

# Rev. Miriam Blair



**Ordination Date:** November 3, 2019

**Education & Earned Degrees:**  
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

**Current & Previously Held Positions**  
First Lutheran Church Omaha, Pastor,  
11/2019, Omaha, NE-Present

Kutak Rock, Inclusiveness & Diversity Mgr., 4/2016-Present,  
Omaha, NE

Fontenelle Community Church, Assistant Pastor, 6/2008-  
7/2018, Omaha, NE

Goodwill Industries, Inc., YouthBuild/Training & Development  
Coordinator, 2/2010-4/2016, Omaha, NE

Kutak Rock, IT Specialist, 10/1996-1/2010, Omaha, NE

## **Please tell us a bit about yourself.**

My father served in the U.S. Army. I spent most of my childhood in Karlsruhe, Germany. I am one of the few Pastors of color in the Nebraska Synod. I am a bi-vocational Pastor by choice. I pastor First Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Since my time there the congregation has gone from being 95% white to 70% white and 30% non-white. My husband and I are the biological, foster, adopted and loved in parents to 21 children. We have 5 grandchildren and one due next month.

## **Describe what brings you energy as you consider the role of Bishop and how this might be a best use of your gifts, skills, and passion.**

My husband and I have successfully planted two churches and most recently merged two churches. I am energized by the opportunity to walk alongside Pastors to grow their churches, spiritually, physically and financially. I believe Matthew 9:37, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Gods' word is true, the church is not dying it is repositioning and the Bishop and synod staff are imperative during this season of change.

## **As a candidate for Bishop, how would you describe God's call for the Nebraska Synod and your relation to this call?**

The Nebraska Synod is called to support and strengthen every Pastor/church in our region. It's that simple. Being a bi-vocational Pastor, I understand the importance of treating every church like a client/customer. The Bishop, and by extension staff, are called to SERVE. They should go above and beyond to care for leaders and congregations as they are the customer.

## **Reflect on the opportunities and challenges facing the Nebraska Synod in the next 6 years.**

Both an opportunity and a challenge is the fact that the face of the church is changing. Post- Covid is not going to look the same as Pre-Covid for better and for worse.