

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY  
REV. WHIT MALONE, CHAIR  
APRIL 25, 2017**

**FIRST SECTION**

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

- I. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY** that the Rev. Bryan Hovey, from the United Church of Christ, be accepted as a member of this Presbytery, and that, pursuant to *Book of Order*, G-20505, the Presbytery exempt him from the requirement for standard ordination examinations.

Our Committee on Examinations has examined him verbally in two extended sessions and believes he is well qualified in Reformed Theology and Polity and will be an asset to the Presbytery and the PC(U.S.A.). (Bryan's M.Div. is from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte and he has served as pastor in several Presbyterian churches. **Note: This exemption requires a two-thirds vote of Presbytery.**) (See COM Attachment 1 for Biography and Statement of Faith.)

- CA II. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY THE VALIDATION OF MINISTRY FOR:**
- A. Dennis Stamper, as Chaplain, Carolinas Healthcare System Blue Ridge, through April 25, 2018.
  - B. Jean Goodwin, as Assistant Pastor, Hendersonville First United Methodist Church, through April 25, 2018.
  - C. Helen Pride Carson, as Coordinator for Transfer and Admissions and Adjunct Instructor, Blue Ridge Community College, through April 25, 2018.
  - D. Carol Steele, as Vice-President for Program, Montreat Conference Center, through April 25, 2018.
  - E. Ryan Brakemeyer, as Pastor of Grace Reformed United Church of Christ, Newton, NC, through April 25, 2018.

**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 FOR TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:**
- A. **CAROL MARIE HOVIS**  
From: Redwoods Presbytery  
As: Member-at-Large  
Effective: March 7, 2017

(See COM Attachment 2 for Biography and Statement of Faith.)

**B. KATHRYN J. CAMERON**

From: Santa Fe Presbytery

As: Pastor, Hendersonville First Presbyterian Church

Effective: April 1, 2017

(See COM Attachment 3 for Biography and Statement of Faith.)

**C. JANET DEWATER**

From: Seattle Presbytery

As: Pastor, Mount Holly First Presbyterian Church

Effective: June 20, 2017

(See COM Attachment 4 for Biography and Statement of Faith.)

**D. S. KEITH MORRISON**

From: Providence Presbytery

As: Honorably Retired

Effective: April 4, 2017

(See COM Attachment 5 for Biography and Statement of Faith.)

**II. APPROVED PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP AND TERMS OF CALL:**

**A. KATHRYN J. CAMERON**

Salary	\$30,000
Housing Allowance	7,350
Social Security	2,857
Auto Allowance	3,310
Professional Dev.	1,154
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$44,671</b>

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

**B. JANET DEWATER**

Salary	\$25,008
Housing Allowance	26,208
Deferred Compensation	1,200
Social Security	4,010
Auto Allowance	3,400
Professional Dev.	1,200

Pension/Medical	Yes
Four Weeks Vacation	Yes
Two Weeks Study Leave	Yes
Moving Expenses	Yes
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,026</b>

**III. APPROVED TRANSITIONAL PASTOR RELATIONSHIPS:**

A. John Pruitt and New Hope Presbyterian Church, Gastonia

Extended: February 1, 2017 - March 31, 2017

B. Anne Morgan and Hendersonville First Presbyterian Church

- Extended: February 16, 2017 - May 15, 2017
- C. Charles Davenport and Long Creek Presbyterian Church  
Extended: March 1, 2017 - February 28, 2018

**IV. APPROVED STATED PASTOR RELATIONSHIPS:**

- A. Noah McIntee and Morrison Presbyterian Church  
Extended: December 1, 2016 - November 30, 2017
- B. Terry Lee Cline and Pine Street Presbyterian Church  
Extended: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017
- C. Eddie Deas and Ryburn Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Extended: February 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018
- D. Patrick Hardy and Walnut Presbyterian Church  
Extended: May 1, 2017 - October 31, 2017

**V. APPROVED COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR RELATIONSHIPS:**

- A. Peggy Koone and Union Mills Presbyterian Church  
Extended: May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018
- B. James Koone and Union Mills Presbyterian Church  
Extended: May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018
- C. Jim Taylor and Grassy Creek Presbyterian Church  
Extended: January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017
- D. Bobby Justus and Grassy Creek Presbyterian Church  
Extended: January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017
- E. Jim Taylor and Newdale Presbyterian Church  
Extended: January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017
- F. Bobby Justus and Newdale Presbyterian Church  
Extended: January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017
- G. James Millsaps and Love's Chapel Presbyterian Church  
Extended: January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017
- H. Marla Patchel and Green Street Presbyterian Church  
Extended: February 14, 2017 - February 13, 2018

**VI. APPROVED AS MODERATORS:**

- A. Jay Rabuck and Brittain's Cove Presbyterian Church
- B. Chris Wingard and Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church
- C. Connie Button and Newton First Presbyterian Church
- D. Wanda Neely and Morganton First Presbyterian Church
- E. Beth Ann Miller and Lenoir First Presbyterian Church
- F. Dan Oedy and New Hope Presbyterian Church, Gastonia
- G. James McQuiston and Ironton Presbyterian Church

**VII. APPROVED THE DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP:**

- A. Rebecca Jones and Shelby Presbyterian Church  
Effective: January 1, 2017

**VIII. APPROVED MOVING TO MEMBER-AT-LARGE:**

- A. Rebecca Jones
- B. Lynn Bledsoe

**IX. APPROVED THE TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:**

- A. Jason D. Bryant  
To: Providence Presbytery  
As: Member-at-Large  
Effective: March 23, 2017
- B. David Strickler  
To: Holston Presbytery  
As: Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson City, Tennessee  
Effective: March 7, 2017
- C. John Pruitt  
To: Salem Presbytery  
As: Pastor, Kernersville First Presbyterian Church  
Effective: April 3, 2017

**X. APPROVED ELECTION OF PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

- A. Unity Presbyterian Church

**XI. APPROVE PERMISSION TO LABOR OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA:**

- A. Hank Scoggins  
In: Shenandoah Presbytery  
As: Stated Pastor, Smyrna Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA  
Effective: March 7, 2017

**XII. APPROVE PERMISSION TO LABOR INSIDE THE BOUNDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA:**

- A. James McQuiston  
From: Charlotte Presbytery  
As: Moderator, Ironton Presbyterian Church  
Effective: April 4, 2017

# COM ATTACHMENT 1

## Bryan Hovey - Statement of Faith

I believe that God's grace is a gift to humanity and can be seen in all things known by the people of creation. It is through God's grace that we will experience unconditional love. God's love, compassion, and grace are paramount in my belief and worship of the only God of salvation. I believe we were created for fellowship with God and one another in the community of faith, called to a life of service, through obedience's and humility. Our God knew the people of creation would be weak and turn from God, seeking power and knowledge through the worship of idols. But God's love is stronger than our weakness and will not leave the people of creation even in the depths of our sins. God has developed and is continuing to develop in me the desire to seek a closer relationship. I believe that through this relationship God will grant me the knowledge I need to better deal with everyday life experiences. I believe that God has called me to participate in human life in ways not yet revealed to me. Being able to serve God and God's people with all my heart, soul, and mind is a privilege I do not take lightly.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and our mediator. It is through Jesus Christ that we gain a better understanding of our loving God who called us into being. God's greatest act of love for humanity was Jesus Christ, fully human, fully divine. Jesus Christ took on the sins of the world, freeing God's people from anxiety, guilt, and the despair of sin. We are reminded of this gift every time we celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. In the sacrament of Baptism we are washed cleans, claimed by God and God's people of faith, to a new life. In our participation of the Lord's Supper we acknowledge our faith in Christ's love for us, and recognize this meal as a taste of the heavenly meal we will experience as one people of God in the kingdom of God. It is our participation in the Sacraments and the actions of Jesus Christ as witnessed to in the New Testament, that we can experience God's grace for humanity.

It is through the presence of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit that enables humanity to continue to perform God's work in this world. The Spirit is continuously teaching me and guiding me in the ways of righteousness, and encouraging me not to turn away from the difficulties of a life of a faith. As I study the Word of God, the Spirit calms my innermost self so I can better understand the word spoken for me, at that particular time. I ask the Spirit to not only guide my study but every aspect of my personal life, and my ministry of word and sacrament. It is through the calming Spirit that the struggles I face are more easily dealt with.

The church of Jesus Christ is the gathering place of the community of believers where we come to worship and praise the God of love, grace, and salvation. The believers who gather in the name of Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are strong in their faith and committed to fulfilling God's work. The church is the primary place where we can encounter the Triune God, individually and in the community of believers. It is where I find the presence of the Trinity to be the strongest in my life.

# COM ATTACHMENT 1

## Bryan Hovey

My faith journey began at an early age. While I was growing up in Hickory, my parents and several other families were asked to start a United Methodist Church, which they did, and since they were charter members, my family and I participated in any and all events at the church during my youth. I cannot remember not attending church joyfully while I was living with my parents.

The military school I attended during my high school years did not require us to attend worship, and although I tried several churches in the area, I drifted away from the church at that time. When home with my family, I continued to worship at the Methodist Church where I grew up.

It wasn't until I attended Montreat-Anderson Junior College (MAC) that I realized those early years in the church had shaped and strengthened my faith. As students at MAC we were required to attend chapel twice a week. It was at one of these chapel services that I experienced my sense of call. Seeking an explanation to my sense of call, I talked with professors and pastors who suggested that I pray and seek God's wisdom and guidance, while looking for opportunities to study scripture and be in the community of faith.

After I completed my college degree at Appalachian with a degree in history, I went to work for the State of N.C. in Historic Preservation. Wanting to participate in the life of the church, I joined the Church of God. I married, and a year later moved to Aix-en-Provence in Southern France, where I studied French and the culture of the region.

When I returned from France, I began working for Freightliner Corporation and was based in Texas, then Oregon, then North Carolina. While raising a family in NC, I joined the United Church of Christ and became active in teaching and leading worship, working with the mission team, and serving in leadership positions.

As I became more involved in the church I felt called to explore different faith options, so I sought council from our local UCC Minister, Anita Bernhardt, and a PCUSA pastor, Todd Hobbie, among others. They were all advising me to explore a Seminary Education so I enrolled at Union in Charlotte for their six-year program.

During my last year in Seminary, I served as a Student Interim Pastor at McKinnon Presbyterian Church. Since graduating from seminary, I have served as a supply pastor in various locations, a Hospice Chaplain with Carolinas Healthcare System, at Stephenson Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church of Lovell, and currently at First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Holly. Since 2007, my service to the church has been in the PCUSA.

I love sailing, the mountains and being with my family. I am very thankful for my seminary education and all of the pastors and church leaders who have guided me on my continuing faith journey. It has been my pleasure to serve God and God's people, and I look forward to seeing where God will lead me in the future.

Ever since I can remember, I have sensed a divine presence, a sacred companion, in my life. Poet John O'Donohue calls it *anam cara*, Gaelic for *soul friend*.

As a child, I recall exiting the school bus on a fall day, peering up into a blue sky with white puffy clouds, feeling that all was right and good with the world. This trust in an omnipresent and beneficent Creator God deepened as I grew older, taking long walks in the woods and fields of the Blue Ridge Mountains or lying on the firm white sands of a Carolina beach as waves washed ashore, gently buoying my body. These early experiences cultivated my lifelong faith in God's providence.

In my teens, I came to experience the poignant and profound depths of Incarnation when my sister became very ill with bipolar disorder. Suddenly the sibling with whom I had competed and fought, became the face of Christ. As I looked at her fragile and broken countenance, I encountered the Sunday School Jesus I had learned about, healing lepers and reaching out to persons like my sister, forced to live on the margins of society due to fear and ignorance. The circumstance of my sister's suffering was formative in my future vocation. I have learned and grown much these past 40 years about companioning, not saving, sister and brother human beings. To follow Jesus of Nazareth requires daily discipline, compassion and authenticity. It is not an easy path.

As a young adult in seminary, I broke through fear and found freedom in prayer. In the context of the Black Church and Pentecostal communities at Union, I discovered and embraced the dynamic presence of the Holy Spirit. With joy and relief, I recognized this unconventional and free Spirit as a dormant part of myself, long suppressed due to misconceptions and social norms. Looking back, the Spirit had been alive throughout my life, when I was engaged in some of my favorite pastimes of singing, dancing, public speaking and listening intently to the profound joys and sorrows of other people's lives.

I believe God is consistently present in the messy chaos of communal life, be it church, synagogue, mosque, classrooms, boardrooms, and legislatures. We are born to be in relationship. I believe the church can be a place and space for personal and communal transformation. As a life-long Presbyterian, I have experienced the joys of our connectional church structure, and the sorrows of a flawed human institution. When I recite the ancient words of the Apostle's Creed and the modern words of A Brief Statement of Faith, I am reminded of my engagement in a centuries-old tradition of human community.

As a pastor, I have witnessed how the sacraments of baptism and communion touch human hearts and invite new beginnings. I have loved and struggled with the Scriptures, both Hebrew and Christian, and believe them to be inspired words of men and women who desire to follow God. I also believe there are many other holy books of inspired words, both ancient and yet to be written.

To nurture our sacred companion requires solitude and silence. Created in the image of our Creator, I believe we humans require Sabbath rest and renewal. We need to cease our daily grind, step aside and enter a different kind of time. It's about right relationship with our self, with the Sacred, and with all sentient beings.

# COM ATTACHMENT 2

## Carol M. Hovis: Brief Biography/Faith Journey

As I reflect over my 54 years of life and 26 plus years of ordained ministry, three words particularly speak to my sense of God's call throughout my life: privilege, leadership and contemplation. From an early age, I was aware that my ethnicity, faith tradition and financial security granted me privileges that other children and families did not have. I witnessed and experienced first-hand the racist views of extended family members. At the age of 10, a wise Jewish neighbor mother explained to me how the statement "*the Jews killed Jesus*" not only created prejudice but also was untrue. And my earliest memories of church and preaching were of the Rev. Dr. Carl Pritchett, who marched with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Alabama, and who angrily pounded the pulpit in 1972 when the United States bombed Hanoi. By adolescence, the connection between my inherited white, upper middle-class privilege and a Christian vocation of truth-telling was forever linked.

Leadership also formed my sense of call from an early age. It probably helped that I am the oldest child of three daughters. Simple requests of me in elementary school to assist other students who were struggling, invited in middle school and high school to give the morning announcements, and when elected senior class president, reaching out to Iranian students who felt marginalized by the Iran hostage crisis and ensuring their inclusion in class activities. Leadership opportunities continued throughout college, whereupon I decided to attend seminary at Union in NYC. The call to ordained ministry in the PCUSA was clarified the year I took off from Union and enrolled in CPE and waitressed full-time. The integration of the secular and sacred into my life as one person, both chaplain and food server, encouraged me that ministry of Word and Sacrament could be an integrated, balanced life.

My first call was Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults at Providence Presbyterian in Fairfax, VA, where I served a total of 9 years, from 1988-1997, the first two as Director of Youth & Young Adults. I also served as part-time Protestant chaplain at George Mason University for one year. I grew up professionally at Providence, an opportunity to engage all aspects of parish life and to learn the painful yet life-long lessons of ministry.

The next vocational adventure was to enroll in the Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction (DASD) at San Francisco Theological Seminary(SFTS) in January 1998. From January through September 1998, I enjoyed a self-financed sabbatical, making the move and transition from the metropolitan DC area to the San Francisco Bay area. In October 1998, I accepted a part-time position as Community Advocate, working with a nonprofit serving a low-income, mostly Latino community of east San Rafael. I describe my 6 years with the San Rafael Canal Ministry as my second seminary experience; learning how to listen and companion women, men and children with very different life experiences from my own. My most recent ministry position was Executive Director of the Marin (County) Interfaith Council where I served for 12 years. One particular highlight of this call was the opportunity to serve as "chaplain" to the clergy throughout Marin County, of many faiths, traditions, cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds. It is what I miss the most.

My entire adult life has been committed to ministry and community leadership. The third image that has guided my sense of call all these years is contemplation, from Ignatian spirituality means *to take a long, loving look at the Real*. I was lucky to have parents who provided space, place and time for my sisters and me to rest, vacation and get away from many distractions of modern life. The early experiences we had on our West Virginia farm formed my sense of rhythm and desire for times of rest and renewal. When my husband and I sold our northern CA condo in May 2016, we drove across the country to live near my Mom in Asheville, and begin a new chapter in our married life. We see this current self-financed sabbatical as an invitation to discern how we can best use our privilege, our many years of ministry experience, to serve here in Western NC.

# COM ATTACHMENT 3

Statement of Faith  
Kathryn J. Cameron

Shema, et credo, om'in suid  
(Hear, and I believe, without seeing)  
Kathryn Johnson Cameron

Adonai, our creator,  
in ministry through Jesus Christ, redeems us  
from separations, sustains us with Holy Spirit Power, that  
we may be light to nations.

God tells, communicates these truths  
by testaments old and new,  
in Word become flesh; and where in baptism,  
Bread and wine shared, we are refreshed.

Holy Spirit intercedes for us when words fail,  
or the dismembering body  
lies in the place where a community of  
Saints might meet face to face.

Christ commands our love of God, however,  
and neighbor, where taught, fathered, mothered,  
friended; we gather under wings of a  
Dove and are blessed to have flavor.

BOC annotated version available upon request

# COM ATTACHMENT 3

## Recovering Church- A Very Brief Memoir of Faith By Kathryn Johnson Cameron

When I returned to teaching literature, poetry, and Specific Education for young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) after twenty plus years as a Presbyterian pastor, I began to experience church from the pew.

My call to ministry began at age four when God led me to speak truth to power on behalf of my preschool classmate Junko. We lived in Kyoto and attended school on the Army base where our parents worked. Random acts of ministry ensued until in 1983 I was ordained. Jesus invited me to start at the top of that ladder in a large suburban New England church, which then led to a medium size church in Norfolk, followed by five years as a co-pastor in a small town in Tennessee. Next God led me to a church in Greensboro, where the size of the congregation compared to the population of the entire county of the Erwin church. Beginning in 2000, I happily served as a co-pastor at Rockfish Presbyterian for five years.

As a pastor, I had tried to juggle ministry with parenting two exceptional children, one who is gifted and one with autism who is non-verbal. When I got called out of a Christian Ed meeting at 7:35 p.m. to go to the emergency room where my son was being treated for a broken leg, I realized I had to make a choice. I could continue to serve a church with a focus on programming which required extensive administration; or I could teach and also care for my family.

At first I thought that meant I could no longer be a pastor. But I found people still sought my counsel, still responded to my care for them and I felt more open to receive care and counsel from them. I began to practice centering prayer, which I continue to do. Once a competitive athlete, I now incorporate walking into my ministry as walking while talking, or not, provides good context for worship and fellowship.

Now, Jesus says, forget the positioning on the ladder of ministry. Come to a place called First of Hendersonville. Junko will meet you there.

# COM ATTACHMENT 4

Statement of faith

Janet DeWater

In the quiet of an empty sanctuary; in the joyous strains of a hymn of praise; in the care of humanity and in the awe of creation, I experience God, our Creator, in whom I believe. God is God – unfathomable yet real, and present in ways both mysterious and tangible. The sovereignty of God extends from the beginning of time, is present in the life of this world, and into eternity. There is no place where God is not.

In the sharing of bread and cup and in the waters of baptism, the present signs and seals (sacraments) of an invisible grace, I experience Jesus, the Christ, in whom I believe. Jesus, God's incarnation, moved among humanity, teaching, healing, bringing God, who is love, into our world. Jesus shared a meal with his disciples, giving them a glimpse of the events to come and at the same time providing for them the gift of unity that binds humanity to Jesus and to one another throughout the ages. Jesus was baptized by John, and in that was identified and claimed as God's own son. We enact this claim upon our own lives when we are baptized and joined with the whole body of Christ. Jesus is Savior and friend, teacher and shepherd, the divine and human Son of God, who died because of human sin and lives eternally in resurrected life.

In the winds of action for love and justice, and in the whispers of compassion, I experience the Holy Spirit in whom I believe. The Advocate and Comforter, the third person of the mystery of the Trinity, God's Spirit inspires a life of faithful seeking. In John 14:15-17 Jesus prays for his disciples asking that God send the "Spirit of Truth" whom we will know because "he lives with you and will be with you." (CEB) It is a profound experience to sense the moving of God's Spirit in my life. In glorious trinitarian mystery, God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer are at work in the world and in the lives of the faithful.

The Church is the people of God together, the community of faith and the gathering of those who seek. We are made in God's image and as such seek peace and equality among all. Though sins of separation from God and from one another, and sins of injustice plague our living, our hope for reconciliation is offered to us freely in the grace of Jesus Christ.

As Presbyterians we are connected with one another by our reformed heritage, and by the process of our ongoing reforming, in our confessions and creeds as we seek to express our faith through the ages. I am upheld by the statement: "In life and in death we belong to God" as proclaimed in A Brief Statement of Faith. I find myself strengthened in resolve by the words of the Confession of Belhar speaking of reconciliation: "that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered..."

The Bible is the living word of God; the ancient account of the activity of God in the world and authoritative guide for our living today. Inspired by God and authored by people of faith, it is both the historical and the living word of God for us today. I am strengthened by daily reading of scripture.

Through the grace of Jesus Christ I am called continually to respond to God's love, and to live as a new creation. I believe that this call envelopes a constant and prayerful conversation with God, mission and service to a hurting world, actions that promote justice, peace and reconciliation, respectful relationships among people of many faith traditions, and a welcoming inclusiveness for all of God's people.

# COM ATTACHMENT 4

## Bio/Faith Journey – Janet DeWater

My journey of faith begins in the Wyoming Presbyterian Church in Millburn, NJ, the church in which I was raised and the place where I was nurtured in faith and in call. It was there that the role of women in ministry was modeled for me, and through the nurture of a female seminarian, my gifts of leadership and ministry were called into being.

College years found me at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, during which time I led a local church youth group. Upon graduation, I was hired as Youth Director of First Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque, NM through a connection and chance phone call involving that instrumental female seminarian. My gifts and call grew during the two years spent there, along with a new found addiction to NM green chili cuisine!

It had always been my thought to attend seminary, and from NM I was led to enroll at San Francisco Theological Seminary. It was a transitional and somewhat turbulent time in the life of SFTS and yet one in which deep relationships were formed with classmates and faculty that were enriching and exciting. A year-long internship at Madison Ave Presbyterian Church in Manhattan was part of this experience. I married the brother of a classmate before senior year.

Upon graduation, a move to Washington State and a job opportunity for my husband, led in another amazing sequence of events to my call and ordination at First Presbyterian Church of Everett, WA. Working with a head of staff who quickly became a trusted colleague and friend, I grew and developed skills in ministry that have served me to this day. A valued experience from those days was when that colleague, who held different beliefs around the topic of homosexuality, invited me to preach my understanding one Sunday, and he did the same the next Sunday. That experience still stands out in my mind as a way of disagreeing while seeking understanding in the context of dialogue and respect. Our beliefs have since merged.

We adopted our son and I gave birth to our daughter during those years in Everett, leading to the end of my call there in order to answer the call of “mom” for a short time. Another chance connection after that led me to a part time job as “Director of Children’s Ministries” at Newport Presbyterian Church in Bellevue, WA. Circumstances then brought me into the role at NPC first of Stated Supply Associate Pastor, and then installed Associate Pastor. During several gaps in the head of staff position I filled in, the most recent being from November 2015 – November 2016 when, upon the exit of the interim pastor, I served as “Transitional Head of Staff.” It was a fulfilling and energizing time for me.

Throughout all of these positions and transitions I have forged heartfelt relationships with the people of the congregation, experienced great joy in shared ministry, and sensed the leading of God’s Spirit. I honestly could not have orchestrated such timing in relation to the positions and experience of call myself! This is similarly true in the anticipated relationship with Mt. Holly in both the deeply felt connection with the PNC, the expressed needs/desires of the congregation, the related gifts that I have to offer and the timing of it all. I am grateful to God!

# COM ATTACHMENT 5

## Biography of Sidney Keith Morrison

The oldest of five children, I grew up in the country near Clarksville, Tennessee. I was named for my father, but I am known as Keith. As a child I did not know our family was financially poor, since I never went hungry and never went without decent clothing. We were a family rich in love.

I have always loved learning, and with the influence of my parents, realized at an early age that education was critical to my future. God blessed me with a scholarship from the Rotary Club that allowed me to attend a local college, Austin Peay State University. After graduation I taught Mathematics for a year before I realized I wanted to do more. I was awarded a fellowship to attend Tennessee Tech University to seek a Master's degree in Education so that I might pursue a career in University Administration.

Between undergraduate and graduate schools, I met my wife. It was clear to me from the first day that God had led us to meet, and we have enjoyed 42 wonderful years together. When we married, I became a father as well as a husband, and was soon able to adopt our daughter, Tante. As I prepared to complete graduate school at Tennessee Tech University, our oldest son, Brian, was born.

I was hired by Tennessee Tech University to work in Administration, but by late 1979 I realized that I was not interested in advancing in that field. We relocated to Indianapolis, and in the spring of 1980 I went to work for an insurance company. I enjoyed my new career, serving in several positions and prospering financially as well. I enjoyed the growth of our children, and in 1985 God surprised us with another son, Scott. My wife and children have always been central to my life. With each milestone in our lives, we sought and found nurturing congregations that helped us to grow spiritually and teach our children the faith.

In 1986 my company transferred me to Charlotte and my role in the church began to blossom. We were charter members of a new church development, MorningStar Presbyterian Church, led by the Rev. Dr. Albert 'Pete' Peery. Pete was an inspiring pastor and became a model for my ministry as I began that journey.

On the first Sunday of 1995, I heard God's call to full-time ministry. I have learned to describe the experience as being filled with a sense of joy and fear, and I knew God wanted me to serve the church. I spent a little over a year trying to imagine how I would manage financially - attending seminary, sending Brian to college, and supporting us as a family. When I remembered that God's question was simply "Will you go?", and I said "Yes", everything fell into place for us to depart.

I began Columbia Theological Seminary in September of 1997, and I loved everything about seminary. I grew as a Christian, as a husband, as a father and served as a minister in a variety of ways, even as a student.

I have served three congregations since my graduation in 2000, and each has taught me a great deal about being a pastor and leader. I still often feel that I know so little about this enormous task, but I do know that when I trust in God's Spirit, when I proclaim the love and sacrifice of Jesus, when I teach about the God who has loved us from the beginning of time, and when I rely on the wisdom in the church community, I believe I can say with no fear, "Send me, Lord."

# COM ATTACHMENT 5

## A STATEMENT OF FAITH

Sidney Keith Morrison

I grew up attending the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. As a child and youth I learned very little about the doctrines of our faith. But one of the things that I heard, and believed, was that God is Sovereign and has a plan for all Creation. I understood that to mean God had a plan for my individual life, and I had many visions as a teen and young adult what God's plan might be. I attempted to live out my visions of who I thought I was to be, but found those paths blocked. I accepted that God's plan was not what I envisioned and settled into life as a husband, father and citizen, no longer actively looking for God's hand in my life. Now, many years later, I look back, and like John Calvin, I see the clear hand of God in my life, time and time again. In a word, I believe in the Sovereignty and Providence of God.

I have always been in the Church, and have repeatedly chosen to be a Presbyterian. I chose to join the Liberty Cumberland Presbyterian Church as a youth; I chose to attend another Cumberland Presbyterian church when I married. I chose a Presbyterian church in Indianapolis when we moved there, serving as deacon and elder, and I chose to become part of a New Church Development at MorningStar Presbyterian Church in Matthews, NC. I investigated other traditions and visited many congregations, but at all stages of my life, no matter where we lived, I was always drawn back to the teachings of our Reformed tradition, our polity and the Christ-centeredness of our church. I am a Presbyterian.

My faith in God and the language of God the Father was really the basis of all my faith. I have grown into the language of Jesus and Holy Spirit, but I still feel most comfortable speaking of God unless I am teaching or preaching about God's work in Jesus of Nazareth.

My faith in Jesus Christ began with the witness of Scripture which was taught to me as a child. As a youth, I came to know the incredible love of Christ in a more personal way, again led by the faith-filled and faithful, community around me. As an adult, the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice became a central piece of my understanding of God's love for the world. I continue to be amazed and lifted up by the significance of Christ's sacrifice and God's Resurrection of Jesus that I might have hope for me, for those whom I love, and for all humankind.

The Holy Spirit is a constant presence in my life, revealed to me over and over again in sacred and holy places, and in everyday occurrences. My call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament was an experience of the Holy Spirit that continues to be a blessing to me, and I believe a blessing for others. It is my ambition to help others know the presence of the Spirit in their lives.

Finally, but not least in importance, I believe in the efficacy of the Sacraments of the Church, the witness of Scripture to God's amazing work in the world, and the hope for the world that the Church of Jesus Christ can be. I know that it is through the study of Scripture and the faithful administration of the Sacraments that I have grown in my own faith. It is also because of the involvement of inspired ministers and elders, and the structures of our denomination in my life, that I have been nurtured, trained and led to this time and place. My struggle to discern and answer God's call was made easier because of the support and guidance I received from the Church, corporately and individually.

It is my honor to be here today to petition you for a place in this Presbytery as a Member At Large, and as a servant of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. I pray for your support in helping me to be true to my call, faithful in my service of the Lord, and growing in my faith. Thank you.