

Bio for Bryan Sirchio

I began my work with McFarland UCC in December of 2018, and I just love being the pastor of this amazing community!

As you'll see from the bio that follows, for the past 31 years I have been involved in a free-lance musical ministry. I'm a songwriter and musical artist and my original music has been the primary means through which I've offered my spiritual insights and leadership. I've been traveling around the country since 1987 giving concerts, leading retreats, offering keynote addresses at gatherings, leading group singing at national and regional youth events and denominational gatherings, and writing and recording music and creating educational resources based on my songs.

In recent years however I've felt an increasing sense of call to be less itinerant and to ground my life and ministry more in a local faith community. I've loved passing through many different church communities and events over the years, but I increasingly found myself missing the continuity of building something over time with one group of people. As grace would have it, McFarland UCC opened up its pastoral search at the perfect time in my own journey, and I am now delighted to be held by this community and to share my music and preaching in the same place week after week!

If you have not yet worshiped with us, please come and check us out. If you're looking for a modest sized but deeply faithful, progressive, welcoming, open, affirming, inclusive expression of Spirit-centered community then I think you'll be as delighted with McFarland UCC as I am. And if you're looking for a bunch of down to earth folks who simply want to be there for each other and serve the world and be a joyful and robust source of God's love, healing, justice, and kindness, then again, you'll feel like you've come home when you step into the embrace of McFarland UCC.

If you'd like to know a bit more about my background and what I've done prior to becoming the pastor of McFarland UCC, then read on, or feel free to check out the website of my music ministry www.bryansirchio.com.

A Bit More About Rev. Bryan Sirchio

Bryan is an ordained UCC minister, singer/songwriter, keynote speaker, CEO of an all digital music publishing company named The Convergence Music project, and an author. He holds degrees in Religion with a concentrated study in Psychology from Duke University where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1980. He received his Masters in Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. After graduating from seminary Bryan served as pastor of the UCC churches in Elcho and Kempster, WI (way up north in between Antigo and Rhinelander) for just under 4 years, at which time he left the parish ministry to found Crosswind Music ministries (the name of the umbrella organization under which Bryan's music ministry has taken place).

Since 1987 Bryan has traveled the country offering concerts, speaking and leading group singing at events, participating in worship services, consulting with congregations, and leading retreats. Bryan is a powerful story teller both in word and music, and in addition to uplifting positive messages, Bryan's

music and witness includes challenging songs on the cutting edge of the biblical call to social justice, compassion for the poor, honoring the earth, and the Extravagant Welcome at the heart of the Gospel.

Bryan has also worked extensively with grass roots organizations in Haiti for the past 30 years and is co-founder and director of an organization based in Madison, WI called Haiti Allies (www.haitiallies.org). In addition to his 15 CDs, 4 songbooks, and 4 study guides, Bryan is the author of The 6 Marks of Progressive Christian Worship Music and most recently released a children's book based on one of his children's songs called Wherever Love Is. Bryan is also Lead Designer and CEO of a new progressive worship music company called The Convergence Music Project (CMP)—www.convergencemp.com. Bryan has lived in Madison, WI since 1993.

On a more personal note, Bryan loves to exercise, lift weights, practice yoga, hike, read, bike, play tennis, drink coffee, hang out with friends, eat good food (though he's not picky!) and laugh as much as possible. He loves kids and teenagers and people in general, and animals, especially dogs. He has 2 grown children whom he adores and who live too far away (Ft. Collins, CO and Medway, MA just outside Boston), and 7 grandchildren who are a constant source of delight and wonder (a 16 year old young woman and 6 boys under the age of 7!).