

# BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Rev. Howard Dudley

As the child of two, long time Presbyterian elders, church was always an central part of my life growing up in the Raleigh, North Carolina area. Our family belonged to Wake Forest Presbyterian Church, a congregation that was founded when I was 7 years old. Throughout my youth ministry years, WFPC was one of the fastest growing PC(USA) congregations in the country. Participation in youth group was a priority for my family, and I spent lots of time serving in leadership positions on the New Hope Presbytery Youth Council, and at youth conferences like Massanetta Springs and Montreat.

I attended East Carolina University for undergraduate studies. After initially intending to major in journalism, I ended up double majoring in religious studies after taking an Intro to New Testament Course, falling in love with the academic study of the Bible. I became involved in leadership at the Presbyterian Campus Ministry of ECU, where I first began to seriously discern a call to ministry, particularly through PCM's mission and service trips, both international and domestic.

After graduating from college, I spent just over two years as the Director of Youth Ministry at Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church in Tarboro, NC. It was at Howard Memorial that I feel in love with congregational ministry. I was blessed to serve under a great mentor; learned to balance patience with being prophetic, and grew into the role of a spiritual leader.

After two years at Howard Memorial, I moved to Richmond, VA to enroll at Union Presbyterian Seminary. It was at Union that I met my wife, Meg Dudley, who was also a student. Meg and I got married our last year at Union. Throughout seminary, I sought to serve the church in innovative and creative ways, always looking for ministry practice and grounding to compliment my studies— first in youth ministry at Second Presbyterian Church of Richmond, then as the contemporary worship director at Three Chopt Presbyterian Church, and finally as the founding campus minister of UKirk at VCU. It was through this last endeavor that I found my most recent call in college ministry.

After seminary Meg and I moved to Mississippi, where I was once again called to serve as a campus ministry planter; founding a new UKirk ministry at Ole Miss (the University of Mississippi). In my four years at Ole Miss, God has grown our ministry to well over 100 students, with weekly worship, multiple bible study groups, annual mission trips and a leadership and vocational discernment program for Seniors. While at Ole Miss, I've also been blessed to serve as the pastor of a small, rural congregation called New Prospect Presbyterian Church, a congregation that has taught me more about what it means to be a pastor than I could have ever imagined. While in Mississippi, Meg has served as the Associate Pastor for Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Tupelo, MS

After welcoming the birth of our daughter Lindsay into the world in 2015, I began to discern a call away from college ministry and back into congregational ministry. Meg and I are excited about the possibility of being closer to Lindsay's grandparents and our family, all of whom live in North Carolina and Virginia. I believe my gifts and calling lie with congregations in need of new energy and excitement, vision for the future, and a longing for deeper spiritual development through preaching and teaching.

In my spare time, I'm a musician: mainly a guitarist, and I'm excited to be leading music at the Montreat Youth Conferences this coming summer. I love golf, and would love to call myself an "avid golfer" if I could ever find the time.