

Michael York

Statement of Biographical Journey

I was born, baptized, and grew up in the church. Many of my fondest childhood memories are of enjoying church picnics, attending worship services, and sitting in the corner of a choir room waiting for my mom on a Wednesday night. By third grade I was searching through the hymnal (during the sermon) and making a list of songs I wanted to sing for the next hymn-fest. By fifth grade I was singing in the adult choir. I guess that was less distracting to the preacher.

In middle school I attended church camp and began to discover who God was and who God was calling me to be. One year at camp I was asked to read Matthew 5 to the whole camp for the morning devotions. At that moment, I realized Scripture has a mysterious power. Later, Matthew 5 was the foundation for a sermon I preached on “Youth” Sunday at my home church when I was a senior in high school. When I preached that sermon, I realized that God might be calling me to some sort of work in the church.

Over the next several years, I would try to balance my love of music and my love of the church. I majored in Music Education at Presbyterian College and was part of Celtic Cross, a church leadership program for the PCUSA. After college, I taught high school chorus and drama and was the part-time youth director 1st Presbyterian Church in Hartsville, SC. After my first year of teaching, I realized that working with the youth in the school system was great, but I missed the opportunity to talk to them about faith. At that point, with the encouragement of my pastor/mentor and church family, I decided to answer the call to seminary.

While in seminary I completed several internships that strengthened my call to ministry. Most recently I have served as an Associate Pastor for a large congregation working with youth and their families. I feel God has called me, and by the Holy Spirit I am strengthened and encouraged to work in Christ’s church. I give thanks to God for his presence in my life and for his many blessings, most especially for, Erin, my wife and partner in ministry.