



Judy Howard Peterson is passionate about communicating good news in everyday language and continues to travel across the United States speaking to audiences about a journey worth traveling. She has worked in the inner city of Chicago both as a junior high teacher to at-risk youth and a caseworker for those who are currently without homes. She worked to develop an after-school program for children living along the border of Texas and Mexico and has served her share of coffee at various restaurants around Chicago. She is a licensed minister with the Evangelical Covenant Church but refers to herself as “just Judy”.

From 1998-1999 Judy walked across the United States for her internship toward her Master of Divinity degree at North Park Theological Seminary. The 4200-mile journey has served as the foundation for much of what Judy now communicates.

In her own words...

- You see more of life when you get out of the fast lane and try on a 4mph pace.
- I am just as loved by God when I am in the middle of a field doing “nothing” as when I follow the productivity standards of this world.
- It may be the most productive decision of a twenty-mile day to stop and talk to the person at milepost three.
- With every mountain top there is a valley and there is a whole lot of South Dakota in most of our lives.
- Simplicity makes me a nicer and far more generous person.
- Discipline is important and I need to get up and “walk my twenty miles” no matter how many blisters I have on my feet.
- And most importantly that you can't get to Miami overnight...that is, unless you fly...and then you miss out on the purpose of the trip...being a fellow-traveler, being human with other humans, and actually living rather than just getting by.

While the walk across the United States is how Judy first received the name “walking pastor” it is her day to day desire to walk into the lives of others that continues to make the title well deserved. If asked why she keeps the title she will say, “I know I have places yet to go and God is not finished with me yet. I am on a journey just like everyone else and it is my greatest joy to be a fellow traveler.”

Judy currently splits her time between local speaking and teaching opportunities and national conference speaking. Her down to earth approach and her enthusiasm for squeezing the most out of life are both uncommon and contagious.

Judy is happily married to Jeff Peterson and they live near Elgin, IL.



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