

Sandra is originally from Washington, DC and had attended Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church all her life. She moved to Brookings, SD and became a member of Morningside Community Church in March, 2000. She had been working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture since 1985 and was relocated to South Dakota after completing a Master's degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy.

Sandra quickly became involved with church activities including the music ministry and the hospitality committee; however, "I felt that God did not bring me all the way to South Dakota to continue doing what I had been doing." Sandra's life is filled with volunteer experiences including working with Big Sisters of America, nursing homes, hospitals, and various mission activities. "I have always had a heart for helping people, and God paved the path for me to enter the ministry of counseling", said Sandra.

Sandra attended South Dakota State University and completed the formal program to receive a Master's degree in Counseling. She worked with Lutheran Social Services at the Counseling Center, the Refugee and Immigration Center and Summit Oaks, all in Sioux Falls, SD. While at Lutheran Social Services she provided individual, couples, family and group counseling.

While in South Dakota, Sandra met and married David Diedrich and gained 3 "bonus children" – Spencar, Brittney and Amy.