

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Rev. John L. Frye, Jr., Chair

January 30, 2010

FIRST SECTION

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION, OR A TASK FORCE THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY PRESBYTERY:

I. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY THE VALIDATION OF MINISTRY FOR:

- A. Matthew Schlageter, as Pediatric Chaplain for Mission/St. Joseph Hospital, through January 30, 2011.
- B. Brad Long, as Executive Director, Presbyterian Reformed Ministries, Int.'l, through January 30, 2011.
- C. Evelyn Coleman, Montreat Conference Center as Associate Director for the Center for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, through January 30, 2011

SECOND SECTION

The Book of Order provides that the Committee on Ministry may be given authority by the Presbytery to find in order calls issued by churches, to approve and present calls for service of ministers, to approve the examination of ministers transferring from other Presbyteries, required by G-11.0402 and G11.0502g, to dissolve the pastoral relationship in cases where the congregation and pastor concur, to dismiss ministers to other Presbyteries, and to approve administrative commissions to ordain/install with the provision that such actions be reported at the next stated meeting of the Presbytery. (G-11.0502h) This permission was granted to our Committee on Ministry; therefore, the following actions are to be simply admitted to the record.

I. APPROVED THE EXAMINATION AND TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA:

- A. **SUSAN DENNE**
From: Providence Presbytery
As: Stated Supply, Montreat Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 1, 2010
(See COM Attachment 1 for Bio Credo.)
- B. **MATTHEW SCHLAGETER**
From: Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
As: Chaplain, Mission Hospital
Effective: December 8, 2009
(See COM Attachment 2 for Bio Credo.)
- C. **DAVID KAYLOR**
From: Presbytery of Charlotte
As: Honorably Retired
Effective: December 8, 2009
(See COM Attachment 3 for Bio Credo.)

D. JORGE ALVARADO

From: Sierra Blanca Presbytery
As: Member at Large (until R1 Visa is received, and then New Church Development Pastor (Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel Fellowship)
Effective: January 30, 2010
(See COM Attachment 4 for Bio Credo.)

E. EVELYN COLEMAN

From: Arkansas Presbytery
As: Montreat Conference Center, Associate Director for the Center for Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Effective: December 8, 2009
(See COM Attachment 5 for Bio Credo.)

F. JEY DEIFELL, JR.

From: Presbytery of Southern New England
As: Honorably Retired
Effective: January 12, 2010
(See COM Attachment 6 for Bio Credo.)

G. KEITH FREEMAN

From: Providence Presbytery
As: Stated Supply, Pineola Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 12, 2010
(See COM Attachment 7 for Bio Credo.)

II. APPROVED PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP AND TERMS OF CALL:

A. JORGE ALVARADO (After receiving R1 Visa)

Salary	\$25,000
Housing Allowance	8,000
Social Security	2,525
Auto Allowance	3,085
Professional Dev.	1,075
Total	\$39,685

Pension/Insurance	Yes
Four Weeks Vacation	Yes
Two Weeks Study Leave	Yes

III. APPROVED INTERIM PASTOR RELATIONSHIPS:

- A. John P. Lindsay and Waynesville First Presbyterian Church
Extended: January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010
- B. Tyler Martin and Sylva First Presbyterian Church
Extended: January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010
- C. Dan Thornton and Marion First Presbyterian Church
Extended: January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010
- D. Karen Haak and Franklin First Presbyterian Church
Effective: December 1, 2009 - June 31, 2010

IV. APPROVED STATED SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP:

- A. Howard Doerle and Glen Alpine Presbyterian Church
Extended: January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010
- B. George Hutchins and Brittain's Cove Presbyterian Church
Extended: January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010
- C. John David Stewart and Paint Gap Presbyterian Church
Extended: January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010
- D. Laura Long and Clinchfield Presbyterian Church
Extended: November 1, 2009 - October 31, 2010
- E. Curtis Crowther and Buladean Presbyterian Church
Extended: October 6, 2009 - October 5, 2010
- F. Ira K. Kennerly and Etowah Presbyterian Church
Extended: January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010
- G. David Lytle and Ironton Presbyterian Church
Extended: July 1, 2009 - December 30, 2009
- H. Harry Petersen and Siloam Presbyterian Church
Extended: January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010
- I. Keith Freeman and Pineola Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 12, 2010 - December 31, 2010

V. APPROVED THE CONTINUATION OF COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR RELATIONSHIP:

- A. Dick Hood and John Knox Presbyterian Church
Extended: January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

VI. APPROVED AS MODERATORS:

- A. Robert Garrison and Pineola Presbyterian Church
- B. John Rogers and Hickory First Presbyterian Church
- C. Eade Anderson and Canton Presbyterian Church
- D. Dewey Bowen and Fairview Presbyterian Church
- E. Michael Poulos and Asheville First Presbyterian Church (February 1, 2010)
- F. Robert Garrison and Franklin First Presbyterian Church
- G. Mark Ramsey and West Asheville Presbyterian Church

VII. APPROVED THE TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP FOR:

- A. Kathryn Dudley
To: Coastal Carolina Presbytery
As: Member-at-Large
Effective: October 3, 2009
- B. Beverly Brock
To: Presbytery of Ohio Valley
As: Associate Pastor, First Christian Church, Jeffersonville, IN
Effective: January 12, 2010

VIII. APPROVED AS BRIDGE INTERIM:

- A. John Rogers and Hickory First Presbyterian Church
Effective: November 9, 2009

IX. APPROVED PERMISSION TO LABOR WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA:

- A. John Rogers
From: Charlotte Presbytery
As: Bridge Interim, Hickory First Presbyterian Church
Effective: November 9, 2009 - December 31, 2009
- B. Eade Anderson
From: New Hope Presbytery
As: Stated Supply, Canton Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 1, 2010

X. APPROVED THE REQUEST FOR HONORABLE RETIREMENT:

- A. Dewey Bowen
Effective: February 1, 2010
- B. Archie Willis Gaines
Effective: January 1, 2010

XI. APPROVED THE CONGREGATIONAL ACTION OF THE BLACK MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO DESIGNATE WALTER STYLES AS PASTOR EMERITUS.

COM ATTACHMENT 1

Statement of Faith

Susan L. Denne

I believe in the Triune God; Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. As a small child one night I was surrounded by light, warmth, and peace knowing that God was there to listen and to speak to me. I have tried many times to conjure that feeling again but it is never the same. Once that intimacy with God came as I screamed, "If you want me to be a minister you have to help me." God can feel that close, as intimate as our own skin and yet as awesome and wide as the heavens. God is the one who creates the whole universe, not just this little world. God is the parent who loves and disciplines us.

God became one of us in Jesus Christ. In Jesus we see who and what God hoped humanity would be, though we are a sinful people God has not given up on us. Jesus loves and accepts the sinner and the outcast. I believe it is as we meet and serve; the homeless, the oppressed, the hungry, the confused today that we see Jesus revealed. "Jesus was crucified suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world." Then God raised Jesus from death giving us all hope.

The Holy Spirit breathes life into all of creation bringing new life and hope. It is the spirit that gives us the power to continue in our struggle to be a hopeful and reconciling force in the world today. The spirit gives us strength to act with mercy, love, and justice as God's people.

I believe the Word of God is revealed to us through Scripture and Sacrament. By scripture's witness to the actions of God and God's people, the Good News of Jesus Christ, the beginning of the Church and its early mission, scripture teaches us and helps us recognize signs of God's activity here and now. The Bible is a living document whose stories and power bring new revelations with each reading.

The sacraments put solid, every day material elements around our belief. Water, bread, and wine "become basic symbols of offering life to God as Jesus had offered his life." The waters of baptism wash us clean and give us new life in Christ. Eating the bread and drinking the wine with Christ as our host sustains and strengthens us to live in community looking to that day when we will sit with all of God's children at the heavenly table. Nourished by the Lord's Supper we move out into the world to work for justice and peace.

The church is called to be Christ's body in the world today. Living and working as servant witnesses to Jesus Christ we practice our faith not only inviting all persons into community but moving out into the kinds of places Jesus went himself. The church shows God's love to those of other faiths and no faith, to those who ignore us, who are skeptical of us, even those who hate us. As one Katrina survivor said, "other organizations came and went but the churches keep coming." Thanks be to God.

I love the Presbyterian Church because it is a thinking church that challenges the mind as well as the heart. It is a church that keeps covenant through its connectional system so that no matter where you go in these United States, Presbyterian sisters and brothers are there. The PCUSA leaves room for persons of wide ranging belief systems within the boundaries of our constitution reminding us that "God alone is Lord of the conscience."

Biographic Sketch

Susan L. Denne

Sitting on a hard, dark, front pew of the Jerusalem Evangelical and Reformed Church in Buffalo, New York as a five year old I looked up at the tall man in the black robe and thought, "someday I'm going to do what you're doing." Soon after I was part of the children's choir that sang weekly with the adults. I fell in love with the music, the liturgy and the Word. At least the stories I understood.

By my teen age years my family lived in the suburbs and I came under the influence of a young minister who treated my age group with respect, taught us to pray, assume responsibility in a congregation, and work for justice as an important part of God's call. He modeled this by his activism in Civil Rights.

I became a nurse, married, moved to Atlanta and began to raise three beautiful children. During this time I joined the Presbyterian Church after attending a Sunday School Class on Guthrie's *Christian Doctrine*. I was once again convinced that the church not only believed what it said about justice and love of neighbors but acted on its beliefs.

As a young family our life centered in Northwoods Presbyterian Church, a new church development. I sang in the choir, taught Church School, led as an elder, and served on presbytery committees and as a commissioner to the General Assembly. I was particularly involved in issues of equality for women.

In 1983 I was divorced and the congregation wrapped loving arms around me and my children. Soon I began to hear God's voice speaking through those who told me "You should be a minister." I responded to God's call and completed my Bachelors Degree at Oglethorpe University then attended Columbia Theological Seminary where I received a Master of Divinity and later a Doctor of Ministry Degree. Every day on campus my faith in Jesus Christ grew stronger through serious study, meaningful worship, challenges to my faith, and growing relationships with supportive colleagues and compassionate faculty.

Happily, David Stover and I were married the week following my graduation from seminary. My first call was to Wildwood, Florida where I soon discovered that one third of the congregation wanted to pull out of the denomination. It was tough but each day I prayed for the strength to help that congregation hold firm to the vows taken as a PCUSA congregation. I sincerely believe God picked me up and put me in that pulpit each Sunday as we worked through those difficult times. Five years later a new session was in place and working well, real mission was taking place and this exhausted pastor moved on knowing that the Holy Spirit would continue to sustain that congregation.

I have served one church in Arkansas and three in South Carolina since those days; continuing to learn from, grow with, and love the people of God in and out of those congregations. Today I look forward to serving in a creative new form of church at the Montreat Presbyterian Church. We are in a new age and I believe God is calling all of us to reevaluate how we "do church". A new Spirit is blowing and I am eager to see where it will lead us together.

COM ATTACHMENT 2

Matt Schlageter – Faith Statement

I believe in one God who is revealed to us in three ways: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. I believe in a sovereign God who Westminster describes as “the Supreme Lord and King of all.” I believe Jesus Christ is God’s only begotten son who is fully human and fully divine. Jesus was “most Chastely conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the ever virgin Mary.” He was sent to do for us what we could not do for ourselves: redeem all of humanity from our sinful misdirected ways and draw us ever closer to the image we are created in. The Holy Spirit is ever-present with us. She prays for us, encourages us, and is constantly at work in, through and, sometimes, in spite of our broken lives. She is “everywhere the giver and renewer of life.”

The Bible was written in a particular time, by particular, sinful human beings. It is the inspired word of God, written by common everyday people. Holy Scripture gains its authority not by who wrote it but rather who it bears witness to: God. Holy Scripture is “inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...”

I believe the church to be both particular and universal, both gathered and dispersed. The church is the body of Christ with God as her head. The church universal incorporates all the church, breaking barriers of structured church and reaching out to the world where the church exists in the world: in the streets, ghettos, barrios, hospitals, prisons, wherever people are oppressed and downtrodden and wherever you would find Christ (for whom the church is the body of). I believe we meet in particular churches in order to support and encourage each other in and find nourishment and strength for our daily lives. The church gathered meets to “praise God, to hear [God’s] word for [hu]mankind...to receive instruction, strength, and comfort.”

I was born and raised in the Presbyterian Church. As I grew in my faith and learned more about what it means to be Presbyterian, I have come to fully embrace the denominations openness to reform and desire to seek where God is leading us. I have appreciated its connection with other Presbyterians around the country and world, to realize that we are not alone in our walk. This connection is most prominently seen in our governmental structure. We stand united and are willing to sit next to and across from those whom we agree and disagree with in order to hear the voice of God more fully.

I believe in two Sacraments: Baptism and the Eucharist. I believe that both are the visible sign of God’s invisible amazing grace. They remind us that we are joined to God, and each other, and always nourished and sustained by God’s Holy Spirit for the work we are called into. I see the sacraments as an opportunity for the church to constantly reach out to people, to find them where they are at, meet them in their daily struggles, and to provide comfort and sustenance to endure whatever people are facing. Whenever performed, the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is present.

Matt Schlageter – Biography

I was born and raised in Daytona Beach, Florida to a mother who was born and raised Presbyterian and a father who was born and raised Catholic. After they married, my dad began to attend the Presbyterian Church. Raised in the Presbyterian Church, I grew up attending First Presbyterian of Daytona Beach, the same church my mother grew up in. My brother and I are fourth generation members of this church.

Most of my life growing up I lived down the street from First Church, Daytona. Till I was in the 6th grade, I did not attend church with any regularity. As I began the 6th grade, the Sunday school teacher for my grade invited me to help with church and asked if I wanted to come to Sunday school. As a result of this invitation, I became more active in church and youth group functions that year. The Fall of my sophomore year in high school, I was elected as the youngest deacon in my church's history and was ordained and installed in January of that year. I was elected to two one-year terms.

During my time in high school, I was extremely active in my church's youth group. For two years, I was the oldest member and thus took more of a leadership role. I enjoyed being a role model for the other members of the group. After I moved away to attend college, I would come back during the summers and continued to help with youth events. It was during one of these summers, while helping with a Presbytery youth event, that one of the other youth workers who I worked closely with suggested that she saw my gifts of working with youth. After prayer and meditation on this, I realized that the times when I was happiest was when I was working with the church's youth. I then realized that my co-counselor was right. I realized I was being called to work with youth and began to explore seminary. This was supported by those close to me who intimately knew me.

When I was in college, I attended First Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, Florida. I was active in the youth program at First for one semester. I was also active with the youth at Faith Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee for an academic year. I was very active with the Presbyterian University Center throughout my time at Florida State University. All of this only confirmed my sense of call to the ministry.

After graduation from Florida State, I took a year and a half off from school. I worked many different jobs till I began seminary in July of 2002. While I encountered difficult moments in seminary, I realized that God was truly with me in the faces of many different people. While in seminary, I realized that I was called to minister to youth but not as an associate of youth as I had initially thought. Through various experiences, I began to realize that I was being called to chaplaincy in a pediatric hospital.

Had it not been for that Sunday school teacher so many years ago, I don't know if I would be here today (although I know God would have eventually worked it out for this to happen). Through the people placed in my life by God, I have come to realize that I am loved by God and there is nothing 'in life or in death that can separate me from the love of God.' Through my work with youth, especially with youth who are sick, I have come to see where God is leading me.

Through my work at two camps for chronically and critically ill children and 18 months of residency work at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston, my calling to pediatric chaplaincy has only been strengthened. After a brief stint at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, I saw the chance to move to Asheville and be close to family. I applied for and was offered the position as pediatric chaplain for Mission Hospital. I look forward as I begin where God is leading me at Mission and in this Presbytery.

COM ATTACHMENT 3

PERSONAL STATEMENT OF FAITH

By David Kaylor

I believe in the God of life, in whom we all live, move and have our being. God is revealed to us in God's created world, in human beings who reflect God's image, through the words of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, and supremely through Jesus Christ. Through these various ways we learn that we were made for God, for the fulfillment of God's purposes, to care for creation, to love and care for one another. Through them we also learn the character of God: that God is like a mother who never ceases loving her children, like a father whose teaching and discipline are intended to lead his children into abundant life.

I trust in Jesus of Nazareth, fully human like all of us and fully embodying and manifesting God's being and character like no one else. He lived with his own people, facing the temptations, joys, sorrows, needs and wants that all face. He was moved with compassion for human suffering, reached out to the despised, denounced the pretensions and injustices of the powerful and the hypocrisies of the self-righteous. He called all people to welcome and accept the reign of God in personal and social life, and he warned of personal and political disaster in the absence of repentance, and he promised abundant life to those who followed him. He was opposed by religious and secular authorities who conspired to have him executed as a common criminal. His loyal disciples came to know that he was not dead. They celebrated his death and resurrection as God's gift of redemption and continued to experience his living presence as "my Lord and my God."

I trust in the Spirit of God, who hovered over creation at its beginning, who inspired prophets to speak God's word of correction and hope, who was present in all the events of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. This same Spirit inspires and renews our faith in the living Christ, encourages and empowers us to continue the ministry of reconciliation and to "unmask idolatries in Church and culture" (10-4.68).

I am a Presbyterian by birth and by the conviction that God has used and will use this church for the accomplishment of God's purposes. Because I trust in the Spirit, I have hope that the church will struggle successfully to be faithful to its mission of witnessing by word and deed to God's grace, forgiveness and redemption in Jesus Christ.

I trust in the Spirit of God to be present as the church celebrates the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, empowering us through to realize the grace symbolized in these acts, to know the redeeming and reconciling love of God that overcomes our alienation and to move into greater faithfulness in our individual and corporate lives.

I trust the Spirit to be present as we prayerfully study the Scriptures inspired by the same Spirit, enabling us to discern God's word to us in the present time.

I trust in the Spirit to inspire us to see our life in the world as the arena in which our faithfulness is to be expressed, and to empower us as we engage in the struggle for social justice and for peaceful resolution of the conflicts within and between nations.

I trust that in death as in life we belong to the God of life, from whom we come and to whom we return. The promise of life beyond death through the grace of God is confirmed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

David Kaylor

I grew up in the manse, son of a rural Presbyterian (USA) pastor. I never seriously questioned the assumption that I would attend Sunday School and worship. Most of my pre-teen and teen years were lived in a village in north Alabama where there were 3 churches: Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist, all with circuit-riding pastors. In true ecumenical spirit, I attended whichever had worship service on a particular Sunday: Presbyterian on the first Sunday, Methodist on the second and fourth, Baptist on the third. One result was that I grew up with an ecumenical outlook, which I have retained and enlarged to this day.

I was duly confirmed about the age of twelve. I was active in and became a leader of our youth group. Revival meetings and summer youth camps nurtured my faith, and I began to feel a call to ministry. When I was a junior in high school my father accepted a call to two small churches in southern Illinois. At graduation, I received an academic scholarship to Southern Illinois University. There was no religion department there, but the Baptist Foundation offered courses in Bible that earned university credit. While I appreciated the opportunity to study the Bible, I began to see that the approach was not entirely satisfying intellectually or spiritually.

After two years, I transferred to Southwestern At Memphis, largely because of its Presbyterian relationship. By this time I had come to the firm conclusion that I was called to the ministry. My father had accepted a call to a PCUS church in Reform, Alabama, his first and only PCUS pastorate. Therefore I became a candidate under the care of Tuscaloosa Presbytery. At Southwestern my faith was stimulated by courses in Bible and religion. Unlike many students I later taught at Davidson, the academic study of the Bible was less a threat to my faith than a liberation, confirming an inchoate sense derived from my father that faith and reason can be and must be held in harmony, and that using my intellect could enhance, not destroy my faith.

During my senior year I decided to attend Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, which attracted me in part because it was supported by and committed to serving both the “northern” and “southern” churches. I never regretted that decision. Professors A.B. Rhodes, J.P. Love and W.D. Chamberlain inspired me with their love of Scripture and their commitment to excellent scholarship. Professor Kenneth Foreman introduced me to Reformed theology as he taught systematic theology using the Westminster Standards as the basic text. I gained pastoral and preaching experience as I served as student supply for a small church in Indiana. Teaching introductory Greek for two years whetted an appetite for teaching. My intention to work for a doctorate in Biblical studies was confirmed by my receiving at graduation a fellowship for further study.

During my middle year I married my college sweetheart, Dorothy Henning, who had intended to become a DCE but much to my delight agreed to be a minister’s wife instead. Together we decided to delay graduate school in order to gain pastoral experience and begin a family. Accordingly I accepted a call to the Montevallo (Alabama) Presbyterian Church, a church with a ministry to a local college. Birmingham Presbytery ordained me in November, 1958. Working closely with students gave added confirmation to my intention to pursue an academic career. Three years and two children later we moved to Durham, NC, to pursue a Ph.D. in Biblical studies at Duke University. Serving as occasional or stated supply to area churches supplemented my fellowships and kept me close to the church.

After receiving my Ph.D. in New Testament studies under the direction of Prof. James Price, I accepted a position at Davidson College, where I taught courses in religion and humanities until retirement in 2000. During my career there I continued to serve area churches as stated or occasional supply as well as in teaching and lecturing. I viewed my chosen career as a way of serving God by using my intellect and my personal life as I engaged students and others in serious dialogue about the relationship between faith and contemporary issues.

After retirement I returned to pastoral ministry as I served an interim pastor at Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, an experience that seemed to round out a personally highly satisfying career.

COM ATTACHMENT 4

STATEMENT OF FAITH REV. JORGE ALVARADO REYES

In the first place, I believe that the Bible is the only rule of my faith and practice, and that is the reason that I love to read, study and practice the principles of the Bible.

I believe that the Bible shows me the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons, One God.

Also I am sure that the Bible tells me that I am a sinner, and I need a Savior, and I know and I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior and also the Savior for all people--men and women, youth, and children who were predestined by God.

I am sure and I believe in the Gospel of Mathew and Luke and also in some of the Old Testament prophets which teach me and all Christians that Jesus was born of a virgin, and lived the great and marvelous life, and also offers us that kind of life.

I am sure that I belong to a new family which is the holy universal Christian church, made up of people who lived in the past, live in the present and will live in the future around the world and every where, all the people who confess Jesus Christ as their Savior. I believe the local church is a part of the universal church. The head of the church is our Lord Jesus who bought the church with his precious blood.

I am waiting for the time when Jesus Christ will come, I don't know when, but my expectation is not the time, but the person. It is more important to me who will come and not when He will come for all of his saints. Then He will lead us to the house of his Father and we will live forever with Him.

Other documents which sustain my faith are the Creeds, the Catechisms and the Confessions of our church.

I believe and I accept the two sacraments that the Bible teaches me. For me baptism is the covenant that God makes with parents and the congregation to teach a child the Christian faith. For me the Lord's Supper is a reminder that Jesus Christ died for us, stays with us in the spiritual presence and He will come in the future. I accept that children can receive the two sacraments because they are children of the covenant.

I confess "the world is the theater presentation of the glory of God," and I believe that we need to be careful with the creation, because the world is our home, and the best place to live.

This is my faith and it is my confession: "Yes Jesus loves me, for the Bible tells me so."

SOLI DEO GLORIA

MY BRIEF BIOGRAPHY JORGE ALVARADO-REYES

I was born in a Christian family, my great-grandfather was one of the first Presbyterian pastors in Mexico, my father was a pastor, and also my mother was a missionary (in Mexico we don't have women pastors, the church calls them missionaries). I grew up in a Christian family, but when I was 13 years old, I began to doubt God and the Christian principles that my parents taught me. The books that I read and my non-Christian friends made me reject the ideas of God and turn into an atheist.

When I was 17 years old, I went to an evangelistic crusade, and in that place I invited Jesus to come into my life, and also to change my life. He did it and from there my life was different.

After that experience I tried to present the good news to my atheist friends, and invite them to accept Jesus Christ: some of them did it, and some did not.

When I finished High School, I went to my first seminary, it was a non-denominational seminary, but it helped me in my Christian faith, because we had prayer time and other spiritual activities, apart from the classes. It was a very good evangelistic seminary.

When I finished my first seminary, I went to the National Presbyterian Seminary in Mexico, D.F. This seminary taught me the Reformed Theology and the best theologians in Christian thought.

After some years that I was a pastor in different churches, I went to the National Presbyterian Seminary to be a full time professor. In the beginning, my idea was to prepare theologians, which is very important, but the Church needed pastors who love God and love his Church. For that reason I changed my objectives and my goals, and I promised that in my classes that I taught, the students could be good theologians, but excellent pastors. I promised to combine the theology with the devotional faith, time to pray and time to read good theology books.

Finally I want to say that Jesus is my Savior, but also He is my best friend and I talk with him every day. God is my Lord and the Holy Ghost is my helper in all of my pastoral time and also in the time that I am a missionary, because the missionary God is the only one who can change lives.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

COM ATTACHMENT 5

Evelyn Coleman Statement of Faith

I trust in the One, Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God works in three different ways at the same time – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer – and alone is worthy of my adoration. For me, God is abundant and abiding Love.

God, the Creator, gave life to the world and its inhabitants. Since everything comes from God, we should strive to show reverence and love to creation everyday. Yet, we do not. God made human beings with unique gifts. Still, we are *not* God. In fact, we turn away from God in our brokenness and frailty. Yet the God of grace does not leave us abandoned and alone.

I believe that Jesus Christ came to us that we might be reconciled with our Creator. Jesus was executed and resurrected because he dared to love us. Jesus is “God with us”, but was also fully human for us. Jesus taught us how to accept God’s freely given love: by loving God with our hearts, minds, and souls and by loving each other. I believe that God fully and freely forgives me of my sinfulness, but I also think that this gift provokes me to do justice.

The Holy Spirit completes the Trinity, ruling equally and powerfully with God our Parent and Jesus the Christ. The Holy Spirit sustains my faith and serves as a witness of God’s abiding love. I am inspired by the Holy Spirit to speak the Word of God and to do God’s loving work.

I believe that there are many ways to experience the Divine presence. Among these are community, Scripture, and prayer. Scripture is the inspired, written Word that testifies to God’s past, present, and future workings in the lives of God’s people. It is a powerful witness to God’s love and justice. Prayer is important both privately and communally. It is a gift that gives us time and space to communicate our joys or concerns and to be more open to the will of God in our lives. Community is essential for cultivating my faith. I experience community in a church building, but also wherever I gather with other people of faith. I also have a sense of community that is invisible, but which binds me to people of faith in all times and places.

God’s grace is invisible, freely given before I’ve even perceived it. So that we might experience God’s grace visibly, we celebrate two Sacraments: Baptism and Communion. In Baptism, we celebrate that God calls us to be children of grace and to nurture each other in faith. Communion is our participation in the death and resurrection of Christ. Each time we partake in the feast of cup and bread, we proclaim God’s saving grace. I do not have the power to claim the table for myself or my denomination. It is God’s table given to those who believe.

In my life and death I belong to God. I trust in the grace of God to guide me, sustain me, and surround me as I live and after I die.

Evelyn Coleman

I was born into a Presbyterian family, but it would be many years later before I really understood what that meant.

My faith journey and sense of call began when I was quite young. As a small child, I would accompany my mother as she fulfilled her duties as a deacon in our church. We delivered Meals on Wheels together, visited the local farmer's market, and even sat through meetings. I spent a lot of time in my church and it became one of my favorite places. As I grew older, church was not as much a home. Presbyterian teenagers are still teenagers. As an adolescent I rebelled against church and faith. I spent about 6 years refusing to attend church, going so far as to self-identify as an agnostic. Yet God was not finished with me. In my senior year of high school, I returned to church suddenly and without a clear understanding of reason. I just needed to return. I know now that God was calling me.

I attended college at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, GA. Being historically Presbyterian, Agnes Scott afforded me the opportunity to meet a few young, female chaplains. They showed me that women in ministry can be authoritative and compassionate, reverent and quirky, and many other things. Under their guidance, I was able to take more leadership roles in the faith life of students. I was encouraged both by an inner sense of call and an outer affirmation from others. During my sophomore year, I began to hear clearly a call to attend seminary. This call began as a call to education ministry and led into a call to both education and pastoral ministry.

From my college years into seminary at Union-PSCE in Richmond, I tested my call with service in different areas of the church. I coordinated volunteers, advised youth, led Vacation Bible School, cooked meals, wrote Bible studies, meditated, visited the sick and the well, proclaimed the Word, listened and prayed. All of my experiences encouraged me further that God was calling me into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

After seminary, I embarked upon the most difficult 15 months of my life: a residency in Clinical Pastoral Education. At Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, I was confronted with the limits of human joy and suffering. I was honored to sit with patients and families amidst the pain of sickness and mourning and amidst the jubilation of healing and grace. My time at Baptist Hospital was not easy, but it did give me invaluable experience and confidence in my skills as a pastor.

And so, I begin a new chapter in my faith journey at Montreat Conference Center as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA. It is not the ministry in a church as I had once imagined, but it is ministry to and of the Church. By circumstance, I was born into a Presbyterian family. By God's will and with God's help, I am called to labor, learn, and love in the Presbyterian family.

COM ATTACHMENT 6

Jey Deifell, Jr. - Faith Statement

I believe the Bible of the Old and New Testaments is the authoritative Word of God for all matters of faith and practice, that the Creeds and Confessions of the Apostolic and Reformed tradition are to instruct and to guide us as Presbyterians.

I believe in One Triune God, Who is Creator of Heaven and Earth, the Sovereign Ruler and Lover of all Humanity; Who was incarnate in Jesus Christ living, dying and being raised from the dead to forgive, to redeem, to reconcile and to save all repentant sinners; Who is present as the Holy Spirit to transform, to empower and to direct believers and the Universal Christian Church.

I believe God's Church takes on various forms and is evidenced by the faithful preaching of God's Word and the celebrating of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and has given His Church this

Commission: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

I believe the PCUSA Book of Order is to be followed. I believe that the local church has a most important role in providing worship, nurture, pastoral care, ministry and mission opportunities. Ecumenical grace among local and global communities of faith is a must.

Most importantly, I believe in and seek to obey the Triune God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. My greatest joy is to glorify, to enjoy and to love the Lord, my neighbors more than myself.

Brief Biography for J. Jey Deifell, Jr.

October 29, 2009

Personal Data

*Born 12/31/39 in Florence, SC, to John J. Deifell and Louise Holliday Deifell as the middle child of three.

*Grew up in Wallace and Greensboro, NC, being confirmed at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro.

*Dad had chain of department stores, but left these to be Executive for PCUS Synod of GA. He married Naomi Matthews after Mother died and moved to Montreat.

*Graduated in 1962 from UNC-Chapel Hill with B.S. in Business Administration. Was President of my Freshman Class, on Honor Council, an officer of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

*Attended Princeton Theological Seminary on a Rockefeller Scholarship.

*In 1966, graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary with M.Div. and honors in Systematic Theology under Prof. Shirley Guthrie.

*In 1969, graduated from New College of the University of Edinburgh with Ph.D. in Systematic Theology under Prof. T.F. Torrance and Prof. James Torrance. My thesis was "The Ecclesiology of Charles Hodge."

*Married Joan Chapman in 1964 in Greenville, SC.

*Our children:

Tony – graduate of UNC-CH and earned a MBA from Harvard, author and media consultant, married to Mardie Oaks of Austin, TX, live in Sausalito, CA.

David – graduate of UNC-CH and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, professor of Communication, married to Elizabeth Dryman of Greensboro, father of 4-year-old, Madilyn.

Heather – graduated cum laude from Converse College, working on a Master's at Gordon Conwell in Charlotte, recently hired as Director of new after-school program for the YMCA in Asheville.

Hope – graduate of UNC-CH, worked as a Project Manager for "KaBOOM!" building children's playgrounds nationwide, presently taking a nurse's assistant course at AB Tech.

Ministry Data

*Served as Preacher at Little Memorial Presbyterian Church in Murrell's Inlet, SC and as Youth Director at First Presbyterian Church in Myrtle Beach, SC the summer of 1964.

*Served as a student assistant 1964 – 1966 at Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, under Dr. Fred Stair.

*Ordained by Orange Presbytery on June 19, 1966.

*Served from 9/67 to 7/69 as part time assistant pastor at St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, Edinburgh, Scotland under Dr. Leonard Small.

*Served as Sr. Pastor from 10/69 to 12/77 of Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, MD. While there served on Presbytery Council of Potomac Presbytery, the Reunion Committee to form the National Capitol Union Presbytery, the Council of the Synod of the Virginias.

*Served as Sr. Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Clearwater, FL from 1/78 to 3/90. While there served on Presbytery Council, Chair of the Committee on Ministry, Moderator of Presbytery, Commissioner to G.A.

*Served as Sr. Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of York, PA from 4/90 to 4/96. While there was on Committee on Ministry and started annual downtown neighborhood outreach dinners.

*Served as Sr. Pastor of First Church of Christ, Wethersfield, CT from 4/96 to 6/09. While there was on Presbytery Council 2 terms, hosted the meeting of Presbytery of Southern New England twice, initiated "One in Christ," a greater Hartford ecumenical network, Operation Inasmuch and helped to promote both Wethersfield Religious Leaders Association and Vision New England.

*Honorably retired by the Presbytery of Southern New England 6/30/09.

Keith B. Freeman – Statement of Faith

My encounters with God have often been astonishing, and have always been enlightening. God's ways transcend our ways and I do not fully comprehend the mystery of God. However, I believe that in God's infinite love and mercy, through Jesus our Savior, God offers life abundant. God is saving us through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I believe in one sovereign, living God who exists in three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. God is transcendent yet immanent, just yet loving, all powerful yet full of mercy. I believe God is the Creator of all life and that God continues to create giving us newness. Humans are created in the image of God and yet we sought equality with God, sinning against God. We continue to sin and fall short of God's glory. Our sin creates separation from God and mars us with fear, hostility, sickness and death. We all stand convicted and in need of a Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who, though being equal with God, for our sake, became human, coming to earth as a baby, born of the virgin Mary by means of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is God's only Son, the Word of God incarnate, fully human and fully divine, and God revealed to us. Though Jesus was without sin, he suffered death on a cross, taking on the sin of all humanity and bridging the gap that sin creates that we might have life. Through the power of Jesus' resurrection, we are saved by grace through faith. Thus, Jesus instituted a new covenant based not on works, but on grace.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who sustains our faith and calls us to the newness God offers. It is the Holy Spirit that instills faith in our hearts, convicts us, and empowers us with spiritual gifts. It is the Holy Spirit that is present among believers and enables the church to be the body of Christ in the world.

I believe that Scripture is the unique and authoritative witness to the living, incarnate Word of God, Jesus Christ, and, when interpreted in community through the power of the Holy Spirit, is God's word to us. The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are visible signs of God's invisible grace. Baptism perpetually seals our adoption into the body of Christ, cleanses us from our sins, and renews us that we might have new life. The Lord's Supper is a holy meal by which we are reminded of Christ's sacrifice and through which we look forward to the coming kingdom. Through Christ's presence at the Lord's Supper we are fed, called into unity and sent into mission.

I believe that God calls the Church into existence, and that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. The Church consists of all who have and ever will live and profess Jesus as Savior. The Church gathers seeking to learn what God has done and is doing as well as what God would have us do. The Church is called, through the Holy Spirit, to witness to Jesus as Savior and Lord through word and deed, to celebrate the sacraments, to nurture others in faith and to be a model, though imperfect, of the coming kingdom. The Church is the body of Christ in the world.

Through God's grace and patient guidance, I continue to seek to understand and to live out my faith.

Keith B. Freeman - Faith Journey

It is hard for me to imagine life without faith. My faith and my connection to the church have become so much a part of who I am that it is hard to describe myself apart from my faith. Still, I struggle each day to live being faithful to Jesus Christ.

I was born in Charlotte, N.C., and I baptized at Mulberry Presbyterian Church. Except for a few years as a member of a Baptist church, I attended Mulberry until I graduated high school. I was fortunate to have parents who believed faith is important, and I treasure the support and nurture they provided. As a teenager I was active in the church many aspects of church life. I still value the environment of growth the church afforded me. Much of who I am today can be attributed to the positive Christian mentors and supportive friends that I found at church.

When I was seventeen my pastor took me aside after youth group one evening and told me that I had the tools to be a minister if I choose to do so. Being seventeen and headed for college, I chose to ignore his advice. In fact, I drifted away from active church involvement during college though I never lost touch with the roots of my faith.

After college I began searching for my vocation in life and finally realized that I received my greatest joy and fulfillment through church activities. I became active in church again teaching Sunday school, working with youth and serving on committees. The words my pastor spoke to me years before came back, and I decided to enter seminary. During this time, God sent me a blessing to help me along the way. Amy and I were engaged before I left for seminary, and she has been my support and my partner in ministry ever since.

My confidence in my call and my gifts for ministry were nurtured at Columbia Theological Seminary. Through internship experiences, I developed a love for small churches. My first call was to a small church in Louisiana and I have served churches in Florida and South Carolina with approximately 200 members. These calls helped me develop my preaching and teaching ability and provided an opportunity to grow as a person and a pastor though working with the mentally ill and the developmentally delayed as well as organizing mission trips.

The birth of my two children, Alex and Rien, who are now 8 and 6 years changed my life. Words cannot adequately describe the miracle of birth, and being “daddy” gives life and faith a different perspective. My family has to be considered in my call, and the challenges of passing on the most important gift one can give, faith, are with me each moment.

My family experienced several tragedies over the past few years that have challenged my faith and made me question my direction in life. The culmination of this searching resulted in my continuing my education at Appalachian State University. I graduated in August 2009 with a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy and see that as part of my calling. During my time in school Amy, accepted a position as Director of Christian Education and Congregational Care at First Presbyterian Church in Boone, NC.

Now I see that God has placed me in a unique position to continue to preach and to teach as well as to help others have a more fulfilling life while Amy has the opportunity to continue to serve others through the church. I am excited about the opportunities before me in private practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist and in the church as one who can nurture others in faith. So I stand, a child of God, struggling to be faithful, and thankful for the journey