

Biographical Statement

Robin Shane Owens

I was born in Clinton, South Carolina. I grew up there and attended Clinton High School from which I graduated in 1972.

I began college at the University of South Carolina. After my first semester, it became clear to me that God was calling me to ministry. As a result, I transferred to and graduated from Presbyterian College with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion in 1975.

After working at Torrington Company for a year, I entered Columbia Theological Seminary to pursue a Master of Divinity. I completed that degree in 1980 after taking an intern year doing Clinical Pastoral Education.

Also in 1980, I married my wonderful bride, Susan Modlin. She is a North Carolina native and a third grade school teacher. I also was ordained by the old Wilmington Presbytery and began my first call at Wildwood Presbyterian Church in Morehead City, North Carolina. During our time there, our first child, Wesley, was born. He has spina bifida and hydrocephalus. He lives with us.

In February, 1984, I began my work at Bixby Presbyterian Church in Advance, NC. During our time at Bixby, our daughter, Amy, was born. She now teaches third grade in King George County, Virginia.

Our next move took us to Olney Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, NC. My work there began in January, 1988. During my tenure, the church celebrated its Bicentennial. Our youngest son, Andrew, was born during our tenure there. He lives and works in Tampa.

In 1994, I completed a Doctor of Ministry in Evangelism and Redevelopment from Columbia Theological Seminary.

In May, 1997, I began my work as pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gainesville, FL. During my tenure at Covenant, we paid off \$180,000.00 in outstanding debt. I am also proud of our development of small groups.

In February, 2009, I accepted the call to First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, SC. That call ended in 2013 and I began my work as the Stated Supply at Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church also in Lancaster, SC. Old Waxhaw is the oldest Presbyterian Church in upstate South Carolina having been organized in 1751.

While serving as a stated supply, I also worked as a driving instructor for Greenville Driving School.

A Statement of Belief

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Each week, my congregation and I affirm our faith using the words of the ancient Apostles' Creed. My system of beliefs very much follows that outline.

I believe in God. God is the Creator of the universe and all that is in it. Furthermore, God sustains that creation. If God failed to sustain the creation, it would cease to exist. God is also the just and righteous judge. God judges us as sinners with a fairness and insight beyond that of human judges. God is loving and merciful. It is God who sent Jesus to earth to pay the price for our sin.

I believe in Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ was and is the true measure of God's love. Jesus is also the only means of salvation. He is my Savior, but He is also my Lord. I seek to share the Good News of the Gospel with others as it was shared with me.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and comforter. The Holy Spirit calls us to minister in the name of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit encourages us to live a Christ-like life. The Holy Spirit is the source of all the gifts necessary for the church to function as the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit convicts us not only of our sinfulness, but also for our need for forgiveness. The Holy Spirit prepares the way for us as we share the Good News of the Gospel with others.

I believe in the church. The church is the body of Christ at work in the world. With Jesus as the head, the church serves as Jesus' feet, hands, and voice.