

Search Team Insights

*There is an abundant presence of hope and joy within Rev. McLeod about the future of the Church and this Presbytery. **Rev. Emily McCachren, TE, McConnellsburg Church***

*I find Rev. McLeod to be spiritually sensitive to the needs of all members and is enthusiastic about functioning in the co-leader format. **Wendell Jordan, RE, Faith-Immanuel Church, Search Team Chairperson***

I was most impressed by Rev. McLeod's relational nature; the importance he places on relationship building and being connective to all. His vision is to be present for all churches in the Presbytery.

Denise Lockwood, RE, Lower Marsh Creek Church, Search Team Secretary

As a life-long Presbyterian, I valued the breadth of knowledge and wisdom garnered from Jamie's life-long immersion in Reformed Theology and Presbyterianism, tempered by his curiosity of the conversations they have with the rest of the world.

Debbie Hough, RE, Derry Church

I was impressed by Dr. McLeod's sensitivity to the issues faced by small churches... He understands that one of the responsibilities of the co-leader is to build up the connective of the churches in the presbytery.

Graham Fowler, TE, Lost Creek Church

Jamie is passionate about bringing diverse churches of the Presbytery together to build unity as one body of Christ.

Rev. Inho Kang, TE, Harrisburg Korean Church

QUICK FACTS

- Native of North Carolina
- Lifelong Presbyterian
- Married to his best friend and the love of his life, Lesley Ann Earles, with whom he has three delightful children: Jameson (16), Seamus (10), Asa (five and a half!)
- In college and grad school he worked summers as a counselor and program director at Camp Monroe in the Sandhills of North Carolina
- Was on the campus of Virginia Tech with his Hokie wife when the mass shooting occurred in 2007
- Served churches in Lumberton, North Carolina; West Plains, Missouri; Amsterdam, New York; Anniston, Alabama; Trussville, Alabama and Lebanon, Kentucky
- Chaired or co-chaired the Commissions on Ministry in Mid-Kentucky Presbytery and the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, and served on the Coordinating Council of Albany Presbytery
- Ordained to Ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2007
- Has done mission work on the USA/Mexico border and Malawi
- Enjoys reading, collecting bow ties, old jazz records, playing chess, scuba diving, and golf
- Designs websites: check out **revdrmcleod.com**
- Pastor/Scholar serving as an adjunct professor at Louisville Seminary
- Author of *The Abundant Life: Finding Spirituality in a Broken World* (In-press, Bacchante Books, 2024)



PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE

Introduces



**Rev. Dr.
Jamie McLeod**

Candidate for
Presbytery Co-Leader
for Vision & Transformation

What does co-leadership mean to you?

At the core of the Church's mission is the belief **we are called to journey with one another** in our efforts to proclaim the Holy Realm of God. When Jesus sent out his disciples he did so by first pairing them up and then giving them their missions. We in the Presbyterian Church take seriously those words by relying on a co-leadership model between pastor and session. Those groups, when healthy, become **a singular powerful force** within a community by listening for the still small voice dwelling somewhere within the space between the two bodies. As a person who navigates best when I can build relationships and speak with others, I really have appreciated models allowing for **intentional communication** between the leaders of an organization.

On an individual level, the co-leadership model has the potential to elevate persons to places of responsibility taking seriously their **individual abilities and opportunity for growth**. No person possesses all the abilities necessary for the successful completion of all tasks. As individuals, we have different God-given gifts as well as interests. Ideally, our calls will take seriously our talents while also being aware of those places in which we are not drawn. Co-leadership seeks to address the individual realities of being a broken child of God and create teams of leaders who can support one another. Moreover, there is a degree to which, when the challenges of an organization are shared between multiple people, the difficulties are less daunting and the successes are all the more joyous.

Where do you see God calling the larger church?

In the present moment, the Church, especially in the United States, is **at the crossroads** of a kairotic moment in which, like the ancient Hebrews, we are called to choose life and to choose it in abundance and turn away from those high-ways and byways that have led to our sharp decline over the last seventy or so years. For me, that calling comes in the form of two interrelated challenges: **to be relevant and reconciling**.

We in the Reformed tradition, having abandoned the fires that forged our earliest churches, have sought to be as unobjectionable as we can be. **We have lost the ability to engage in the protest** that is found at the front of the Protestant name. Most of us, at our best, have chosen to do the work of providing bandages to the wounded while neglecting to challenge the systems that injure them again and again. We lament that there are those who live in poverty rather than asking why they find themselves in that condition in the first place. **We must find a way to be relevant** to the society and culture in which we find ourselves and those in the younger generations who yearn for deep and authentic community.

The second calling is like the first. We are called by the prophet Isaiah to be **"repairers of the breach"** just as we are called by the Apostle Paul to be co-creators with Christ of a future of reconciliation. The world has been torn asunder by war, violence begetting violence, the disregard of



human dignity, and a collection of individuals who have become convinced that no one truly cares about them. The church, by its very calling, is **the place where peacemakers gather** in order to find strength and reassurance for the living of this day and then are sent back out into the world to stand in the breach crying for, "peace," while everyone else cries, "havoc," while it "lets slip the dogs of war." We are called to be a shelter in the storm for those for whom the very task of life has gotten too hard and they need somewhere to come and metaphorically lay down their heads and rest. Most importantly, though, is our calling to remind the world that **everyone is made in the image of God** and are our siblings no matter the human divisions.