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What do *poongmul* (Korean drumming), knitting, karaoke, potlucks, dancing and Pentecostal worship have in common? They’re part of the multifaith, multicultural formational experience at McCormick Theological Seminary that inspires Laura Cheifetz in her call to ministry.

The daughter of two Presbyterian pastors, Laura first sensed a call to ministry as senior at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, majoring in sociology and minoring in Spanish.

“I left the church, but came back after being involved with the National Network of Presbyterian College Women. Working with

homeless youth in San Francisco galvanized me to act so the world can be better for those without privilege.”

As a young adult intern, Laura went on to work as the gender justice program coordinator at the Presbyterian United Nations Office in New York.

“Serving in the church as a woman of color – and watching my mother do the same – highlighted gaps between the gospel as preached and the gospel as lived.

“I’d like for the church to be a place where all are welcomed, where young adults are heard. I’d also like to make it easier for people who’ve left the church to give it another chance.”

As a parish pastor, Laura will be there to listen, support and encourage them. “At McCormick, I’ve been prepared by the academic work, but mostly by the task of living together in a worshipping community.”



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