

## Rev. Dr. Barry W. Szymanski, J.D.

Pastor Barry, our Bridge Minister, will be preaching, writing Reflections, scheduling time to meet and chat with him, and offering workshops on a variety of topics relating to spirituality.

In 2001 Barry entered seminary as a 'second career' and graduated with Honors in 2006 with studies emphasizing scripture and was ordained that same year. During his seminary chaplaincy internships at Children's Hospital and at Elmbrook Hospital he began to integrate his seminary studies with ministry and pastoral care. He took the Congregational Polity course in 2009. He is the Instructor in the Torah, and for Preaching, for students in the WCA Lay Ministry Course. He is an active member of the Classical Congregational Retreat Guides, and regularly led many retreats, Bible studies, courses, and workshops on many topics, including loss and grief, the birth and death of churches, and church operation. After ordination, in addition to serving churches as a pastor, he has served in various capacities with the National Association [NACCC] as Director, Personnel Committee, and Clergy Assistance. He has also undertaken Intentional Interim Training in 2014 and completed his Fieldwork Project in 2015.

Barry graduated from Marquette University Law School and practiced law from 1973 to 2019. He began his practice as a trial lawyer then emphasized business and estate planning, with a background in mediation and conflict resolution.

Barry and his wife, Sue, are the parents of one daughter, Sarah. Sarah, and her husband, Dave, have blessed Barry and Sue with two grandchildren, Edward and Opal. Sue and Barry are possessed by two cats, 22 lbs. Spanky and 17 lbs. Sparkel.

His ongoing passion since grade school has been photography. Barry finds that photography is another way of looking at people and places to realize God's glory. After he took the British Congregational Tour in England, he then published: 'A Congregationalist's Journey: Photographs of Sacred and Secular England'. Up until some years ago, he was also active in martial arts, and taught many self-defense classes, police arrest tactics to recruits and in-service law enforcement at MATC. United Airlines hired him to provide cabin defense training post 9-1-1. He has also trained self-defense to Marquette University Public Safety Officers, and various mall security departments. Now, he is much too old for that kind of thing.

He believes that the task of today's pastor is to make the faith dynamic -- to bring it to life. As a minister, lawyer, and a sworn law enforcement officer he feels that he can add to what he has learned life to preaching in order to win a verdict for God.

