Rev. Sarai Schnucker Rice

1435 Mulberry Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

515-277-6969

Education: Sarai’s educational background includes a master’s in Divinity from Yale Divinity School and a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Northeast Missouri State University.

Work: Executive Director, Des Moines Area Religious Council – 2005 – present.

As the DMARC executive director since 2008, Rev. Rice brings over 10 years of non-profit executive experience. Sarai has led program, organization, and budget development that have positioned DMARC to respond to the 130% growth in the number of families accessing DMARC’s human services programs in the past six years. She has implemented data collection at all 14 pantries to help tell the story of food insecurity in our area. She has shared this data with local and state leaders to bring awareness to the issue and help end hunger in our community. She has championed healthy foods in the pantries and changed the model to ensure foods received by our clients improve their lives, not just fill their belly. She works with Hunger Free Polk and the Polk County Supervisors and other hunger fighters in our area to think innovatively and maximize efforts. This collaboration resulted in the addition of a mobile food pantry (with more on the way) to serve those in our community that may lack transportation to visit a pantry.

Community Involvement: Sarai has served as a member of the Food Access and Health Work Group, Iowa Food Policy Council, and the Ethics Committee, Hospice of Central Iowa since 2009. Sarai was a founding member of the Polk County Homeless Coordinating Council and she continues to serve in this capacity.