

## Brief history of Church of the Beloved

Father Paul Burson and his family and Kae and Greg Madden were members of the ECC Church of the Holy Family in Aurora. With their generous blessing and encouragement, we began to make plans to open a mission of Church of the Holy Family in the north area of suburban Denver.

We held many conversations, including whether or not to begin as a “house church.” We decided that would be self-limiting, so Kae began to explore possible partnerships in sharing space within another church. The Northglenn United Church of Christ was located centrally in the north metro area and was easily accessible from the interstate highway. The leadership of Northglenn United Church of Christ decided that they could support a mission “out there in the world” or they could support us, our mission church. They offered unbelievable hospitality and we have remained there, enjoying many benefits of the two congregations.

The name of the community was given to us by the Holy Spirit. Father Paul was in Texas for a conference, and Kae was here in town. On the phone we discovered that we were independently reading Henri Nouwen’s **Life of the Beloved**. We very much resonated with Nouwen’s description of the life of the beloved as called/ chosen, blessed, broken and given, so the name was born. Our feast day is the Feast of the Transfiguration.

The first service of Church of the Beloved (COB) was Ash Wednesday on February 28, 2004. Our first Easter morning Mass was attended by one person, appropriately named Dawn.

Father Paul was our first pastor and is a former Vincentian priest. Kae began as a lay associate while Greg served in music ministry. Mother Kae was ordained to the diaconate in October 2005 and was ordained a priest on July 29, 2006 by Presiding Bishop Peter Hickman, ECC. Father Len is a former Capuchin priest and was incardinated into the ECC in 2004. Father Len became affiliated with Church of the Beloved a couple years later. Kae was called as pastor in 2009, and we remain blessed with three priests to serve and guide our community.

Church of the Beloved joined the ECC in March 2007 and formed its first parish council that same year. We have grown from 2 households in 2004, to 18 in 2007, and to 51 active households in 2015 including 25 children.

We share the distinctives of the ECC, and rejoice in the diversity of our households. (See special tab that describes how the ECC is different from Roman Catholic tradition.)