

**COM: Providence Presbytery
Biography**

**Aaron J. White
Thursday, February 11, 2010**

Aaron James White is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Clinton, South Carolina and a Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament under care of Trinity Presbytery. Following his graduation from Clinton High School in 1999, he attended the University of South Carolina, where he majored in Religious Studies and Political Science, prior to receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts in 2003. In 2008, Aaron received his Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education degrees from Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Aaron and his family were members of Mandarin Presbyterian Church, until shortly after they moved to the countryside, outside of Clinton, South Carolina. It was then that they began attending the First Presbyterian Church of Clinton. Aaron developed close bonds to the congregation and, in particular, his peers and mentors in the youth program. Some of his favorite memories from his youth include his annual participation in summer youth mission trips, Youth Sunday worship services, and retreats and conferences in Montreat and Black Mountain, North Carolina. These experiences provided early shape towards Aaron's developing sense of call to ministry.

During Aaron's time in college, he further refined his awareness of GOD's call through his participation in the Columbia chapter of the Presbyterian Student Association (PSA), as well as the Westminster Collegiate Fellowship of South Carolina (WCF). He was honored to serve in a variety of leadership roles in these organizations, serving as PSA's Chairperson of Fellowship and Publicity & Communications committees and as Moderator, as well as WCF's Secretary and Vice-Moderator. Because he felt so connected to the ministry of PSA, Aaron also lived at the Columbia Presbyterian Student Center during his final two years of undergrad, where he worked as the House Manager.

It was also through PSA that Aaron first met his future wife, Kara. Shortly after Aaron graduated, the couple was married at Shandon Presbyterian Church in Clinton, South Carolina. While Kara spent the following year completing her contract with a Columbia television news broadcaster, Aaron made preparations for their move to Richmond, Virginia. Once in Richmond, Kara worked for a Richmond news studio, while Aaron undertook his seminary studies. Aaron loved all of his time in seminary and particularly cherished his internship at Three Chopt Presbyterian Church in Richmond.

A few months after Aaron's graduation from seminary, Kara told him that she was expecting the couple's son, for whom they had long planned and prayed. On June 16, 2009, Aaron and Kara welcomed Owen Thomas into the world. When Kara returned to work, the new parents decided that Aaron would stay home with Owen, while he continued to search for his first ordained call.

On Wednesday, January 13, 2010, Aaron's search came to an end, when he accepted a call to the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church. As he looks forward to his first call, Aaron is also grateful for Kara's years of support and for the chance that she will have to be home with Owen. Aaron is excited about the joys and challenges that await him, and he continues to pray for GOD's will to be revealed to him and to his new congregation, as they prepare for their shared future in ministry.

I believe in One God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. My God, relates to me through these three distinct persons while being of one essence. I affirm the truth that the Son was begotten of the Father, while the Holy Spirit proceeds forth from the Father and the Son.

My knowledge of God comes through the reading and hearing of God's word in Holy Scripture. Scripture is the unique and authoritative means by which God is made known to me through the divinely inspired recording of God's self-revelation. My ability to interpret God's word is reliant on the Holy Spirit's revelation of Scripture.

Through Scripture, I have come to know that the God, who created me, is Creator of all that is. Like all of creation, I am a good creature. I was created, so that my life might be one of service, for the glorification of God. My existence is continually dependent on the sustained involvement of God in the act of creation.

I have also come to know that God is the judge of the whole world. While I am an inherently good creation of God, I also acknowledge that I am a member of the intrinsically sinful human race. I have a personal share in the guilt of all humans who have broken the covenant, through which I have been called to be faithful to God. Because of my sin, God is just in condemning me to suffer death as a consequence of my guilt. Because of the magnitude of my guilt, there is nothing that I can do to achieve reconciliation between God and myself.

But in God's mercy, the Father sent His Son to the world. The Son, who is the pre-incarnate Word of God, dwelt among us in the incarnate form of Jesus Christ. While Jesus lived without sin, he suffered the punishment of death on behalf of me and all of sinful humanity. I know that, in taking this punishment upon himself, Jesus willingly served as the means of atonement between God and me. In this way, God achieved reconciliation when I was unable to do so.

In Christ's act of salvation, I know that I have been justified by grace through faith. The faith which I possess is not my own. It has been brought about through the work of God's Holy Spirit, which dwells within me. Through this faith, I have certain knowledge that I have been counted as righteous. I further know that my justification serves as the footing for my sanctification.

The same Spirit, which forms my faith, calls me to live as a witness to the salvation which has been accomplished in Jesus Christ. In sanctification, the righteousness which has been imputed upon me continually shapes my life so that I am reoriented to pursue the will of God. This reorientation leads me to hope for the future fulfillment of God's covenant promise. I look toward the day when my transformation will culminate in my own bodily resurrection. Like the resurrected body of Christ, my body shall be made immortal by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As I await the realization of God's will, I know that God calls me to gather with other members of the body of Christ. The church is the community of believers throughout every time and place. We are charged with the mission of sharing the Gospel message with the whole world, until the time that Christ returns.

In gathering for worship, we continue Christ's ministry through the reading and proclamation of Scripture, the offering of prayer, and the celebration of the sacraments. The sacraments serve as outward signs of God's inward grace. In baptism, I was marked as a recipient of God's grace and love. As a member of the new covenant, established in Christ, I was claimed as God's own. In receiving the Lord's Supper, I join in the communion of the whole church as we remember Christ's sacrificial death and give thanks for the salvation that God provides to all who believe.

May all glory, praise, and honor be given to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
Amen.