

## Q&A

### What is your favorite scripture?

Matthew 25 (which says what we do toward those in need matters ultimately) and John 1: 1-16 (which speaks of Jesus as Word, Light, Life and Grace).

### What is your favorite sport?

I watch BIG-10 football. I cheer for the home team, depending on where I am, with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

### What Music do you listen to?

Classic rock and blues.

### What three items would you take with you on a deserted island?

Robert Altar's translation of the Hebrew Bible, a large book of songs, and a photo of my whole family.

### What is your favorite movie?

A tie between *The Wizard of Oz* and *Cool Hand Luke*.

### What are your favorite books?

Robert Pirsig, "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" and David Brooks, "The Second Mountain."

### If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Tacos, the perfect food.

If you could vacation anywhere, where would it be?

France.

what one thing could you not go a day without?

I could not go a day without music. Singing, playing, listening. It reveals things that are hidden, and intensifies what matters most in life.



## INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Randy Pappal, *Chair*     Julia Libcke  
Bob Heuer                     Linda Juracek-Lipa  
Kay Maxwell                 Chip Tallinger  
Heather Lorincz



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## Welcome Pastor Andrew



**Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald**  
*Interim Senior Pastor*

 **Kirk in the Hills**

## ABOUT REV. DR. ANDREW MCDONALD



Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald is an experienced large church pastor and leader. His educational background includes degrees from Yale University, Vanderbilt

University, the University of Illinois and McCormick Theological Seminary. His doctoral thesis was in adult education, and he specializes in the Bible and ethics.

His pastoral specialties include congregational visioning and church redevelopment. He has served churches in Chicago and Peoria, Illinois; Nashville, Tennessee; Lincoln, Nebraska; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Cleveland, Ohio. He was the moderator of The Growth Project, a state-wide group that developed church growth conferences and strategies.

He has been a popular speaker at colleges, Presbyteries and Synod events. He gave a TEDx talk on “Reclaiming the Radical Virtue of Compromise.” He was the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day keynote speaker at the Nebraska Capitol.

He has traveled on educational or mission trips to Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Germany, Switzerland, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Panama, and Greece. He is married to Tamara McDonald, a professional interior designer and artist. They enjoy hiking, art museums, joining friends for dinner and lively conversation, as well as hearing from their adult children. They also have a golden retriever who likes to make new friends every day.

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR ANDREW

Dear Members and Friends of Kirk in the Hills,

It is an honor to be invited to be your Interim Pastor. I look to the stories of faith leaders in the Bible for inspiration. There, I see Abraham and Sarah encountering God on a journey. Jacob too is on a journey, when he is surprised in the dark, and wrestles with God until the light dawns. Jesus compels his disciples to “get in the boat,” and go on a journey with him. Later, Jesus encounters Saul on the road, and in that roadside adventure, gives him a change of identity. In short, faith is a journey in which God encounters and transforms us.

I am amazed to see the result of a long history of dynamic faith journeys that have resulted in the marvelous Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church. Although I have only met a few members so far, I can feel their passion, excitement and love for God. I feel a connection with your core values when it comes to:

- Meaningful and powerful worship;
- A passion for mission among those in need near and far;
- A desire to have a great many people engage in meaningful ministries;
- A vision to engage all generations in deeper community;
- The love and deep friendship that happens when people journey in faith together.

As I said to your very gifted search committee, there is a world of difference between smaller

churches and a larger church like the Kirk. A small church is like an airplane; everybody has to get on board because they are all going to the same place. A large church is like an airport; complex systems have to be in place because there are a great many takeoffs and landings to many different destinations. I have spent most of my ministry in large churches because I love the dynamic excitement of people living out their faith in a great many diverse forms.

It is a crucial time for Christianity in the world. There are so many changes going on, we need to think anew about the life of the church universal. For certain, there are core values that need to be celebrated and embraced. But there are also winds of the Holy Spirit that are nudging us in new directions. What is God calling and empowering us to be and to do? I have the privilege of listening with you as we discern where Christ is calling the Kirk in the Hills. If we listen well together, your church will be prepared for your next outstanding senior pastor.

I look forward to meeting you. I anticipate with excitement the opportunity to listen to your hopes, hurts and dreams for the future. Most of all, I look forward to the adventure as we journey together in the directions where Christ calls us.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Andrew

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald  
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