

Biography of Edward Bellis IV

The words “In life and death, I belong to God” ring true in my faith journey. Since my dad was in the US Army, my childhood was defined by moving from place to place. I was born in West Berlin Germany on October 7, 1965. During the first 9 years of my life, I lived in Germany, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Alabama, Arizona, and Arkansas. Since I graduated from college, I now list Florida, Washington D.C., Virginia and Maryland. I finished High School in New Bern, NC, and consider it my hometown. My mother and father still live there.

Education was extremely important to my family. I graduated from High School and was accepted early admission to NC State (NCSU) where I graduated with a B.S. in Textile and Apparel Management in 1988. During my Senior year, I felt God’s call to ministry.

After a year of working in the Textile industry and 2 years repairing and building boats, I followed God’s call with the support of my home congregation, FPC New Bern. I went to the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (PSCE) to study educational ministry and graduated with a M. A. in Christian Education. But, I also felt called to ordained ministry. To explore the call, I began my studies at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA and graduated with a M.Div. I was ordained on February 18, 1996.

In 1995, I accepted the call to ordained ministry at Westminster Presbyterian, Richmond, VA as an Associate Pastor. The call was specifically to educational ministry. My next call in 1998 was as a generalist Associate Pastor to Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church. I experienced the wide range of my God given talents while focusing on mission and education in the local church. In 2003, I accepted the position as solo pastor at Woodlawn Presbyterian. In 2009 I took a call to Vanderbilt Presbyterian in Naples, FL as their Associate Pastor. These positions developed my education, worship, administrative, and pastoral skills.

Those skills along with my early life’s transitions lead me into joy of ministry serving churches who are in the midst of pastoral transitions. I served two churches as their interim pastor – Oakland Presbyterian (2012-2014) and Fuquay-Varina Presbyterian (2014-2016). I am excited to serve Red Springs Presbyterian as its interim. With all the transitions in my life, I bring a unique skill set of managing transitions to this ministry. I am excited to remain in my adopted home state and I look forward to encouraging and equipping Red Springs Presbyterian in the time “in between” called and installed pastors.

I also need to mention my call to be a father. I have two kids – a boy and girl. Jordan Bellis, my son, was born March 27, 2002, in Saint Mary’s County, Maryland. My daughter Kara MinYe Bellis was born January 23, 2005, in China. Those two kids bring joy and happiness to my soul. I invite anyone to come to my home or office so I can brag on my kids and sharing my pictures.

God’s been generous to me by giving me a wide variety of gifts and interests. People who meet me would describe my hobbies and interests as eclectic. I read a wide variety of materials from a novel of history, to fiction, or even business. I can be found coaching little league baseball and enjoy playing a wide variety of sports. I draw cartoons characters and go to the movies. I cook from many different ethnic traditions and enjoy the immediate feedback cooking a meal provides. I love crowds and enjoy my quiet time alone. In a life full of transitions, God is my rock and my salvation.