree in Psychology from Cambridge College and a Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School. She is a candidate for ordination in the Presbyterian Church USA certified ready for a call. She is particularly drawn to multicultural ministry, women's issues, and ministering and counseling to those struggling with marital concerns.

Desiree currently holds the position of church administrator at the Presbyterian Church in Needham, Massachusetts and serves on the Boston Presbytery's Personnel Committee. Spiritually, Desiree is drawn to nature and finds great comfort in the trees. Her favorite meditative scripture is Psalm 104:16: *the trees of the Lord are well watered*. She is thankful for the earth's abundance and God's provisions for all humanity. She believes firmly in the power of prayer and finds it impossible to do the work of God without pursuing and intimate relationship with God.



Since graduation from Seminary in 2007, I have been working as a Church Administrator at the Presbyterian Church in Needham, Massachusetts. This experience has provided hands-on, practical experience. Some of my responsibilities include; bulletin preparation; processing the weekly offering; supporting various committees of the session; working with the facilities manager and music director; preparing the annual report; overseeing portions of the church operating budget; working closely with the treasurer with payroll and accounts payable. ***Through this position, I bring the knowledge and understanding of the day to day operation of the church and seasonal liturgical planning.***

I have been serving on the Presbytery's Personnel Committee for the past 4 years and last year served as its chair. As chair, I was responsible for attending Council meetings where I was given voice and vote in the decision making which affects the larger church. ***Through these responsibilities, I bring the knowledge and understanding of planning and setting meeting agendas; moderating meetings, implementing Robert's Rules of Order; working collectively with church leaders; and serving the larger church.***

In 2009, I was asked by the Committee on Ministry to be a member of an Administrative Commission which was being sent on behalf of the presbytery to assist a church whose pastor abruptly resigned. This opportunity enabled me to be with a session and a congregation experiencing deep conflict, pain and transition. In addition to my role on the AC, the members of the session also contracted with me to be on staff to provide ongoing pastoral care. ***Through this experience, I bring my gifts of pastoral care and compassion and a practical understanding of church polity. I have further developed my ability to be fully present with others during difficult transitions by supporting them through the gift of listening, discerning God's voice through collective wisdom, prayer and encouragement.***

In 2009, I was the co-chair of small group ministries at my home church. I recruited small group leaders and participants for a church-wide, 6-week study on the *40 Days of Community/Adopt-A-School Campaign*. Planned and facilitated orientation for small group hosts as the church prepared to embark in community ministry working alongside 2 middle schools in need of resources and support. This study helped the church come face to face with their fears and anxieties about ministry outside the walls of the church. ***Through this experience, I bring administrative gifts as well as the gift of discernment, training, equipping and empowering others to develop and pursue their gifts.***

I continue to preach on a regular basis throughout the Presbytery. I also preach and facilitate workshops for a couple's ministry where I have been a member for the past 8 years. I have been a retreat leader, teach an on-going monthly bible study and have led several book groups. ***Through preaching and teaching the Scriptures, I bring the gift of proclamation and continue to develop and strengthen my preparation skills. Preaching on a regular basis gives me structure and a disciplined prayer life.***



Desiree & Anthony



**Desiree's daughters -
Lindsay (17) & Barbara (20)**



Anthony & Waldo