

## Oregon Couple Travels to Spencerville To Be Baptized

A faith journey that began online recently culminated at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., as Catherine Hillerman and Jarrett Hendricks, a married couple from Oregon, flew across the country to be baptized at the church that helped lead them to Christ during the pandemic.

The couple, who go by the names Cat and Jett, had dabbled in various faith traditions and New Age spirituality, but during the pandemic, Cat felt a sudden urge to read the Bible, despite not even owning one at the time. As she read the Bible more, she searched for additional resources online, eventually leading them to the Spencerville church's online worship broadcasts. They quickly became regular viewers and began to feel part of the Spencerville church community, even from thousands of miles away.

When Chad Stuart, senior pastor of Spencerville, began promoting Connect Groups during his messages, the couple believed God was urging them to take this next step. To their delight, they discovered a hybrid Sabbath School class that enabled them to participate in a weekly Bible study through Zoom. The couple joined the group and quickly developed friendships with the other members.

As the pandemic restrictions subsided, the couple began looking for a local church in Oregon

they could attend in person. They started attending the Sandy church and decided that they wanted to become members. However, the couple felt a deep desire to return to where their spiritual journey began, so they trekked across the United States to Spencerville where Kandace Zollman (pictured below, center), Spencerville pastor for Nurture and Visitation, baptized them, with members of their hybrid Sabbath School class occupying the front row.

"Online ministry is real ministry," says Jason Lombard, Spencerville pastor for Media and Communication. "We're thankful that Spencerville church had the privilege of being a part of Cat and Jett's spiritual journey!"



## Arunan Appointed Associate Ministerial Director



Members of the Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently voted to appoint Shelvan Arunan as associate Ministerial director, creating a new position aimed at providing additional support and training resources for pastors and local church leaders.

Arunan, an experienced pastor, chaplain and counselor, with doctorates in Pastoral Counseling and Family and Organizational Psychology, most recently served as the pastor of the Calvary Southern Asian and Mizo churches in Burtonsville, Md.

"As the conference has grown, so have the needs of our pastors, churches and lay members when it comes to leadership training, mentoring and equipping people for ministry," says Jerry Lutz, conference

president. "In recent years, the scope of the work has exceeded the ability and availability of one person to continue to effectively meet the demands of our pastoral team and the nearly 18,000 members they serve in our 102 church entities."

Arunan brings decades of ministry, counseling and leadership experience, including 36 years in the health care system. His new responsibilities will include teaching Clinical Pastoral Education courses, providing crisis and trauma intervention training, and conducting conflict management training and intervention. He will also serve as the conference's Prison Ministries coordinator.

Lutz adds, "With the addition of Dr. Arunan to the department, not only will current pastoral needs be better addressed, but new opportunities may be explored and pursued to further advance the mission of our conference."