

Michelle L. Torigian

On April 15, 2018, Michelle Torigian was called by the congregation as settled pastor of St. Paul Church. On July 2, 2018, she began her work. Previously, she served as pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Prior to ministry, Rev. Torigian worked in fundraising and marketing for nonprofits as her previous career. She graduated from Eden Theological Seminary in 2010, Fontbonne University in 1995, and is a graduate of Belleville West High School. Rev. Torigian is the author of a number of articles on the Huffington Post Religion page including "Between Childless and Childfree," a reflection for Mother's Day. Rev. Torigian has also written various pieces for the United Church of Christ including for the New Sacred blog, the worship service for General Synod in 2015, and the UCC Daily Devotional. Her essay "Always the Pastor, Never the Bride" was published in the book There's a Woman in the Pulpit, and her essay "Worshiping in the Gaps: Developing Unique Worship Services" in the book Sacred Habits: Rise of the Creative Clergy. She has also written pieces for the 2017 book A Child Laughs. Rev. Torigian regularly posts her musings on current events, justice issues, pop culture, and theology at www.michelletorigian.com

She successfully guided the congregation through the COVID-19 Epidemic (2019-2021), keeping St. Paul a viable church. In doing so, she led the effort to establish a church presence online in the social media environment.

Pastor Torigian is the leadership model for the Church in the 21st Century.

She and her husband reside in Belleville.