

The Missional Presbyter Search Crew

Presents our Candidate



The Rev. Dr. Tracy R. Keenan

to be

**The Missional Presbyter
Of New Castle Presbytery**



Tracy is married to The Rev. Jim Mehler. They have two grown daughters.

Education:

B.S. in Education and minor in music – Duquesne University,
Pittsburgh, PA – 1981

M.Div. – Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA – 1988

D.Min. in Preaching – McCormick Theological Seminary through the
Association of Chicago Theological Schools, Chicago, IL – 2000

Experience:

Covenant Presbyterian Church – Pastor/Head-of-staff;
Columbus, OH; 2004 – current

Southminster Presbyterian Church – Associate Pastor for
Alternative Worship and Small Group Ministry;
Pittsburgh, PA; 1995 – 2004

Christ United Presbyterian Church – Interim Solo Pastor;
Carnegie, PA, 1994 – 1995

Bower Hill Community Church – Associate Pastor;
Pittsburgh, 1988 – 1994

Tracy...

... rides a Harley, plays the piano, writes music, and looks for the joy.

... has friends among the homeless, the recovery community, and
symphony-goers.

... has worked in prosperous churches with lots of professionals, and in
struggling churches with few resources and lots of passion.

... has been part of church closings and part of the slow work of
transformation in others.

... believes that Jesus' table is big enough for us all.

The MP search crew was looking for someone **Bold. Contextual. Relational.** Here are some things Tracy said compelling them to learn more and more about her...

Bold.

“I’m not Olivia Pope from television’s *Scandal*; I’m not a fixer. The goal isn’t to fix but to inspire churches to know why they exist.”

“Be Church. This is different from *going* to church, *belonging* to a church, and *having* church.”

“This stuff is juicy.”

“We should have massage therapists at presbytery meetings!”

“I literally stood up and yelped when I read your MIF.”

Contextual.

“We’re told the church is dying and it must be our fault. No! It’s important for us to say we’re not and we have awesome leaders.”

“I’m not talking about just pastors or church-type speakers — what about us hearing from police officers, teachers, the world outside?”

“We should have massage therapists at presbytery meetings!”

Relational.

“The most successful staff relations have come when responsibilities and areas of authority were spelled out clearly, and respect was shared and mutual.”

“Losing our life to save it” (Mark 8:35) can in one sense mean serving the neighbors without the underlying bet that they will come and join our church, bringing fat wallets and great singing voices, but no opinions.”

“We should have massage therapists at presbytery meetings!”

MP Crew reflections:

“Tracy excited me with ideas so new and different. There is no "same old" with Tracy - a new angle, a new thought, a challenging question - these will all lead us in new directions!” –*Laurie Hiller*

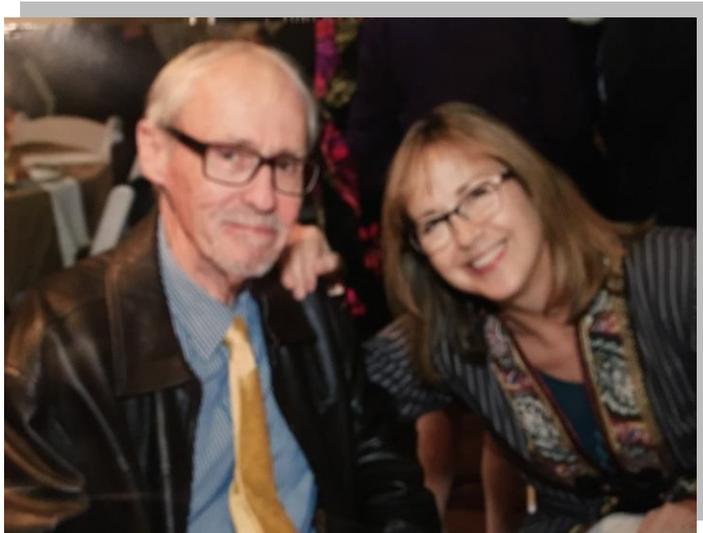
“Tracy is clearly one who will serve with energy, intelligence, imagination and love! She marries knowledge with the artistry needed to help us define this new season in New Castle Presbytery.” –*Michael Williams*

“A rather bizarre Zoom interview we had is a perfect metaphor for her: focused on the task at hand, finds humor when she/we need it, is comfortable with the absurd, gets things done even when it's hard, fiercely intelligent, and beyond creative.” –*Holly Clark-Porter*

“Vibrant, engaging, listener, open to new ideas and able to enhance “old ones”, sings a new song.” –*Winnie Wagner*

“Tracy will push us, with gentle firmness, to relentlessly grow into our call to be a missional church, by the power of the Spirit.” – *Edwin Estevez*

“I love the way that she engages with others and I am looking forward to experiencing God's light shine through Tracy in New Castle Presbytery.” – *Julius Jackson*



Tracy and her husband, Jim