

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA



ADDENDUM

**ONE-HUNDRED FIFTHTEENTH
STATED MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2018**

**LOWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LOWELL, NC**

**Co-Host: Union Presbyterian Church
Gastonia, NC**

ADDENDUM D-5

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
MR. JOHN PEA, CHAIR
JANUARY 27, 2018**

FIRST SECTION (continued)

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

II. A. SARAH GRACE MONTGOMERY

From: Candidate, Southeastern Illinois Presbytery

As: Associate Pastor, Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church

Effective: February 5, 2018

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

SECOND SECTION (continued)

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:

D. DAVID A. ROQUEMORE

From: Carlisle Presbytery

As: Pastor, Newton First Presbyterian Church

Effective: February 1, 2018

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

E. JILL V. ISOLA

From: New Harmony Presbytery

As: Pastor, Northminster Presbyterian Church

Effective: October 1, 2017

(See COM Attachment 6 for Biography and Statement of Faith.)

X. APPROVED ORDINATION/INSTALLATION COMMISSIONS (continued):

- D.** Approve the Administrative Commission for the Ordination/Installation of Sara Grace Montgomery on February 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility on Commission</u>	<u>Min./Elder</u>	<u>Church</u>
Billy Robinson	Moderator/Preside	Minister	PWNC
Susan Denne	Propound Constitutional Questions	Minister	Honorably Retired

Bob Forsyth	Lead in Worship	Elder	Trinity
Cathy Childress	Lead in Worship	Elder	Hendersonville First
Debby Vial	Lead in Worship	Elder	Etowah
Keith Thompson	Lead in Worship	Minister	Brevard-Davidson River
Rodney Lytle	Lead in Worship	Elder	Warren Wilson
<u>Guests</u>			
James Montgomery	Preach the Sermon	Minister	Southern Illinois Presby.
Ann Marie Montgomery	Charge the Minister	Minister	Maumee Valley Presby.
Mac Moore	Lead in Worship	Elder	Decatur First
Sheila DeArmon	Lead in Worship	Elder	Mallard Creek
Ginny Bradford	Lead in Worship	Elder	Brevard-Davidson River
Jennifer Evans	Charge the Congregation	Minister	Arkansas Presby.

XI. APPROVED PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP AND TERMS OF CALL:

A. DAVID A. ROQUEMORE

Salary	\$65,000
Social Security	4,973
Hospitality	1,890
Auto Allowance	3,310
Professional Dev.	3,000
Dental Insurance	2,000
Sabbatical Leave	500
TOTAL	\$80,673

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

B. SARAH GRACE MONTGOMERY

Salary	\$29,000
Housing Allowance	17,000
Social Security	3,519
Auto Allowance	3,375
Professional Dev.	1,500
TOTAL	\$54,394

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

COM ATTACHMENT 4

Sarah Grace Montgomery Statement of Faith

I believe that I am a child of God, made in the image of God and that I am created to glorify God and enjoy God forever.

I believe in the Triune God who is ever living, breathing and moving in our midst. God in three persons is truly a mystery of the faith and yet the cornerstone of how we understand God. I believe in God as relational as Father, Creator and sustainer of life.

I believe in God as Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine. Jesus' humanity is shown through his ministry on earth and his death on the cross. Christ's divinity is revealed to us through the mystery of his birth and the assurance of his resurrection. Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh and in Christ's life, death and resurrection we are given the gift of grace to which we are called to respond with gratitude and joy.

I believe in God as Holy Spirit, who moves in us and through us so that we might glorify God in our world. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are justified by grace through faith and connected to all believers throughout the world from the beginning of time until Christ comes again.

I believe that the sacraments are a visible sign of God's invisible grace. By the waters of Baptism, we are claimed by God as God's own children. In the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper, we are reminded of the promises fulfilled in Christ's death and resurrection. The waters of Baptism, as well as the bread and cup are tangible items that allow us to grasp an understanding of who God is. They are visible, relatable signs of God's grace and the love of Jesus Christ. Each time we approach the font and the table, we participate in the redeeming love of God in Christ Jesus.

I believe that to be Presbyterian is to be reformed and always reforming according to the Word of God. We are a church that is called to listen to one another, study scripture together and work together to understand God's call for the Church in the world. To be Presbyterian also means to be connectional. We worship, study and serve alongside other believers. We are connectional in our relationships and also in the way we govern. As part of a particular congregation, we are also part of a greater body of believers and a great cloud of witnesses.

I believe in the importance of the Church as a community of believers, who are called to worship together, to love one another and care for those around us. In welcoming and caring for others, we truly live out our calling to glorify God as witnessed in scripture: "May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:5-7 NRSV)

COM ATTACHMENT 4

Sarah Grace Montgomery Brief Biography and Faith Journey

I was born and raised in the small city of Decatur, Illinois. A huge part of my childhood was being a part of the church family at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Decatur. It seems as if every time the church doors were open, the Moore family was there. At the church there were many people who served as extended family as my brothers and I learned about community and were accompanied on our faith journeys. They were a great cloud of witnesses who truly embodied what it means to live out the vows a congregation takes on the occasion of one's baptism. My childhood experience in the church is one of the reasons I am so passionate about Youth and Children's ministry in particular. There is a fire that burns within me to walk alongside young people in their most vulnerable times of life and faith formation. I am grateful for the community of believers who walked alongside me and hope to provide the same experience to young people in my call to ministry.

As public school educators, my parents instilled in us the importance of education and a love of learning. They gave us the opportunity to go to any college of our choosing – even a tiny liberal arts college 750 miles away from home in Clinton, South Carolina. My time at Presbyterian College was formative as I further explored the call to ministry, and was challenged both academically and in my faith. There I was trained by the best in the areas of Religion and Christian Education. My eyes were also opened to a different culture – the move from the Midwest to the Southeast gave me the opportunity to become independent and self-aware very quickly. The beginning of my freshman year was defined by the events of September 11, 2001 and the campus community at PC was a source of strength during a frightening time of unknowns.

Since graduating from PC, I have served in two different churches in Charlotte, NC as Director of Christian Education. Most recently I have served for over 10 years at Mallard Creek Presbyterian, walking alongside that congregation during multiple pastoral transitions. My time at Mallard Creek has given me opportunities to serve in pastoral ways that pushed the boundaries of a traditional DCE. There have been several times I have been called upon to preach or lead the congregation in the midst of transition that have prepared me in practical ways as I seek ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament. It has been a joy at Mallard Creek to watch the youngest disciples in the church grow in their life of faith. I strongly believe that God's call is truly lived out when our gifts are both used and affirmed. For me, this affirmation comes in many spirit-filled ways. It comes when a teenager connects a Biblical story with his or her own larger story – or when a child's face lights up, as they truly understand for the first time the words, "I am a child of God."

My husband and I have been married for 12 years and now have two small children. As a parent, I have a greater perspective of what it means to have faith like a child. My family keeps me grounded and our home is a sanctuary in which we practice our own faith as a family.

The Brief Statement of Faith reminds us that "in life and in death we belong to God." As children of God, in all that we do, we are called to live out and use the gifts God has given us to love and serve others in the name of Christ. I am grateful for the call to serve God in all that I do - specifically as Educator and Minister of Word and Sacrament.

COM ATTACHMENT 5

David Roquemore Biographical Statement

I was born a Presbyterian, baptized in my mother's church in Lane, SC. I grew up in Presbyterian congregations in South Carolina, congregations with faithful pastors. I was visited in the hospital by these pastors. I was taught in Sunday school and communicant's class. I studied the catechism with an elder of the church. These pastors, and the seminarians that worked with them, were guests at our family's table. In these congregations I found faith, and was taught about Jesus Christ.

I went to Wofford College fully expecting to go to medical school. During college I became enamored with philosophy and theology. After several semesters, I surrendered all pretense of being pre-med. My faith was an important part of this evolution. The closer to God I became, the more obvious my particular gifts became, the more I saw that I had to change my direction. As graduation grew near, I had to decide what to do about graduate school. Wanting to continue my theological studies, I went to Princeton Seminary. My girlfriend, Susan Brubaker, went to teach at a local school; after my first year, we were married. I was able to study as I wished, but I was also a regular worship leader and occasional preacher in a local church. Throughout this time, and despite loving my congregation, I was still convinced my future was in academia.

Susan and I had our first child the last semester of seminary. Knowing I needed a job, and being tired of school, I agreed to look for a church. I told my wife that I would serve God in ministry, but He was going to have to make me like it. We moved to Glen Burnie, Maryland, where I was Associate Pastor. For a few years, I was simply the youth and education guy. Then the Senior Pastor retired, after more than thirty years there. I was suddenly the only pastor, and the leader. We had a long interim, and an interim pastor who treated me like a valued equal. I learned a great deal from him; I also learned that I did like ministry! I don't like all of it, but I know I was where God wanted me to be. When the interim was over, Jim Kirk was the new pastor, and we became fast friends and colleagues. A few more years passed, and I knew it was time to move.

My family had grown to three children, with another on the way. We moved to the Forest Hills congregation in Martinsville, VA. As a solo pastor I learned the rhythm of weekly preaching. Five years there, and a fifth child, and it was time to move on. I wanted a challenge; so God sent me to the Central Church in Lafayette, Indiana, where I found a great deal of mistrust. The pastor had left on bad terms after a lot of trouble. It was hard to build them back up, and I did the best I could. My preaching improved, I think, in that context. In those days we started a very well done contemporary service with a Reformed order of worship. A sixth child was born, my son had had a bad time of adolescence, and my wife was unhappy. We moved to Camp Hill PA in 2003, where we are still. Camp Hill had had a pastor stay only a year and a half before they fired him, so building up trust in the staff and congregation was a huge challenge.

Through all of this I have had the support of my loving wife, a group of caring friends, the church of Jesus Christ, and Christ himself. In all the challenges and joys, I have remembered and clung to the promise of Heidelberg Catechism, that I belong in body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful savior Jesus Christ. My sense of call was a call that came and was renewed often, even to the present, as I faced ever deeper challenges of serving God. In all of this, in everything I have done, I seek to bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ!

COM ATTACHMENT 5

Statement of Faith
David Roquemore

I believe in God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, who created all things by the Word, and sustains all things by almighty and providential power. God is infinite, almighty, holy, just, merciful, and loving. God created the world and all that is in it, including me, out of love. God desires and commands that all creatures live together in love, and worship and enjoy his gracious benefits forever. Human beings, including me, have disobeyed this command, desiring to live on their own, without God, and so have sinned. We have all failed to live according to the demands of God's holiness and justice, and so deserve God's wrath.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is the Word become flesh, the incarnation of God in human being. In Jesus Christ, God is revealed to us. Through his life, teaching, and ministry, we discover what life was meant to be in covenant relation with God. Jesus lived in perfect and sinless submission to the will of God, and enjoyed an open and intimate relationship with God, as a Son with a Father. By Jesus' death on the cross, the demand of God's holy justice is satisfied, the price of our sin and faithlessness is paid, our relationship to God is restored. In Jesus' resurrection we see God's vindication of all that Jesus was, said, and did. In the resurrection of Jesus we see God fully revealed, we hear God's "yes" to life and obedience, and God's "no" to sin and death. In Jesus' resurrection, sin and evil are overcome as our ultimate enemy; they no longer can separate us from the love of God. In Jesus' resurrection we find new and abundant life.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who is God present with us at every moment in our lives, who sustains us, gives us strength to overcome temptations and faithlessness, who comforts and counsels us, who prompts and guides us to hear God's Word to us, who gives us faith.

We hear and are able to respond to the Word of God as the Spirit witnesses to us in and through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and the preaching and sacraments of the Church. In these Scriptures we find unique, authoritative, and inspired record of God's dealings with humanity, and God's will for obedience in our lives. The Scriptures are our comfort and our guide, our source for faith, doctrine, and action. In the faithful preaching of the Church we hear the Word interpreted to us, made available to us in our contemporary situation, as it is illuminated by the Holy Spirit. In the sacraments, which are the Word of God made visible, we are united in communion with God through Christ by the Holy Spirit. In baptism we are called into covenant relationship with God as a part of the community of faith, the Body of Christ, the Church. We find forgiveness as in baptism we die with Christ and rise again to new life. In the Lord's Supper we are united with Christ and with all believers everywhere, in heaven and on earth. We partake of the body and blood of Christ, are spiritually nourished by Christ, present in the bread and wine of the Lord's Table. We partake finding hope for future, comfort for the present, and forgiveness for the past.

We are called together to be the Church, the Body of Christ, to hear the Word read and preached, to receive the sacraments rightly administered, to pray with and for one another, to comfort one another in sorrow and affliction, to admonish one another to obedience, to rejoice in each other's joys, to give thanks, pray, and love one another. Together as the Church we are sent out to serve the world, proclaiming the gospel to all people, ministering to all people in body and spirit, to physical and spiritual needs. We embody and proclaim the love, the mercy, and the justice of God in all areas of life and society, thereby demonstrating the new life of God's kingdom present among us.

I have been called by God through the leading of the Holy Spirit, the witness and encouragement of faithful people, and the affirmation of the Church, first to a life of faithful obedience to Jesus Christ in all that I say and do. I am further called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, to be a leader and pastor to the people of God in the Reformed tradition of the faith. It is by the grace of God that I am created, forgiven, sustained in faith, called to ministry, and enabled to serve day by day.

COM ATTACHMENT 6

Jill V. Isola: Journey of Faith

From an early age, I was encouraged to work out my faith and questions as the Philippians are encouraged to work out their own salvation and recognize God at work in their lives. Inquisitive, curious and enthusiastic from the start, I was born and raised just outside of New York City, the youngest of three girls to two amazing parents. The influence of my parents and sisters, together with the nurture of Camp Brookwoods and Deer Run, and the family of the Wyckoff Reformed Church shaped and molded my faith, encouraged my questions and challenged me to be about the work of God in the world in a variety of ways. These groups truly fulfilled their baptismal promises with every effort. As my family has grown through marriage and the addition of nieces and nephews, my parents and sisters remain a constant source of encouragement, support and challenge as I grow in faith and seek to honor God's call on my life.

I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Theatre and met my husband and best friend, Andrew at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. It was in an introductory religion course held on a Tuesday night in the middle of winter when I first felt God's not-so-subtle tug on my heart into ministry. That tug has never let up. Continuing to ask questions about the history of God's covenant people, seeking wisdom wherever I could, I absorbed opportunities as often as possible. I served as a Children's Ministry intern with a Pentecostal church in rural southwest Michigan, studied and participated in mission efforts in Appalachia, the Gulf Coast, Costa Rica, Belize, Cuba, and local mission in New York City, Northern New Jersey and in Michigan. In these experiences, the tug on my life kept me asking questions and seeking the specifics of God's call on my life: where is God calling me to serve and how do my gifts and talents help to fulfill God's mission in the world?

After college, these questions brought me to Memorial Presbyterian Church of Midland, Michigan, where I became the Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries. My involvement at Memorial deepened my sense of call to ministry, the tugging increased and my desire to keep asking questions and seek knowledge led me to pursue a theological education. With my partner in life, love and ministry beside me, supporting me, Andrew and I relocated to Richmond Virginia. With a deep love of learning and a thirst for knowledge and wisdom, I pursued my call to ministry through three incredible years at Union Presbyterian Seminary. This time was spent exploring the specifics of my vocational ministry through internships with Montreat Conference Center, volunteering with local non-profits, moderating Presbytery purpose groups focusing on growth and evangelism, and sharing in genuinely wonderful fellowship and community. My years in Richmond have served to expand my worldview and nourish my hunger and thirst for knowledge and wisdom. I learned new and innovative forms of ministry. Empowered to use my gifts of empathy and hospitality, I sought a place where I could serve God's children: those who love the Church and those asking questions, those with a hunger for wisdom and those not sure how to quench their thirst.

After finishing my degree, I continued to serve a community where I began as a seminary parish intern. The Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Church has nurtured me in my call to ministry and helped to put specifics to my vocational calling. Through my service here and the mentoring of Reverend Janet James, I was finally able to label the tug at my heart and life as a call to parish ministry. I have a deep love and desire to serve God's children. I am amazed by the hospitality God offers through worship and community. I have spent the last three years serving as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Hartsville, South Carolina. I have grown through opportunities in mission, Presbytery involvement and a chance to deepen my role in the larger church, such as observation of the 222nd General Assembly and service in leadership at Montreat Conference Center. My time in Hartsville has heightened my sense of call to a Ministry of Word and Sacrament. My love of Scripture grows ever stronger with each opportunity to study, question, struggle with and find treasure in God's Word. I look forward to opportunities to share that treasure with others through preaching, teaching, and serving in ministry alongside the incredible congregation of Northminster Presbyterian Church and the community of Hickory, North Carolina. I look forward to sharing the ministry of hospitality with the Northminster family. I believe that God has called me to the ministry context of Northminster Presbyterian Church: a place I believe God will work through me to help others live into their calling: vocationally, personally and faithfully. God calls me to a ministry of welcome and inclusion, to seek wisdom and knowledge, to work, grow, serve, love and pursue justice, all with reckless abandon.

COM ATTACHMENT 6

Statement of Faith Reverend Jill V. Isola

I believe in the Triune God, Parent, Son, Spirit: who creates, redeems, sustains and reigns over all of creation. God created the earth and all creation, calling it good. Created in God's image, humanity was made to know God. Though given the capacity for good, we strayed from God in sin, separating ourselves from God.

I believe in Jesus Christ. As a grace-filled expression of God's love for us, Jesus Christ, God's Son, fully human, fully divine, came to experience life on earth and to reconcile the broken communion created by human sin. In his earthly ministry, Jesus taught, preached, proclaimed the truth of God's kingdom, loved all, served all and called all who followed him to do the same. Jesus sets the example for all humanity: welcoming the stranger, advocating for the vulnerable, sharing good news with the oppressed, offering grace, love and acceptance to all.

I believe in the forgiveness of sins. Sent to earth because of God's great love for us, Christ's death on the cross provided justification so that we might be reconciled with God. Through his death after persecution, and resurrection, Christ atoned for the sins of the entire world, providing salvation for all. God raised Jesus Christ, conquering death and sin, revealing the great hope and transformative power of God's love.

I believe that The Holy Spirit, which moved over the waters at creation, led God's people out of bondage into the promised land, descended on Jesus at his baptism, is the same Spirit at work, inspiring all people yesterday, today, tomorrow- empowering those sealed in baptism. Through the work of the Spirit, God's people are called to be the Church, furthering the ministry of Jesus and going about the work of proclaiming and revealing God's glory on this earth, in our time.

I believe in the authority of Scripture. God's love and purpose for those who belong to God are made known to us through Scripture, the divinely inspired Word of God. Guided and inspired by the work of the Holy Spirit, written by human hand, it is the story of God and God's people: a teacher and resource of knowledge of God and God's activity in the world.

I believe in the communion of saints. The Church is the primary means of furthering God's mission in the world: in community, the Church is called by God to do justice, love mercy, and pursue peace with God, one another and all of creation. Through worship in community, the sacraments serve as reminders of Jesus' life and call us into further communion with God. These acts, celebrated throughout the ages, are physical reminders of the undeserved grace which God gives us, nourishment for body and soul. The waters of Baptism make us one with Christ, cleanse us from our sin, and join us together with a great cloud of witnesses. As we share the Bread and Wine, we remember Christ's life, death and resurrection and experience Christ's presence and power in our world today. In this, the Spirit's work empowers us to be filled by this good news and to share it with the world.