

I believe that my faith journey starts at birth because I believe that God was working and preparing my heart before I was even conscious that God existed. However, I will not start there. I became a disciple of Jesus at the age of 17. My conversion occurred in an Assemblies of God church in Salem, MO. It was in this church that I also felt my call to ministry though I had no idea it would look like it does now.

I went to undergrad at Evangel University in Springfield, MO. It was here that I first began to look at what I believed about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church. I became disillusioned with what I was experiencing and began to turn to Church History for answers. As I prepared to graduate with no clear direction as to where to go next, a small Cumberland Presbyterian Church in my hometown contacted me and asked me if I would help them. They opened their pulpit to me and we gathered at the table together. It was in this small rural church that I first came into contact with Reformed theology and polity. I found a church that was confessional and connectional and it was like a breath of fresh air. I was drawn by the simplicity and reverence of the liturgy and captivated by a rich theology, especially reformed ecclesiology. I went to the session I was serving and they presented me to the presbytery as a probationer.

From 2006 to 2011 I began to work on a graduate degree in theology. My seminary journey was difficult and beautiful. It was through the probationary process that God truly shaped me for pastoral ministry. I had an amazing Committee of Ministry—Preparation who provided spiritual direction, challenged me on my preconceived ideas, and helped me to understand what it meant to be reformed and always reforming. During this time my daughter was born. I will often reference that moment as THE moment I began to understand God's love. Also during this time I entered the Air Force with the plan of becoming a Reserve Chaplain. This is a ministry which continues to provide me with new challenges and opportunities to share the love of God and serve others.

In 2011 I was ordained by the Missouri Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Since then I have served smaller parishes and continued to work in the chaplaincy, both in the Air Force and with a local hospice. Over the past 8 years my ministry has continued to grow and take shape. The priorities I once thought were essential have lessened while other aspects of ministry have taken their place. My personal life has continued to change and in turn has continued to be a place of discipleship, taking the truths of scripture and teaching me to live them out in practical ways. My "modern family" continues to teach me about God's love and how I am to practice that on a daily basis.

Over the past 4 years my theology and faith journey has taken a definitive turn toward a more inclusive view of God. This change has led me to the PCUSA...a church that is confessional and connectional...a church that stands in the rich stream of reformed history and takes seriously the call to continually reform...a church that is welcoming and hospitable to all that God may call...a church that stands alongside the oppressed and marginalized and seeks to be a prophetic voice in today's very loud, very busy world. It's quite strange. My journey to this point feels less like a journey from something to something (from my conversion to today) and more like a journey home.