



# You Made a Difference

## NIC Pension Initiative



*"Difference Makers"*

## Rev. Brittany Isaac

Pastor

Submitted by: Harry Nicol  
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Several years ago (probably sometime around 2008 when I was working for the United Methodist Foundation, along with several other people, mostly pastors as I remember, I went on a tour of a few places within the Chicago Northwestern District. I remember only two places that we visited, the Urban Village Church meeting at the Bethany Home in Chicago and Epworth United Methodist Church in Chicago. At the time of this visit Brittany was the pastor of this site of Urban Village Church.

As a part of this tour we visited with Brittany at Bethany Home in Chicago. Our visit with Brittany made a big impression on me. This was a time when the United Methodist Church was having a great deal of dialogue related to LGBTQ issues, including who could be a pastor, whom could a pastor unite in marriage, and so on. For some time I had been a part of these kind of conversations. I was very much on the side of full inclusion including no restrictions on who could be ordained or who could be united in marriage by UM clergy based on sexual orientation.

However, for me the issue was related to ethics and theology more than to emotion and vulnerability. The presentation by Brittany on that day focused squarely on how much persons in the LGBTQ community had been hurt and made to feel "less than" by the church. She described this in such vivid terms that she was brought to tears, as was I.

This was a momentary encounter, probably no more than 30 minutes. But it had a huge impact on me that has led me to be very grateful for Brittany ever since and to admire her courage and the risks she and others have taken.

I had a new appreciation of these issues based on the hurt and vulnerability to which many people had been exposed. The issue took on "human" form. I am grateful to Brittany. As a result of this "Difference Maker" I am much more deeply committed to the requirement that we become a fully inclusive denomination.



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OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH