



Jeffrey Goodrich was born in a suburban town north of Buffalo, NY. He grew up regularly attending St. Mark's Lutheran Church, of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) with his family. Along with an older brother and sister, he attended St. Mark's parochial school until eighth grade. These years of immersion in a congregation shaped the direction of his life. At a young age, he told people that he wanted to be a pastor when he grew up.

In high school, Goodrich drifted away from regular involvement with the church, but still maintained an active interest in learning about God and about religion.

In college at Colgate University in central New York, Goodrich majored in religion, taking classes on a variety of different religious traditions. He spent two semesters studying abroad, one in St. Andrews, Scotland, and another in Chennai, India. Through experiencing how real and vital faith was for people in other cultural settings, he returned to his Lutheran heritage with greater respect and understanding. A powerful religious experience then led him to pursue a seminary education.

After discerning theological differences with the LCMS, Goodrich enrolled at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, an interdenominational seminary. His studies included a concentration in Psychology and Religion. While at Union, he joined Advent Lutheran Church on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, a congregation of the ELCA. He was very involved at Advent, both as a member and as an intern, teaching Confirmation and Sunday School. He also led efforts to develop a creative mid-week worship service geared towards reaching out to unchurched young adults.

At Union, Goodrich met his wife, the Rev. Hannah C. Brown, now a pastor in the United Church of Christ. Goodrich and Brown were classmates, and both served as chapel ministers. Their roles included setting up the flexible worship space for each day's chapel service, as well as assisting with and leading worship. They were married in the summer of 2008. Rev. Brown is currently finishing a two-year position as the Lilly Pastoral Resident at Mayflower UCC in Minneapolis.

After graduating with a Master of Divinity from Union in 2007, Goodrich served his internship year at Redeemer Lutheran Church, a multicultural congregation in North Minneapolis. At Redeemer, he was involved in all aspects of pastoral ministry. In particular, he was active with the after-school program for neighborhood youth, adult Bible Study, and community organizing and advocacy work.

This past year, Goodrich has attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, taking Lutheran classes required for ordination. He looks forward to beginning his career in ordained ministry.