

## Faith Journey Statement of Christopher Scott

I grew up in a suburb of Denver, CO. My family did not attend church regularly; my parents wanted my younger brother and I to form our own opinions regarding church and God. Looking back at my childhood, I believe God was warming my heart at an early age. I remember a sense of joy during the times I did attend church. And while attending a high school youth rally with my girl friend's youth group one evening I realized my need for Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of my sins and his ever presence in my life. Within a week or so of my public confession I went to my local *B. Dalton* bookstore and purchased my first Bible. I sat in my bedroom and read that Bible for hours at a time. God was filling my mind and heart with his everlasting truth and love.

It wasn't until after college though that I began regularly participating in the life of a local Church. My then fiancé Kathy and I were set to marry in January 1996 at Trinity United Methodist Church. And in order to become members and receive the member discount on wedding fees, we attended their class on the basics of the Christian faith. God called me back to himself through that class and I confirmed my faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized in August 1995. Soon afterward, my now wife Kathy and I married as planned, joined a young married couples' group and have been off and running together in our 26-year and counting faith journey ever since.

A few years after our wedding Kathy began to hear God calling her to military chaplaincy, ultimately the US Air Force. As she navigated her call, God began to move and work in my life in ways that showed me he was also calling me to ordained ministry. While Kathy was attending Denver Seminary, I audited a couple of classes. There was something about the combination of faith and thought that hooked me. And when Kathy received active-duty orders, I felt it was time to stop working as a software engineer and start my seminary studies in earnest. I graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary's Northwest campus in June 2009 under the care of the Olympia Presbytery.

While in seminary, God drew me to the Presbyterian Church. The inquirer-candidate preparation process proved invaluable to me in affirming my call. Along the way I have had timely pastor-mentors who have guided me. Through them God has shown me the value of the PCUSA government structure of representation and connectedness. In addition, although I'm still prone to the idea that I can save myself, God has shown me that his grace and mercy are so reconciling that my salvific efforts aren't necessary. Thanks be to God!

My first call was to Fraser Memorial Presbyterian Church in Sumter, SC where I was installed June 2013. Since starting seminary, we've moved seven times in sixteen years thanks to God and the US Air Force. I've now served in five presbyteries. I've served in small semi-rural churches, medium-sized established churches, and large multi-pastor churches. I've served as pulpit supply to churches on the presbytery boundaries and as sabbatical supply. At each station I've had the opportunity for fruitful ministry, and I expect my time will be similarly fruitful in the New Castle Presbytery.