

Ordination Questions
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March, 2018

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

I will, with God's help. I absolutely love my role as psychotherapist, because I feel that it offers me a truly unique way to fulfill this ordination vow. When I am not practicing as a clinician and not seeing clients, I feel cut off from this profound way of loving my neighbors and working for reconciliation of the world. There is no relationship quite like the therapeutic relationship in which I get to join my neighbors, with whom I would likely never come into contact in such a genuine and intimate way. I have had this experience as both a client and a therapist. As a therapist, I strive to show Christ's love for my clients by providing a nonjudgmental space to share and reclaim their stories, as they explore and alter their roles within them. It is my greatest joy to witness my clients as they realize how resilient they are. And it is my greatest privilege to hold a bit of the heartbreak they may feel along the way, and to sometimes cry with them. Often during a session, while experiencing my client's work of reconciliation with self, God, and loved ones, I feel there is something much bigger than either myself or my client in the room. And I am left with the thought, "Surely God is in this place, and I did not know it."

Will you be a faithful teaching elder, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in the government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Although I am not a "called and installed" pastor of a congregation, I still enjoy participating where I can in my congregation of worship through teaching, mentoring the youth and confirmands, and actively participating in the life of my congregation as a whole. I also enjoy preaching and administering the sacraments to congregations who are in need of a supply preacher. In Georgia, I enjoyed being a resource to the Executive Presbyter when pastors or their families were in need of mental health and/or substance abuse services. I also once served on an investigative committee for the Savannah Presbytery. On the denominational level, I served as co-director of a Montreat Youth Conference in 2014 and represented the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic in Louisville in 2007 during a review and edit of the General Assembly's policy, *Exiles No More*, regarding the PC(USA)'s response to serious mental illness within the church. In all of these things, I sought to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ to the best of my ability. I will continue to listen for God's call on my life regarding my role as teaching elder. I understand this role, as all other roles in my life, to have seasons. Care of self and family is very important to me during this time of my life, and yet I will remain curious and open to discerning God's call on my life as a teaching elder.