

Rev. Cynthia W. Brasher, MDiv, BCC
Biographical Information – 04/2018

My childhood home was Charlotte, NC where I was influenced by the Southern Baptist faith of my parents and grandparents. Presbyterian values of education, community service, and the arts encircled me as I participated in the local Presbyterian Church kindergarten, their scouts program and piano recitals. I am the first-born of four and only daughter.

I was active in church throughout early school years and explored the meaning of call and Christian vocation in my college years. I graduated from Wingate College with a B.A. in Religious Studies and entered seminary in hopes of pursuing a teaching career in religion. While obtaining a M.Div. from Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY, I was introduced to hospital chaplaincy through Clinical Pastoral Education. I experienced an immediate love for chaplaincy as a means of integrating my interests in psychology and religion into the whole care of persons, body, mind and spirit. I remained in clinical training for four years with residency specialties in children's care, addiction recovery, cardiac, and supervisory. My chaplain residencies led me to Birmingham, AL.

In pursuing chaplaincy credentials and certification, I was ordained by the Baptist church of my youth, in Charlotte, in 1989. I completed a summer internship in worship leadership at Oakmont Presbyterian, Birmingham, AL, in 1990. I found the connectional nature of the PC (USA) denomination as a reformed faith, and always being reformed, appealing to me. Four years later I began the process of transferring my ordination to the Presbyterian Church (USA). After passing ordination exams, I was examined and received as a member of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley in January, 1996. My membership was transferred to Peace River Presbytery in southwest Florida in 1999. Throughout this time, I have embraced opportunities to serve as Minister of Word and Sacrament and Teaching Elder as a hospital chaplain, parish associate, pulpit supply minister, and in serving on the Committee on Preparation, Representation Committee, and Committee on Ministry. I completed a Certificate in Advanced Studies in the Practice of Ministry in 2001 at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA.

Hospital chaplaincy as a validated ministry remains my career. For eight years I served as staff chaplain in Birmingham, AL: four years at the UAB University Hospital and four years at Princeton Baptist Medical Center. For over eighteen years I served at Lee Health System in Fort Myers, FL: four years as Chaplain and over fourteen years as System Director of the Spiritual Services department. I have most recently accepted the position of Corporate Director of Pastoral Care at Cape Fear Valley Health System in Fayetteville, NC. I return home to NC.

My husband-to-be proposed to me when I interviewed in Fort Myers. Craig and I began our married lives there in 1999. We adopted a little Havanese in 2007 and he remains a joy to us.