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Jubilee! Community Welcomes Rev. Stephanie Escher as Its New Senior Minister

June 24, 2024, Asheville, NC – Jubilee! Community, an inclusive, independent faith community that has served Asheville’s spiritual needs for 35 years, has named Rev. Stephanie Escher as its new senior minister. An ordained Methodist Elder with over 15 years ministerial and chaplaincy experience, Stephanie will provide both spiritual and administrative leadership for Jubilee!.

“Since we relocated to Rainbow Community School Auditorium from downtown Asheville, we have heard locals ask if Jubilee! has closed our doors,” commented Louise Slater, chair of Jubilee!’s board of directors. “The answer to that is a resounding ‘No!’ Even without a permanent lead minister for the past four years, Jubilee! has continued to thrive through the retirement of our founder, the challenges of the pandemic, and selling of our building on Wall Street. Now, after an exhaustive search that began a year and half ago, we have finally found a new senior minister with a deep connection to Creation Spirituality who can guide us during this transformative time.”

“I have a deep passion for the work of transformation and I am delighted to walk alongside Jubilee! as they lean into their next dynamic iteration of a relevant, responsive, authentic spiritual community deeply tied to the cultivation of resiliency and renewal in Asheville and beyond,” commented Rev. Stephanie Escher, “These folks have a heart for service, a hunger for the restoration of reciprocity and right-relationship throughout the whole of creation, and deep, deep joy.”

Stephanie most recently served as Manager of Mission and Spiritual Care in the Midwest Region of Advocate Health. Previous ministerial positions include pastorates at United Methodist Churches in Minnesota and Illinois; Hospital and Hospice Staff Chaplaincy in the Twin Cities; Pacific Northwest Pilgrimage Leadership for Heartbeat (A John Philip Newell Non-Profit); and Worship and Music Arts Leadership for a handful of faith communities throughout the Midwest.

In addition to her extensive ministerial and chaplaincy experience, Stephanie has worked in IT, banking and the music industry. She is an enrolled member of the Ojibwe Nation, and has a BA in psychology from CU Boulder and an MDiv from Garrett Seminary in Evanston, IL.

About Jubilee!

Founded in 1989, Jubilee! is an inclusive, independent faith community that honors all spiritual traditions, all peoples and Earth. Grounded in Creation Spirituality, Jubilee! is strongly committed to social and environmental justice. Over the past 35 years, the Jubilee! community has donated over \$2 million dollars to nonprofit organizations that provide food, housing and other critical necessities to underserved folks in Asheville and beyond. Each week, Jubilee! holds in-person and live streamed Sunday Celebrations at 10:30am at Rainbow Community School Auditorium at 60 State Street in West Asheville. Visit jubileecommunity.org for more information.

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