

## **Autobiographical Statement**

### **RANDALL T. CLAYTON**

Born and raised in the southern part of the United States, I was blessed to have grown up attending worship and participating in a small suburban Presbyterian Church. Through worship attendance, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, choirs and youth group activities the roots of my faith were watered and fertilized. After earning an undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia, I enrolled in Columbia Theological Seminary and began the process toward ordination.

Although I never expected to be called to serve a church west of the Mississippi River, or to live and work in a farming community, much to my surprise, I was ordained to serve as pastor of a small church in a small farming community in northern Louisiana. Since that time I have served in installed or temporary pastoral positions in Mississippi, Delaware, and Maryland, and as parish associate in Presbyterian Churches in New York City and Wilmington, Delaware. When I was ordained I never expected to be called to serve in non-parish settings, yet God has called me to serve in non-profits in New York, Delaware and Maryland. I have served in organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless, persons who are dealing with issues of aging, persons who have a severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders, and those who are dying and their caregivers. During one of my sojourns in non-parish ministry, I earned a Master of Social Work from Fordham University and am currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Delaware.

Over the years I have served on the Boards of several non-profit organizations including Connections Community Support Programs, AIDS Delaware, Interfaith Community Housing of Delaware, and the West Center City Seekers. I have also served on Christiana Care Health System's Societal Benefit Committee. During the 18 years I was a member of New Castle Presbytery prior to moving to Baltimore in 2015 I served on Council, was the Chair of the Speer Trust Commission, Vice Chair of the Committee on Ministry and was one of the Commissioners from New Castle Presbytery to the PCUSA General Assembly in 2008. While in Baltimore Presbytery I served on the Committee for Preparation for Ministry.

Although my vocational journey has taken me to places I never dreamed of going, I continue to dream of a world that is at peace, where abundance is shared until all have enough, the environment is treasured, older adults are valued, and younger adults have opportunities. I dream of a church that is vibrant and marked by generous hospitality and a willingness to risk everything it has for the sake of the Gospel. I dream of a church which welcomes all, is not afraid of the future while it values its past, is willing to go places it has never gone before and never expected to go, and which is open to new forms of witness, worship and service in this new day.

My husband, the Rev. Tim Rodden, and I enjoy the companionship of two German Shepherds and find ourselves often spending time tending the gardens around our home, taking care of a large goldfish pond, and enjoying good food and the fellowship of close friends.