



Andrew J. Kramer  
Pastor 2005 – 2016

Family: wife, Sandy and daughters Lauren and Jenna.

Called to Co-Pastor position on January 1, 2004 and became Senior Pastor in September of 2005.

Kramer brought a spirit of collaboration with others to St. Paul's.

He and Pastor Asper-Wilson shepherded St. Paul's in handling the UCC General Synod's non-binding resolution to bless same-sex unions.

In 1999, he established the Neighbors for Renewal, a charitable group that rehabilitates dilapidated Belleville houses and sells them to low-income families. One project involved a trio of buildings owned by St. Paul United Church of Christ.

One of the houses sold as a single-family home. The second became a food pantry operated jointly by local churches (this building replaced the original food pantry operated out of the Activity Center of St. Paul's Church). The group negotiated with the Belleville Township High School District 201 over the third building to create an off-campus training program to aid mentally disabled students.

On July 14, 2002, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Welcome Center for the church. It was dedicated on April 27, 2003.

In 2006, Kramer and Pastor Gus Kuether as the leader, launched the BeFriender Lay Ministry at the church. Members of the congregation comprise a team of people befriending others in times of need. That group evolved into the present "With You" ministry.

The Heritage Hall Restoration Committee started to restore the second church in 2008 and finished the Chapel in 2010. Work is ongoing.

Kramer retired in 2016.

#### Information Sources:

Belleville News-Democrat newspaper article, September 17, 2006  
Additional information in the archives.