

Minutes of the Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Transylvania

First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, KY

September 27, 2018

The called meeting of the Presbytery of Transylvania met at First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, KY, on Thursday, September 27, 2018. The moderator, ruling elder David Hoskins, called the meeting to order at 5 PM. A quorum was present.

Summary attendance: teaching elders present: 20; teaching elders excused: 18; teaching elders absent: 34; ruling elders present: 10; ruling elders excused: 4; churches with ruling elders absent: 64; commissioned ruling elders present: 2; commissioned ruling elders absent: 8; coordinating commission members present: 1; presbytery staff: 2; visitors present: 21. (See Appendix A.)

The meeting began with worship. Teaching elder Keith Benze read scripture from 1 Corinthians 12 and proclaimed the Word.

Teaching elder Lisa Eye, chair, Pastoral Transitions Commission, presented candidate Andrew Bowman. The presbytery examined Mr. Bowman for ordination. Ms. Eye moved that the examination be sustained and that the presbytery, through a commission to be named, proceed to ordain Andrew Bowman to the office of Teaching Elder/Minister of Word and Sacrament and install him as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Somerset. Second, and motion passed.

After a hymn, teaching elder Lisa Eye, chair, Pastoral Transitions Commission, presented candidate Rachel VanKirk Matthews. The presbytery examined Ms. Matthews for ordination. Ms. Eye moved that the examination be sustained and that the presbytery, through a commission to be named, proceed to ordain Rachel VanKirk Matthews to the office of Teaching Elder/Minister of Word and Sacrament and install her as associate pastor of Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, Lexington. Second, and motion passed.

The presbytery continued in worship. The candidates for ordination were invited forward, along with PNCs and members of their respective calling congregations. The presbytery enacted prayers by laying on hands and speaking words of prayer and thanksgiving for God's calling these new pastors and the ministries which they will undertake among us. Following the prayers, teaching elder Curtis Christian presided at the communion table and the presbytery celebrated the sacrament.

After a final hymn, the Stated Clerk moved that the presbytery be adjourned. Second, and motion passed. The moderator ended the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Submitted: The Rev. Jerry L. Utt, II, Stated Clerk

ROLL:

The roll was formed as follows:

MINISTER ATTENDANCE

P = present; EX = absent;

A w/o EX = absent without excuse;

HR = honorably retired

Minister Sign-In Sheets







Called Meeting

September 27, 2018

First Presbyterian Church

Richmond

Appendix A₁₇₅

Anderson, The Rev. Rachel		
*Baker, The Rev. Darryl		
Beachy, The Rev. Duane		Excused
Benedetti, The Rev. Sara		
Benze, The Rev. Keith		
Blankenbaker, The Rev. James		Excused
Bradney, The Rev. Ryan		
*Bright, The Rev. Peggy		
*Brooks, The Rev. Dr. Gary		
Brothers, The Rev. Michael		
*Bunger, The Rev. Ron		
*Butler, The Rev. Angie		
Cervas, The Rev. Scott		
*Chamberlain, The Rev. Pat		
Christian, The Rev. Curtis T.		
*Chumney, The Rev. David		
Clark, The Rev. E.G.		

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Minister Sign-In Sheets
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Clark, The Rev. Patterson		
Conlee, The Rev. Kerry		
Crawford, The Rev. David		<i>David W Crawford</i>
*Daniel, The Rev. Dr. E. Randolph		
Davis, The Rev. Mark		
Denney, The Rev. Michael		Excused
Dermody Jr., The Rev. Roger		<i>Excused</i>
*Deutsch, The Rev. William L		
*Divas, The Rev. Dr. L. Armando		
Ehlert, The Rev. Kristy		
*Ensminger, The Rev. Douglas		
*Erwin, The Rev. James		
Eye, The Rev. Lisa		<i>Lisa R. Eye</i>
*Eyster, The Rev. Bert		
Falco, The Rev. Matt		<i>Matt Falco</i>
Fearing, The Rev. Stephen		
Foehse, The Rev. Caitlin		

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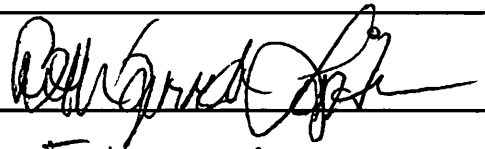
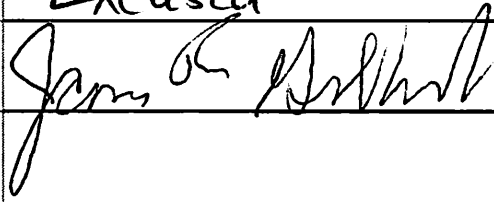
Called Meeting

September 27, 2018

First Presbyterian Church

Richmond

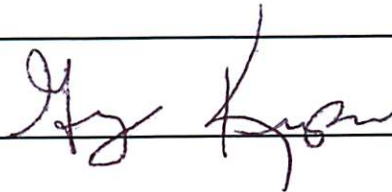
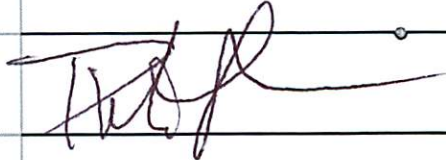
177

*Furrow, The Rev. F. Dewitt Jr		
*Gailey, The Rev. Carol		
Garrod-Logsdon, The Rev. Beth		
Gilbert, The Rev. Anthony		Excused
*Gilbert, The Rev. James		
*Gnatuk, The Rev. Wayne A		
*Gordon, The Rev. Graham		
*Griffie, The Rev. Dr. L. Fred		
Groome, The Rev. Thomas		
*Guerrant, The Rev. Richard		
*Haga, The Rev. R. Jackson		
*Hans, The Rev. Dr. Daniel		
Harris, The Rev. Cindy		
Hartsfield, The Rev. Karen		excused
*Henery, The Rev. Dr. James		
*Hibbard, The Rev. Maurice		
*Hicks, The Rev. Roy		

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Hood, The Rev. Dr. Fred		
*Howard, The Rev. Scott		
Howie-Kippbut, The Rev. Lorilyn		Excused
*Huffman, The Rev. Gary		
*Iversen, The Rev. Eric		
Johnson, The Rev. Jennifer		
*Jones, The Rev. Jon F.		
Kilpatrick, The Rev. Kara		
Kim, The Rev. Yongwha		
Kupar, The Rev. Greg		
Lattimore, The Rev. John		
Lee, The Rev. Hyeon Gu		
*Lindberg, The Rev. Jackie		
Lotspeich, The Rev. Philip		
Love, The Rev. Jane Ann		Excused
Maconochie, The Rev. Linda		
*Malott, The Rev. Fred		

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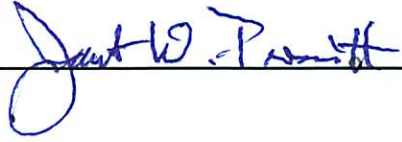
179

*Matthews, The Rev. Griffith		
*McAtee, The Rev. Dr. William M.		
*McGlawn, The Rev. Burt		
*McGowan, The Rev. Bryce L.		
McIntyre, The Rev. Hannah		Excused
McKnight, The Rev. Laurie		Excused
*Mesta, The Rev. Edward Hugh		
*Moffett, The Rev. Howard W.		<i>Howard W. Moffett</i>
*Mount, The Rev. Dr. C. Eric Jr		
Mumper, The Rev. Jay		<i>JMumper</i>
*Murray, The Rev. Charles M.		
Noel, The Rev. Tim		
Olive, The Rev. Wanda B.		
Olt, The Rev. Julie		Excused
Olt, The Rev. Schuyler		
Pace, The Rev. Steve		
Pachau, The Rev. Kima		

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*Palmer, The Rev. Stephen		
*Pettijohn, The Rev. Bonnie		
Phillips, The Rev. Griffin		
*Pogue, The Rev. Philip		
*Prewitt, The Rev. Janet		
*Rasmussen, The Rev. Dr. Kenneth		
*Redmond, The Rev. Katherine		
*Reed, The Rev. Mary		
*Rhodes, The Rev. Dr. Steve		
Riley, The Rev. Kathy		Excused
*Roberts, The Rev. F. Morgan		
*Robinson, The Rev. Dr. Jack H		
Rouse, The Rev. Erin		Excused
*Rucker, The Rev. Dr. Jim Sr.		
Rucker, The Rev. Pamela C.		
Sanders, The Rev. Dr. Stephen A.		
Schmidt, The Rev. Tammy		Excused

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*Scott, The Rev. Dr. Geary Neal		
*Sevier, The Rev. Dr. Melissa		
*Shaffer, The Rev. Robert		
Shrauner, The Rev. Ryan		
Silence, The Rev. Jay T.		excused
*Smith, The Rev. Joanne		
*Spickler, The Rev. Harry		
Stamper, The Rev. Janice		Excused
*Stanley, The Rev. Donald		Don Stanley
*Steiner, The Rev. Betsy		
*Stricklin, The Rev. Dr. Ernest		
*Tarter, The Rev. Dr. Rollin		
Taul, The Rev. Rose		
Thompson, The Rev. Gene		
Thro, The Rev. Julie Urback		
Utt, The Rev. Jerry L. II		Just
*Vanzant, The Rev. William		

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Ward, The Rev. Michael		Excused
Warren, The Rev. Rob		
*Warren, The Rev. Susan		
Weese, The Rev. Mary Seeger		
*Weis, The Rev. Richard		excused
White, The Rev. John C.		John C. White
*Wilhelm, The Rev. Jack		Jack Wilhelm
Williams, The Rev. Susan		
*Woodring, The Rev. James		

Commissioned Ruling Elders
September 27, 2018
First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Bainum, Barry

Brown, Richard

Burns, Gayle

Burns, Tom

Dougans, James



Estes, Dewayne

Grooms, Leslie

Lee, Arlie

McIntyre, Pat

Reed, Bill



Non-Presbyterian Supply

Hampton, Mikkle

House, Brian

Schneider, Stewart

Steele, Brian

Elder Commissioners
Called Meeting
September 27, 2018
First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

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Ashland, First

Ashland, Normal

Augusta

Augusta, Sharon

Bellefonte, Community

Beattyville, McGuire Mem.

Berea, Whites Memorial

Blackey, Doermann Mem.

Booneville, First

Buckhorn, Buckhorn Lake

Canada, Highland

Carlisle

Cawood

Corbin

Cow Creek

Cynthiana

Danville

Rita Bloom--Excused

Jean Harney--Excused

Peggy Tudor--Excused

Elder Commissioners
Called Meeting
September 27, 2018
First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

185

Darfork, Hull Memorial

Dry Hill, Anna C. Brush Mem.

Ezel, United

Flemingsburg, First

Frenchburg, United

Georgetown, First

Grayson, Bayless Memorial

Greenup

Harlan, First

Harrodsburg, United

Hazard, First

Indian Creek

Isom

Jackson, Guerrant Memorial

Lancaster, First

Lawrenceburg, First

Lexington, Beaumont

Elder Commissioners

186

Called Meeting

September 27, 2018

First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Lexington, Bethel

Lexington, Eastminster

Lexington, First

Lexington, Hunter

Lexington, Lex. Korean

Lexington, Maxwell Street

Debra MacQuinn
Anna Gaulton

Lexington, Meadowthorpe

Lexington, Mt. Horeb

Lexington, Second

Linda Crawford
Lonell Bush

Lexington, Walnut Hill

London, First

Manchester

Elder Commissioners

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Called Meeting

September 27, 2018

First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Mays Lick

Maysville, First

McAfee, New Providence

Middlesboro, First

Excused

Midway

Millersburg, First

Morehead, Faith

Mt. Sterling, First

Paint Lick, Old Paint Lick

Paris, First

Paris, Hopewell

Perryville

Pikeville, First

Pineville, First

Prestonsburg, First

Richmond, First

Somerset, First

John S. Daulton

Rogers Barde

Candace P. Purdom

Paul Hager

Hannah Vaught
Norine White

Elder Commissioners

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Called Meeting

September 27, 2018

First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Somerset, Pisgah

Stanford

Versailles

Versailles, Pisgah

Versailles, Troy

Washington

Whitesburg, Graham Memorial

Wilmore

Winchester, First

Winchester, Salem

**Coordinating Commission
Ruling Elders
September 27, 2018
First Presbyterian Church, Richmond**

Busroe, Katie

Hoskins, David; Moderator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Hoskins", is written over two horizontal blue lines.

Line, Nell; PW

Woodford, Catesby; Treasurer

Presbytery of Transylvania
Visitors
September 27, 2018
First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Print Your Name

Robyn Justus

Liz Francis

Brenda Wesley

Norie Wells

Julie Evans

Nancy Wake

Cindy Fountain

Bill Fountain

Naomi Judy

NINA WILHELM

Josh Jones

Marshall Judy

Allison Weitkamp

Toxi CARTER

Jay Vessels

Dannaby Kerns

Forrest Brock

Gilney Shanda

Becky Butler

Presbytery Staff

1st Pres - Somerset

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1st Pres - Somerset

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1st Presbyterian - Somerset

1st Presbyterian - Somerset

1st Presbyterian - Somerset

1st Presbyterian Somerset

First Pres. Somerset

1st Pres. Somerset

1st Pres. Somerset

Maxwell Street

Maxwell St. LEX

Maxwell & Lex

First Pres. (Paris)

First Pres (Somerset)

1st Pres Lexington

1st Pres Somerset

Presbytery of Transylvania
Visitors
September 27, 2018
First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Print Your Name

Rachel Mathews

JASON WILLIAMS

Katie Thompson

Presbytery of Transylvania Called Presbytery Meeting
September 27, 2018
5:00 pm

Welcome, Call to Order, Declaration of a Quorum

David Hoskins/Jerry Utt

*Call to Worship

Lisa Eye

The signs of God's kingdom surprise and startle us.

Against all odds, seeds grow, yeast rises, and love abounds.

Lift up your eyes on high, and see all that God has created.

Because God is great in strength, mighty in power, not one thing is missing.

For those who wait for the Lord shall be renewed, and will run and not be weary.

*Hymn 434

Today We All Are Called To Be Disciples

Scripture

Homily

Keith Benze

Exam of Candidate

Andrew Bowman

*Hymn 442

The Church's One Foundation (Verses 1, 3)

Exam of Candidate

Rachel VanKirk Matthews

A Litany of Gifts

Lisa Eye: As in one body, we have many parts and each part has its own function, so all of us together with Christ are one body, and we all belong to each other

ALL: We have different gifts according to the grace God has given us

Ruling Elders: If your gift is to hear God's Word

Teaching Elders: speak it out in faith

Teaching Elders: If your gift is service

Ruling Elders: live to serve others

Matt Falco: If your gift is the heart of a teacher

Rachel VanKirk Matthews: Teach what is true

Keith Benze: Let preachers preach with conviction and givers give freely

Andrew Bowman: let leaders work diligently for the people and let those who serve the poor, serve gladly

Lisa Eye: Let us not lack for enthusiasm, but be ardent in spirit

**ALL: serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, patient in suffering, constant in prayer,
supporting one another and welcoming all.**

Laying on of Hands/Prayer for the Candidates (*all are invited forward to lay hands on our candidates.*)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Curtis Christian

*Hymn

The Church's One Foundation (verses 2, 4)

*Adjournment and Sending

Andrew and Rachel

- Please stand, if able*

**Pastoral Transitions Commission Report
Called Meeting of Presbytery of Transylvania
September 27, 2018**

The Pastoral Transitions Commission presents two candidates to be examined for ordination to the office of Teaching Elder/Minister of Word and Sacrament:

1. **Andrew Bowman**, called as **Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Somerset**, is a under care of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and has been certified ready for examination by a presbytery having completed all other requirements for ordination (G-2.06). The Pastoral Transitions Commission approved the following call and terms at its meeting on July 18, 2018:

Andrew Bowman (Candidate for Ordination) as Pastor (Full-time) of First Presbyterian Church, Somerset effective October 8, 2018

Cash Salary	\$31,000.00
Housing	14,000.00
Total	\$45,000.00
SECA	3,442.50
Board of Pensions (full participation)	
Reimbursable Allowances:	
Auto Allowance IRS rate up to	3,000.00
Continuing Education	1,500.00
Moving Expenses – reasonable and approved in advance, plus \$1,000.00 relocation bonus.	
Vacation – 4 weeks annually	
Continuing Education Leave – 2 weeks annually	
Consideration of 10 weeks of sabbatical leave after 6 years of service	

2. **Rachel VanKirk Matthews**, called as **Associate Pastor of Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church**, is under care of the Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley, and has been certified ready for examination by a presbytery having completed all other requirements for ordination (G-2.06). The Pastoral Transitions Commission approved the following call and terms at its meeting on August 23, 2018:

Rachel VanKirk Matthews (Candidate for Ordination) as Associate Pastor (Full-time) of Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY effective September 11, 2018:

Total effective salary (Salary & Housing)	\$45,000.00
Full Board of Pensions Participation	16,650.00
SECA	3,443.00
Reimbursable Allowances:	
Travel expenses at IRS rate	1,000.00
Continuing Education	1,000.00
Professional expenses	1,000.00
Moving expenses up	5,000.00
Vacation – 4 weeks annually	
Continuing education leave – 2 weeks annually (cumulative up to 6 weeks)	
In seventh year of service, 3-month sabbatical for the purpose of clergy renewal.	

***Statements of Faith, Biographical Statements and sermon links for each candidate are attached.*

Andrew Bowman

Brief Biography

Like many Christians my journey of faith has been one of valleys and peaks. I have seen great joys and dark nights, yet experience an ever-increasing assurance of God's presence and care for my life. I was raised in the church from my very beginning, taught to appreciate the faith which had been handed down to me. My parents and countless others served as guides and examples in my faith journey. As a child I strived to make that faith my own, and believed that I had a strong relationship with God. I understood ministry as inseparable from daily life – yet I did not feel called into full-time ministry until my freshman year of college.

Because seminary was not a common path in the tradition of my youth, I transferred from my liberal arts university to a small Bible college. I dove into my ministry and theological classes, and sought out volunteer opportunities and group Bible studies. My coursework was theologically conservative, but through my extracurricular activities my own beliefs began to evolve. I was confused when I saw that the God I was being taught was different from the God I perceived.

A number of consequential events in my junior year of college stressed my untested faith. Most significant among these was a serious head-on car accident which left me with a fractured skull and severely broken nose, but which also shook my naive faith in God's protection of me. The doubts that arose combined with frustrations against my conservative upbringing, and allowed larger questions to surface. I spiraled deeply into mistrust, apathy, and depression. For the next several years I wrestled with the faith of my youth, wandering spiritually and geographically, actively ignoring God's claim on my heart.

Yet I had not rejected God completely, and was still drawn toward much that seemed mystical and divine. I pursued spiritual wisdom, seeking the God I instinctively knew in my heart. My spiritual quest took many different directions, but in the end I experienced an overwhelming revelation of God's presence that haunts me to this day. It spurred me to seek a community that could help me process what I had experienced. The woman who became my wife introduced me to Presbyterianism, and then I knew I was home. I involved myself in youth ministry and the church community, while my thirst for theological knowledge continued to grow. Meanwhile God's call on my life urged ever stronger. A job in outdoor education at a YMCA retreat center helped me realize how much I enjoy teaching, so I finally acknowledged the call and enrolled in seminary.

My time at Union Presbyterian Seminary has been among the most formative of my life. I was challenged and nurtured, awed and inspired by the struggle and the beauty that is life in the church. Professors and classmates alike helped me to see who I was, but more importantly who I could be. Mentors shared their wisdom, and internship congregants welcomed my flaws. All of this pushed the boundaries of what I thought God had for me. Now I embark on a new stage of ministry, shaped by my experiences in ways I could not have imagined when it all began. Even now I realize I do not see my journey clearly. Yet through it all I know God has been guiding and directing my path. I am looking forward to what comes next.

Sermon Link: <https://andrewjbowman.wixsite.com/mysite>

Andrew Bowman**Statement of Faith**

I believe in the triune God: Father (Creator), Son (Redeemer), and Holy Spirit (Sustainer). One God made known to us in three distinct Persons. The same mighty God who made the universe and breathes life into all creatures desires to be known in the deepest places in every heart. God the Father loves and cares for us like a mother hen, nurturing us and calling us ever further into relationship. God is pure love and goodness, and God's righteousness and mercy are ever-present and all-encompassing.

I believe the purest and best expression of God's love ever seen was in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus embraced the outcast, laughed with sinners, and sought out the downtrodden. Fully God yet fully human, Jesus brought to life the world-changing message that God is truly with us. In his life and ministry, we learn what God desires for us. Through his death and resurrection, we discover the expansiveness of God's love and the profundity of God's grace. It is by that grace that we receive the promise of eternal life.

As the Spirit moves through and among us we see God's presence in the everyday. The beauty of a forest stream, the complexity of a mathematical equation, or the joys and pains of life lived together can allow God to draw near to us. The Spirit works continually to inspire and empower the people of God to be the Church. By the Spirit we take up the ministry of Jesus Christ, proclaiming the kingdom of God in our own time and place, and working for reconciliation and renewal.

In the Church we discover a life in community, bound together by the ties of the Spirit. By praying with and for one another, we find the courage to both acknowledge our differences and work together for justice and peace. The Church is the body of Christ, grounded in the scriptures and called to a new way of living. As we wrestle with the scriptures together, listening for the guidance of the Spirit, we are being faithful to Reformed tradition.

I believe our sacraments are beautiful mysteries given to us by Jesus Christ, which we enter into by faith, with expectation. They lead us closer to the presence and desires of our Creator. Each time we approach the font or gather around the table, we are drawn nearer to God. The gifts of grace we receive shape who we are, and how we live.

Washing in the waters of baptism reveals our true identities as children of God, and leads us as sisters and brothers into loving and supportive community with one another.

When we share the bread and cup at the table, we dine as guests of Jesus Christ, whose life was poured out for our broken world. Through these profound signs we remember and re-experience his faithful, self-giving act, even as our own faith is nourished by the outpouring of grace we encounter there.

Faith Journey

I grew up in a small town in which all my grandparents also lived. I spent every weekend at one grandparent's house and saw the other set almost as often. Between my four grandparents, three different corners of Christianity were represented: Baptist, Catholic, and Presbyterian. A religious year-in-the-life consisted of multiple Vacation Bible Schools, dinners including my grandmother's priest at special occasions, midnight Christmas Eve mass, and many local mission opportunities. Through different expressions, all four grandparents shared a strong commitment to their faith and a love of servitude and hard work. One set of grandparents delivered meals on wheels every week, helped with building projects, and opened their home for meals or shelter when needed. The other set were deeply invested in their one-acre vegetable garden behind their house and providing healthy food for their family and friends. Because of their example, my understanding and embodiment of faith is rooted in creativity, service, and hard work.

As our family moved a few times, my parents were open to establishing new church homes within varying denominations. Before college, I would be a member of a PC(USA), Baptist, Methodist, and Assemblies of God congregation. I was continuously challenged and encouraged in new ways, and made lasting relationships with inspiring, faithful Christians from different backgrounds. My faith grew more curious and thirsty for both new experiences and an understanding of how it all fit together.

During my time at college, I found a church and campus ministry home with First Presbyterian Church and UKirk in Tuscaloosa, AL. These two communities, and my job as a Resident Advisor, provided leadership opportunities to serve and love particular people, all while being loved and questioning my own faith. My campus ministry helped rebuild a row of houses after a tornado, the fourth grade girls Bible study and I discovered that there are all kinds of heroes in the Bible, and a hallway of freshman made unexpected friendships. In the little, particular moments of connection, realization, and lending a hand, my faith was connecting to both the past work of my grandparents and the future possibilities found in following God's call.

After college, I experienced a call to seminary while working as a full-time engineer. While writing code, I was aching for the creative, hard work of serving people's needs. Rather than the little, particular needs it was the big needs of communities without clean, safe water and healthy food that drew me to Columbia Theological Seminary. At CTS, the diversity of the staff, student population, and faculty opened my understanding of the complexity of human suffering and each person's calling as a neighbor and helper. I served in both a homeless, community church and a traditional PC(USA) church. I struggled in work on campus for fairer learning and working environments and a more responsible and engaged use of our community garden. By pairing theological education with practical experience, I learned to hold together the prayer requests of homeless friends and middle-class friends, both for the hopelessness they were experiencing, the illness they had, or the doubt of faith they were experiencing. I learned to hold together the hope for healthy food for every one and the joy that baked goods bring, the diversity of my classmate's opinions and the sensitivity to the pain we could cause one another. All my life, God has shown me the wideness of the body of Christ, the beauty of creation, and the love that holds it all together in its diversity and mystery. I pray God's Spirit continues to show me how I should love, learn, create, and connect within creation and Christ's body as I hope to follow God's will for my life.

Sermon Link: <https://vimeo.com/274766241#t=1410s>

Statement of Faith

I believe in a Triune God who is the perfect communion of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. I believe in the incarnation of the Triune God as Jesus Christ whose birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection are the primary revelatory acts of God. It is through Jesus Christ that God has revealed God's creative and salvific power, God's spirit, and God's love. I believe in the merciful, liberative message and ministry of Jesus Christ who proclaimed the reign of God. I believe in the union of the human and divine natures of Jesus that allowed him to both eat with the outcasts and heal the sick, to both suffer on the cross and rise from the dead. I believe in God, the creator of the universe, by whom all things and people were made good. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God and of Jesus Christ, who spoke life into creation, wisdom into the prophets, and who speaks life and wisdom into us and our communities today.

I believe the earliest Christians gathered in response to the liberating, transformative power of faith in the Triune God as revealed through Jesus Christ. Like the earliest Christians, I believe every generation is empowered to continually reimagine our tradition with the canonical Scripture which is the means of grace through which God's Word is ever and anew received in the Christian community. I believe in the priesthood of all believers. Every Christian is a minister of the Gospel and called to the same vocation of faithful living as disciples of Jesus Christ: generosity to the poor, mercy for the outcasts, and care for creation. Our vocation is lived out in ways that are as unique as Jesus Christ was as an incarnated person. Each person's vocation is both a response to experiencing God's grace and deepens our understanding of grace. I believe that this faithful life is sealed and symbolized through the mystery of baptism which imitates Jesus' dying and rising. Remembering our baptism renews our understanding of ourselves as people with one foot in this present world and one foot in God's kingdom. Finally, it is God's everlastingly new and patient grace, demonstrated by the Lord's supper, a meal that is always waiting, that makes discipleship possible despite our humanity.