

Appendix M – New Minister Information

1. Adam Anderson, South Jacksonville, Pastor
2. Jennifer Hallberg, First Jasper, Pastor
3. Rebekah Hutto, At-Large Member

Statement of Faith

Adam Anderson

The earliest memory I have of faith is sitting on my grandfather's lap as he explained what he believed to me. I didn't necessarily understand what he told me, but I sensed his love, and what he said was important: somehow, these ideas were a part of who I was.

That simplicity still matters to me, but now as I've grown in understanding, I see it more as elegance. $E=mc^2$, all of five characters, unlocks so much of the wonder of our universe. Scripture, for all its depth and for all of the millennia of commentary, still tells a story of a God loving people, and people trying (and failing) to love back.

I believe God - Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer - loves. God, in total freedom, chose to be in relationship with the Creation and humanity through no doing of our own: God chose to love us before we even existed. We are as people loved just simply because we exist, far more richly than we can understand, like the newborn being held in a loving parent's arms. Moreover, because we have been loved before we even existed, as our brokenness overtook us, God would always choose to save us.

I believe Jesus Christ - Prophet, Priest, King - reveals and redeems. Jesus Christ's entire existence was one of a steward, pouring out all of himself to care for all. At moments when he could have done violence for self-gain, he chose peace. When he could have chosen to divest from pariahs - the tax collector, the prostitute, the leper, the commoner - he chose instead to be a steward to them. And when the opportunity arose that he could abandon it all, even pleading that the cup be passed, he stayed faithful. As fully God and fully human, Jesus Christ took on the weight of sin, and linked God the Father, Son, and Spirit in the work of the election of humanity, bearing the humility of the cross, by choice, for us. Jesus Christ continues to be our savior and teacher, demonstrating God's always-and-forever love to us.

I believe the Holy Spirit - Guide, Presence, Gift - embraces. Just as we have always been loved, always been saved, the Holy Spirit always holds, prods, and directs us to find those Jesus Christ saved and is still redeeming, even when they are convinced otherwise. The modern tax collector, prostitute, leper, and commoner need to know that they, too, are forever loved and redeemed. The Holy Spirit within aids us - as best as our imperfect and limited selves can achieve - to tell others the same story of love and hope.

I believe the Church - the gathered believers, holy people assembled - reminds. It is in the church that we lift our sung and spoken prayers with a simple question: "is it true?" God responds to us God's resounding "Yes!" As we hear the Gospel proclaimed, we hear the stories of life again, and we know that we are never alone, and will never be

alone - past faithfulness and future promise gathering into now and always. We remember that we are a people never meant to be alone - not from God nor each other - and so we go out together in the world, reminding them that they, too, are welcome at the assembly.

I believe the Sacraments are the taste and touch of the Holy Trinity surrounded by the assembly. In baptism, we are given the sign and seal through water, being washed clean and given grace in simple bath, and reminded of our shared belonging. In the Lord's Supper, we taste a sustaining meal in community - a meal that reminds us of Jesus Christ's death, and a meal where Jesus Christ reveals himself in resurrection. As often as we can celebrate the sacraments together in worship, we are invited to celebrate with all of the Saints from every time and place, who have all asked and heard, even for a fleeting moment God's promise of presence. We may go forth, elegantly washed and fed to continue the mission to serve those who wish to be clean and no longer hungry.

And so, I am still in the lap of One who loves me, speaking the story of life to me. I understand enough of the story, but I believe that I am loved more than I can entirely understand, and that in spite of all the reasons I should think myself otherwise, I simply believe that every single cell of my body is loved. I want others to know there is a place for them - that they are loved, too. And when I know that there are others who have been told they are not beloved, I come along beside them and share that they, too, are loved, for all of our stories, simple though they may be, carry the elegance of the Holy Trinity.

Journey of Faith

Adam Anderson

As mentioned in my statement of faith, my story of faith begins with my immediate family. As a pastor's grandchild, I was able to enjoy many of the benefits of a PK, with few of the drawbacks. My grandfather invited me into his vocation. It meant that I had a comfort and familiarity with the church – even the jagged edges of church life were smoothed through the lens of my grandfather. Additionally, I was exposed to many of the practical aspects of ministry early. I went on my first pastoral care visit with my grandfather as a pre-teen. I preached the first time during high school.

I am also much like my grandfather – even pictures of him as a young man look similar to mine. As a result, it would seem that seminary and ministry would be a logical next step. However, I also had a mother as a PK, who still remembered many of the drawbacks with few of the benefits. And, as an eighteen-year-old who has always known that my primary vocation was one of a spouse and parent who heard the horror stories of missed vacations and one too many nights away for a church meeting, I took her advice and chose a different career path.

The call of ministry did not let go of me, however. Throughout my life before seminary, I was constantly working out how to live into a life of ministry without actually going to seminary, be it overtly or otherwise. Immediately after college, I worked for five years as a campus minister with the CCO (Coalition for Christian Outreach). That time was formative both as a way to continue to care for college students and serve in ministry, but it also set my trajectory towards Reformed theology. As an organization rooted in Kuyper and Neo-Calvinism, I found that over time that my convictions as someone who grew up in the fundamentalist Church of Christ tradition were insufficient. Suddenly, grace took on new meaning in my life. I was no longer afraid for my salvation, nor was I seeking to get as many people on a life raft away from a sinking cultural ship. Instead I saw that there was Christ's Lordship in all, and a new opportunity to steward Creation. I had the gift for five years to teach college students that transition as well.

I found over time, though, that I was just as interested in the hands-on work of transformation as I was teaching college students how to do the same. This caused me to move to Columbus, Ohio to continue graduate study in City Planning, and later, Public Policy. In part, I wanted to think through the question posed by Kuyper's work – how could the gifts of governance be used to care for God's people, and in particular those who are most vulnerable? In the work I did with the State of Ohio after graduation, I sought to answer the question. I learned how to be thoughtful in analysis, adept in

persuasion, and perhaps most of all, how to navigate multiple political systems to achieve results that led to human flourishing. This led to some successes, and some failures: I had a chance to create a program that assisted hundreds of individuals with serious and persistent mental illness enter into and sustain in community from institutional settings, but also had to manage some truly cruel situations where individuals lost their rights and were unable to have the dignity of risk.

As I watched some really awful situations play out, I realized that somehow, the institution of the church should be activated to fill in a gap between what the public good can achieve but doesn't have a moral well to explain. The church carries within itself narratives that can reshape communities. It can speak into the best and worst parts of humanity with a response. And moreover, this is one of the tasks to which it is called! And so, after some discernment with my spouse, we chose to go to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where I pursued my MDiv and ordination. My work in seminary – as well as what I see my call as a pastor in large part to be – is to continue to explore the question of how we tell the best stories of God's faithfulness, and seek to be a wise and loving people who are equipped in all aspects of a faith-filled life to care for the world God has given us.

This is why South Jacksonville is such an attractive call to me, and why I believe God is calling me to serve there. I was very intentional when speaking with PNCs that I hoped to find a congregation that would want to use all of the gifts I can bring in ministry. In talking to be PNC at South Jacksonville, I see a church that has relieved itself of some of the largest burdens of its past it was carrying, and was looking for a new future oriented towards mission. I believe that from the outset (even as the church is working with the City Planning office in its sale of property!), I can walk beside them and help paint a vision with them. I can assist them in building frameworks and networks in and outside of the church to strategically progress towards that vision, and help to identify the gifts of each person in the community to become vital and vibrant in new ways, but still faithful to its history and to God. I get excited about sharing the gifts God has given me with my peers in ministry, as I look forward to receiving theirs.

In the end, my faith journey has been one of reconciliation and integration – of the balance of my grandfather and my mother, of a minister and someone who develops policy, and of listening to the groans of the world and identifying a faithful response. I'm incredibly excited to continue that journey with a church that looks as though it is in a similar place, and I'm hopeful that we will all find new flourishing as we journey together.

REPORT OF TERMS OF CALL
Presbytery of St. Augustine 2020-21

Minister/Certified Educator: Adam Anderson

Telephone:

Church or employing entity: South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church

Terms of Call:

A. Personal Compensation

1. Annual cash salary	\$41,500
2. Housing allowance (if no manse)	\$27,500
3. Utilities allowance (if applicable)	
4. Medical supplement (if any)	
5. OPTIONAL SECA tax reimbursement (above required 50%)	
6. Deferred income	
7. Other income (specify _____)	
8. Manse amount (30% of total of lines 1-7)	
9. Total effective salary	\$69,000

B. Expenses

10. Reimbursable professional expenses	
a. auto expenses	\$1500
b. book allowance	\$400
c. Continuing education	\$2500
d. Pastor discretionary expenses	\$1500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5900

C. Required benefits*

13. Major medical (25% of line 9)	\$17,250
14. Pension/D&D (12% of line 9)	\$8280
15. REQUIRED 50% SECA Reimbursement	\$5278.50
16. Total Benefits	\$30,808.50

TOTAL PACKAGE

\$105,708.50

D. Vacation and Leave

Vacation	4 weeks
Study leave	2 weeks
Parental leave	

Additional Terms (may use separate page)

Moving expenses, 1 time: \$3000

 9/3/2020
PNC Chair or Clerk of Session

Auburn McClure

 9/3/2020
Pastor/Associate Pastor/Certified Educator
Designated Pastor/Interim Pastor/Stated Supply

*Section C is required by our minimum terms of call for installed positions; SECA is provided for many of our contract positions as well. BOP benefits –if provided for contract positions– are subject to different calculations.

Please return by March 4, 2021 by email to: Sandra Hedrick, Stated Clerk (Sandra@staugpres.org), Presbytery of St. Augustine, 1937 University Blvd. West, Jacksonville, FL 32217

Statement of Faith

Jennifer Hallberg

I believe that God is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. God loves us no matter what we do. God loves without ceasing and gives grace unending. I believe in the one God who reveals Godself to us in three ways of being with us and for us: God the parent, Jesus Christ the savior, and the Holy Spirit the sustainer.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten son, born to the Virgin Mary, conceived by the Holy Spirit, Jesus was God incarnate, fully human and fully God. Jesus became the way to live as a child of God in a full relationship with God. Jesus revealed God to us through parables and miracles. He embodies for us what it means to be human beings created in the image of God who live in loving communion with God and one another. He lived and loved life as a sinless human being in full relationship with God.

Being fully human and fully God, Jesus was the perfect sacrificial lamb to die for our sins. He lived a human life and died on the cross so that all may know the forgiveness and grace of God and so we may enjoy a full relationship with the loving divine Parent that Jesus enjoys. On the third day he arose from the dead appearing first to Mary and then to the disciples. He ascended into to heaven where he lives with God. He promises to return to dwell with us forever in the new heaven and the new earth in a full and perfect relationship free from pain and death.

I believe the Holy Spirit is one way God has revealed Godself tending to our daily walk with God as a gardener tends to a vine. The Holy Spirit tends to us while speaking through every moment of life. Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples after Jesus's ascension, the Holy Spirit empowers us today to proclaim the love of God and to do God's will.

I believe in sin. Sin is the result of our straying from God and diminishes our enjoyment of the communion with God and people for which we were created. Being a broken people, I believe that we are tempted to sin in every moment. Sin also leads to some of the evil in the world.

I believe the Bible, our holy scriptures, to be inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is a way that we hear God speaking to us in every time. The Bible reveals who God is and what God has done, is doing, and will do, so that we may know who we are and what we are to be doing. It is enlighten by the Holy Spirit by the witness of all of scripture, by the interpretation of the whole faithful church throughout history. It is written in many times and places over a millennia with many different cultural contexts, languages, outlooks, and interpretative lens.

I believe that God chooses to bless God's community through earthly materials, specifically in the sacraments through water, bread, and wine. I believe that baptism enacts and seals our adoption into a covenant relationship with God and God's community, the church. Baptism is where we are bathed and washed free from our sinful selves. Baptism also helps us remember our ecclesiastical history and scriptural history. Furthermore, we remember Israel's passage through the waters to new life filled with freedom, promises, and community. I believe that through baptism and communion we join with all believers in every time and place.

I believe that communion is a sign of our thankfulness for God's continued faithfulness from the time of the first Passover till now and till the end of time. Communion is a sign of the covenant relationship that we have with God and one another through Jesus's sacrifice. I also believe that communion is the gracious feast that all are welcome to that is a foretaste of a promised future. Communion is also a calling to feed people as we have been fed at God's banquet table.

I believe the church is body of Christ in the world called to bring the love of God to all peoples through what we say and do. We are called to be a blessing and safe haven to all the families of the world. The church is shaped by believers who have gone before us. They reflect how to be compassionate, gracious, and the self-giving presence of God to others. The church is charged, by the love of God, with being and sharing the message of hope, joy, and Christ's teaching to everyone. The church is broken and yet redeemed, reformed and forever reforming, and a community of faith that will forever entrust God with all things, cares, and concerns.

As people we will die a physical death but living in a covenant relationship with God, we will be raised to join with believers of all time and place. We live into this Christian hope in everything we do bringing God's kingdom come in all time by living with joy towards this promised renewal when all things will be made right. In the final destiny of humans and all of creation, I believe that the culmination of all of creation will be renewed to a full faithful communion with God.

Journey of Faith Jennifer Hallberg

My first memory of when I met God through prayer was when I was five years old and my Grandmother Nellie Cadman tried to teach me a French prayer. The prayer, “Le petit Jésus, couvert de fleurs, entre dans mon cœur. Mon cœur est petit, il ne peut contenir que le Petit Jésus.” means “Little Jesus, covered with flowers, come into my heart. My heart is so small it can only hold little Jesus.” My grandmother taught me this prayer later in life and taught me the Lord’s Prayer. Her guiding presence along with my parents’ and my aunt’s involvement with the church showed me who God really is and what God has done for me. My aunt is a Presbyterian minister, my father was a deacon and an elder in the church, and my mother was in charge of the church kitchen. I continued to learn and grow in my faith through my involvement in the church programs such as Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. I also learned what it means to be Presbyterian through our family’s Sunday lunch time and afternoon discussions.

As I grew up I started attending youth group and learned a new way of understanding community and God’s love: participating in local and international mission projects. When our youth group took a trip to our sister church in Mexico, I got my first taste of what it means to lead programs in another congregation, and what mission and ministry can really look like. While we were in Mexico, our youth group led a Vacation Bible School program for the children in the community. My fellow youth group friends and I were responsible for teaching the children and doing crafts with them. I learned what ministry could be through this hands-on ministry approach.

Shortly after this trip, my father accepted a job transfer to Pensacola, Fl. My faith journey continued with this move as I started high school. As I grew to understand who I was, I also grew in my understanding of God’s role in my life. I started to value my personal prayer times more, and I discovered that my car was also my personal prayer space. These times became a place for peace and serenity where I could talk to God about whatever was on my mind.

While I was in high school, I learned the importance of leadership both in my faith journey and in my academic journey. My understanding of community evolved in a new way. I was a member of the Pace High School NJROTC team and learned through them the importance of community, forgiveness, and leadership. I was also heavily involved with my church, Pace Presbyterian Church, and responsible for the teaching children’s Sunday School, Children’s Church, and

later I was responsible for the church nursery. I found my calling in the church. However, I also knew that I wanted to explore science and mathematics. I decided to explore this love of space, science, and mathematics in college.

While in college, I stayed involved in my local church. However, I started to back off a little as I got more occupied at college. It wasn't until I left an abusive relationship that I realized just how much I missed my church family and my faith. I struggled to understand how God could still love me and how someone could treat me like that. I struggled with my faith and these struggles continued to bother me for many years. I discovered some comfort in the InterVarsity Christian Bible study group that met on campus. As they became my new community, I discovered that I loved reading scripture and dissecting it apart as we discussed it. This group at this time in my life brought me back to a place where I cherished my faith even more.

Upon graduating from college, I felt a call to teach. However, I did not fully understand the call. I taught high school mathematics for one year and discovered that I was restless. I knew that God was calling me to something with church work and a call to serve God but I did not understand how. I tried attending seminary at Brite Divinity School. That did not work out well because I never found my community there. I was lost and struggling.

It wasn't until January of 2014 that I finally asked my pastor for help. I was lost and did not know where to turn. I struggled with my faith as a livable action and I struggled with God. My pastor first told me about the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. The local congregation and Grace Presbytery supported me as I decided to pursue a placement in New Orleans as a Port Chaplain and spend a year discovering my truth and where God was working in my life.

While I was involved with the YAV program, I had the opportunity to see my life, my family, and my call in a new way. The slogan of the YAV program is "a year of service for a lifetime of change." This slogan became real for me through my first year of service where I discovered a call to share stories. As my service as a port chaplain, I found that I loved sitting with people and listening to their heartaches and their stories. I wanted to do this for the rest of my life.

My YAV year also taught me to appreciate my abilities and myself in a new way. It gave me an opportunity to reflect on the beliefs I grew up with and to learn to speak about who I was in a true way. It helped me to claim my personal

understanding of community and of God's love. I also grew to understand my childhood through a whole new lens, to understand my desire for community, my love of God's grace, and how I had a unique understanding of mental illness through my past relationships. I learned so much through this year that when my year was over, I did not want to leave the program. I decided to pursue a second year in Austin, Texas. However, there was a hitch. I had to start seminary again. At the time, I firmly believed that was a bad idea given the negative experience I had before. I sat down and prayed. God was telling me to go to Austin and to trust. God and I had many arguments over this call.

Little did I know, going to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary would be one of the most life changing experiences of my life. Seminary showed me the scriptures and God in whole new way of understanding. I fell in love with exegesis. I discovered a love of preaching and understood my love of listening to stories and heartache through the lens of pastoral care. Once I completed my internship with Faith Presbyterian Church, I understood God's call on my life in a whole new way. I saw where God was calling me and how God had been weaving this call throughout my life.

Once I graduated from seminary, I was anxious to serve God in a church through preaching, teaching, listening, and serving. I served Youth Director at McLeod Memorial Presbyterian Church. I also completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Tampa General Hospital. Working as a youth director in a small church showed me that youth have a fascinating way of looking at faith and life. It also reinforced to me that one of the biggest skills needed in ministry is flexibility. In 2020, my job position changed so many times: from leading youth group over zoom, to being responsible for the administrative life of the church, to preaching, to finally helping the congregation to provide zoom and live-stream worship service while also worshiping in person. And yet I was serving the church and loving it. I hope to continue growing through preaching, teaching, and walking with the congregation I am called to serve.

I often understand my call as a winding river. I am in the boat and God is guiding it sometimes without telling me what is ahead. This journey of being called to serve as a minister of a church is one that has taken me down many paths and I look forward to seeing what is ahead.

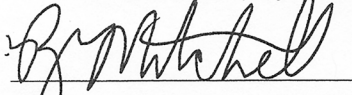
REPORT OF TERMS OF CALL
Presbytery of St. Augustine
2020

Minister/Certified Educator Jennifer Hallberg Telephone _____

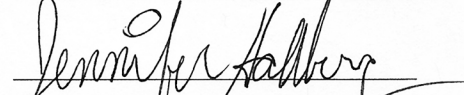
Church or employing entity First Presbyterian Church of Jasper

Terms of Call:	2019	2020
A. Personal Compensation		
1. Annual cash salary	_____	17,500
2. Housing allowance (if no manse)	_____	_____
3. Utilities allowance (if applicable)	_____	_____
4. Medical supplement (if any)	_____	_____
5. OPTIONAL SECA tax reimbursement (above required 50%)	_____	_____
6. Deferred income	_____	_____
7. Other income (specify _____)	_____	_____
8. Manse amount (30% of total of lines 1-7)	_____	5,250
9. Total effective salary	_____	22,750
B. Expenses		
10. Reimbursable professional expenses		
a. auto expenses	_____	2,000
(OR provision of auto w/ full expenses)		
b. book allowance	_____	_____
c. other reimbursable expenses	_____	_____
11. Continuing education allowance	_____	1,000
12. Total expenses	_____	3,000
C. Required benefits*		
13. Major medical (25% of line 9)	_____	11,000
14. Pension/D&D (12% of line 9)	_____	2,730
15. REQUIRED 50% SECA Reimbursement	_____	1,740
16. Total Benefits	_____	15,730
TOTAL PACKAGE	_____	41,220
D. Vacation and Leave		
Vacation	_____ (weeks)	4 (weeks)
Study leave	_____ (weeks)	2 (weeks)
Parental leave	_____ (weeks)	_____ (weeks)

Additional Terms (may use separate page)



PNC Chair or Clerk of Session



Pastor/Associate Pastor/Certified Educator
Designated Pastor/Interim Pastor/Stated Supply

*Section C is required by our minimum terms of call for installed positions; SECA is provided for many of our contract positions as well. BOP benefits – if provided for contract positions – are subject to different calculations.

Please return by March 4, 2020 by email to: Sandra Hedrick, Stated Clerk (Sandra@staugpres.org), Presbytery of St. Augustine, 1937 University Blvd. West, Jacksonville, FL 32217

Statement of Faith
Rebekah McLeod Hutto

I believe in the One, Sovereign God, who both delivered Israel out of Egypt and raised Jesus Christ from the dead. I believe in the holy mystery of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. This mystery is God in three persons; through the mediation of the Son and the indwelling of the Spirit I am able to know God who has sent them. I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. As God's eternal Word, all things have been created through him. God created all things good, but, in the Fall, humanity turned toward its own desires and became subject to sin, marring the whole creation's goodness.

I believe that in the midst of our sin we are still loved and sought, and I believe that God chose the people of Israel to bear witness to this in the world. As a fulfillment of God's promises to Israel, God sent Jesus Christ, God's only Son, to redeem humanity. In his earthly life, Jesus taught us the meaning of love by healing the sick, breaking bread with the outcasts, and comforting the bereaved. Jesus was perfectly obedient, and his faithfulness to God put him in conflict with the sinfulness of this world. In this conflict, he was made to suffer death on the cross. I believe in Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection, that on the third day he was raised from the dead and ended death's hold on humanity. After the resurrection, he ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God. Through the resurrection, Jesus offers us the promise of eternal life.

I believe in the Holy Spirit through whom God breathed life into creation and who continues to dwell with us and in us. It is through the work of God the Spirit that we are able to continue as a gathered people proclaiming the message of Christ to the world. I believe God gave us the one Church where believers can live and worship together as Christ's body. Just as Christ has reconciled us to God on the cross, the Church—as Christ's body—is called to offer that same reconciliation to one another and to the world. I believe that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God which should be read and interpreted within the community of the Church.

I believe Baptism is a seal whereby we die to our old selves and rise to new life in Christ. In the waters of Baptism, God marks us with the gift of the Holy Spirit as God's own and makes us a part of the Body of Christ. I believe Holy Communion is the meal whereby the Church is fed, united, and strengthened by feeding in faith upon Jesus' in remembrance of his death and resurrection.

Through the proclaimed Word of Scripture, the sacraments, and the Church's life of discipleship, I learn who I am as a child of God: I learn about my need to serve God faithfully, to confess my sins, and to worship the God who created, redeemed, and continues to sustain me. I await Christ's victorious return when he will come to bring the fullness of his kingdom, and it is towards this kingdom that my faith is directed.

Journey of Faith
Rev. Rebekah McLeod Hutto

I was raised in the Presbyterian Church by two faithful parents and a wonderful church in Greenville, S.C., St Giles Presbyterian Church. Baptized at a Presbyterian church in Tennessee, my parents only stayed there 18 months before returning to Greenville. In Greenville, St. Giles raised me, nurtured me, and helped form my faith through their love and welcome. When the doors of the church were open, we were there. I was confirmed with 30 other 6th graders by Rev. George Wilkes, and I remember the fellowship and dedication of that entire year. My youth group was active in mission and fellowship, and through the formation of weekly meetings, the Montreat Youth Conferences, and summer mission trips, I developed a deep commitment to the church and its mission. I am blessed to have been confirmed, married, and ordained in the sanctuary of St. Giles.

I felt called to ministry during high school, following a Montreat Youth Conference, and I shared my experience with my parents. I was hesitant, though, to tell many others because I had never seen a woman preach. And growing up in South Carolina, I was surrounded by a culture and friends that did not support female ministers. So I quietly listened to God's call and dove into a variety of experiences that helped me affirm my gifts. While at Wofford College, I participated in both the Methodist and Presbyterian Campus Ministries and was nurtured by two campus pastors, Dottie Metropol and Talmadge Skinner. I volunteered with after school programs and outreach on campus, served two summers at Camp Glisson in Dahlonega, GA, and became very interested in special needs ministry.

At Wofford, I also met my husband, B.J. Hutto, who is an ordained Baptist pastor. He was very vocal with his call story, participated in a wide variety of activities at Wofford, and early on encouraged me to vocalize my call to ministry. Together we enrolled in the pre-ministerial society at Wofford, and during our senior year we toured

seminaries together. I wasn't ready to enroll but after graduation he began at Duke University Divinity School. Consequently, I got a job on campus at Duke. During B.J.'s first academic year, I learned about the seminary, met many fantastic women at Duke, and got involved at First Presbyterian Durham, NC. There, in September 2002, I heard my first ever female preacher, Lori Pistor. I was moved by her message and worship leadership (in her cowboy boots—she's a Texan), and I found myself in tears by the end of the service. Throughout that year, I remained involved at FPC Durham, and they helped me apply to Duke Divinity, from where I earned my MDiv and graduated in 2006.

B.J. and I married in 2004 and loved our time together at Duke Divinity School. We were mentored, shaped, and formed, and we both respected the traditions in which we were raised. We knew that if God called us to ministry and marriage, God would lead us down a series of seasons of life and ministry in both the Baptist and Presbyterian faith.

Following Duke I served as an Associate Pastor at Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC while my husband served as an Associate Pastor at First Baptist Henderson, NC. Together, we learned how to juggle two church schedules, further clarified our calls, and welcomed our daughter Hannah Ruth in 2010. Throughout her first year of life, we were both discerning our calls. B.J. wanted to begin academic studies, and I was feeling a call to focus more on education ministries. I had also begun writing my first children's book, *The Day God Made Church*. During this season B.J. was accepted into a PhD program in the United Kingdom, and I accepted an associate position at Brick Presbyterian Church in the city of New York.

This move was a significant one for our family. We moved much further away from our families into a much different culture than the Southeast, and B.J. became the primary caregiver while I worked intense full-time hours. But the position at Brick matched my gifts for ministry, and I loved the city and the congregation. Our family spent 8 solid years in New York, welcomed our son Elijah in 2015, and both further clarified our

calls. B.J. completed his PhD and served part time at Madison Avenue Baptist Church, another dynamic Manhattan church. I also published my second children's book, *Paul and His Friends*.

Unfortunately, though, Brick Church experienced a downturn in finances during their senior pastor interim, and in July of 2019 my position was eliminated as well as my housing. Our family definitely experienced a crisis of faith and suffered through a very uncomfortable transition. We relocated to Charlotte, NC to be closer to family and discern next steps for both of us in ministry. Our family, Charlotte ministers, and colleagues welcomed us with open arms, and we spent the fall of 2019 through the summer of 2020 being cared for and nurtured so that we could discern our next season. Our family got involved at Myers Park Baptist Church, where B.J. served as Theologian in Residence. In February of 2020 I began as an interim associate at Trinity Presbyterian Church, and during the pandemic and quarantine I fell in love with this church and its mission. I served with them in pastoral care and outreach, and God reminded me of my call to ministry.

During 2019-2020 my husband and I were interviewing with churches (in the midst of a pandemic) and listening for God's call. That call came when my husband accepted the senior pastor position at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church and began there September 1, 2020. In this season of our family life and ministry, I am the primary caregiver, which has a new intensity during the pandemic. Our son has hearing loss and other delays, so I spend a good bit of time advocating for and supporting him. Our daughter is finally returning to school in person, but I have been her teacher at home as she learns virtually. The pandemic makes so many things uncertain, but I feel blessed to be able to care for my children and put down roots here in Jacksonville.

At home with my kids, my call here is in flux. I look forward to writing more children's books and connecting with colleagues in the Presbytery. As a family, we are invested right now at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, but we also look forward to connecting (when it is safe) with new friends and colleagues in the area.