

Carol C. Fisher

Faith Journey/Call to Ministry:

My family moved a great deal when I was a child, but whenever we moved into a new community, we always sought out a Presbyterian church. As is typical for people who grow up in the church, I “joined” the church as a teenager, and believed that I understood the commitment I was making. I went to classes with the pastor every Saturday for months, but I never really felt any warmth from him or the other class members. At that time, I really had no understanding of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I feel blessed, however, that a friend from school invited me to an ecumenical gathering of people who understood what having a personal relationship with Christ truly meant. This is when I came to know what living a life of faith was all about. Then, during my college years, I became a leader of campus Christian activities (through Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship and Campus Crusade for Christ), as well as being involved in a local church, and I started to wonder about the possibility of serving God in some capacity of professional ministry.

Although I attended a women’s college that encouraged women to believe they could attain whatever goals they imagined, I had never known a female pastor. So, my natural thought was to become a Christian Educator. Thus, I enrolled at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education and believed that I had found my calling. God, on the other hand, had other ideas in mind, or so I believed. Since PSCE and UTS were right across the street from each other, I met some seminary students and even took a class or two. And then I began imagining that perhaps I was being called to serve as an Associate Pastor in a church, particularly focusing on education, youth ministry and a variety of other areas.

So, that was my plan, and I did that kind of work in three (3) different churches. I very much enjoyed this work, but I began feeling pulled to expand my repertoire a bit. I attended a Face-to-Face interview weekend in Williamsburg, VA where I spoke to representatives of sixteen (16) different churches, trying to be open to wherever God needed me. Amazingly, I came away feeling a strong pull to two (2) different solo pastorates, and I eventually took one (1). Since then, I have served two (2) more solo pastorates and have felt very fulfilled. Although ministry is a very challenging job, I feel blessed to have had a wide variety of job descriptions and beautiful places to serve. And I am always excited to meet new sisters and brothers in Christ and partner with them in ministry.