

I am the child of parents who met at church as teenagers; my mother's parents met at the same Lutheran church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Recently, I texted my mother about how I excited I was to practice the words of institution in class and she told me that as a toddler I poured water into the bathtub and said, "this is my blood, shed for you." I grew up loving the community and practice of church.

When I was 10, my family moved back to the Harrisburg area after several years away. The church where my parents met had very few young people by this time, so we began the search for a church family with more peers for my younger brother and me. Some old friends invited us to their PC(USA) church and we felt at home right away. We all got involved quickly: within a few years both my parents were ordained as ruling elders, and my brother and I got involved in choirs, youth group and intergenerational mission trips.

My home church, Camp Hill Presbyterian, has a longstanding relationship with a PC(USA) organization in rural Central Maine that provides home repair to neighbors in need. I went on my first trip there the summer after ninth grade, and my subsequent nine trips provided some of the best leadership- and faith-formation I have received. When I began traveling to Maine, I barely knew how swing a hammer; by my most recent trip, I was leading a crew of eight, ranging in age from 14 to 70. During my weeks in Maine, I learned to lean on God for provision, that an effective leader readily asks for help, and that often the best Christian service we can provide is a listening ear.

College took me to Philadelphia, to the University of Pennsylvania. At the time there was no mainline campus ministry at Penn, so I joined InterVarsity early freshman year. I was quickly invited to help lead worship, and regularly hosted Bible study in my room. I learned a lot about my own faith by being part of an ecumenical community, and I cherished the opportunity to read and interpret Scripture regularly with a close-knit group of peers.

Feeling a tug from God toward ministry, I decided to become an InterVarsity staff member after graduation. For three years, I worked part-time for IV and part-time in Penn's rare book and manuscript library. These were not easy years. Besides getting used to being in vocational ministry and the strain of having two jobs, I worked by myself for much of the time, leaving me drained and lonely. I also struggled with growing conservatism of IV's national leadership. I didn't believe that evangelizing the unchurched was the only way to share the good news, and I struggled with IV's tightening policy on human sexuality at a time when the PC(USA) was deciding to open marriage and ordination to the LGBTQ+ community. I was thinking about quitting ministry altogether, but a new friend and colleague who also happened to be a recent Princeton Seminary grad urged me to apply to Princeton instead.

I experienced seminary as a time of deepening faith, joyful worship and healing connection to peers, professors and supervisors. When I began seminary, I wasn't sure if I wanted to be ordained, but a preaching internship that took me to many churches in New Brunswick Presbytery opened my heart to parish ministry. I am excited to begin a new adventure of learning and service at Westminster Austin.

I believe we are called to worship the triune God who created the universe.

I believe that this God, though almighty, intimately knows and loves each and every human being.

I believe that because of God's deep care for all people, God desires to be in relationship with humanity. Throughout human history, God has chosen to make covenant with human beings: first with Noah, then with Abraham and his descendants, then with the whole people of Israel. Through covenants, God promises to love and care for the people, while the people promise to live in right relationship with God and with one another as a sign of their fidelity.

I believe that God does not break relationship with the people God has chosen, whether those people faithfully maintain their covenant obligations or not. Though from the earliest days people have continually failed to be faithful to God and to treat one another justly, God graciously offers mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation to us.

I believe that God sent God's Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to welcome all humankind into covenant relationship with God and to show the world how to perfectly fulfill humanity's obligations of faithfulness to God and care for others. Though as fallen human beings we can never fully fill these obligations, Jesus is our example and our guide.

I believe that Jesus Christ was crucified, died and buried, that he rose from the dead, appearing to his disciples and many others, and that he ascended to heaven. Through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus offers us the forgiveness of sins and calls us into right relationship with God and neighbor. He will come again to judge the world and to make all things new.

I believe that God sends the Holy Spirit to the world to inspire, prod, guide and connect human beings, both inside and outside the Church. The work of the Spirit enables human faithfulness to God and ministry to one another.

The Bible bears witness to the covenant history between God and God's people. Though Scripture was created by human hands it is inspired by the Holy Spirit; its messages should be read, interpreted and proclaimed with the guidance of the Spirit.

The Church is the community of believers in Jesus Christ who strive to live in right relationship with God and one another, following Jesus's example, taking to heart his teachings, and living in openness to the movement of the Spirit. As the covenant community, the church seeks to worship the triune God and to share the good news of Christ through word and deed. Through the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist, God welcomes us into the covenant family, affirms our status as beloved children of God, unites us as the body of Christ, and strengthens us for the work of ministry.