

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Pastoral Experience

Interim Associate Pastor
First Presbyterian Church. Sarasota, FL
January-September 2016

Interim Pastor and Head of Staff
Black Mountain Presbyterian Church
June 2014 - April 2015

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
First Presbyterian Church. Asheville, NC
2006-2013

Interim Pastor (Solo)
First Presbyterian Church. Plainsboro, NJ
August 2000 to June 2002

Education

Program in Spiritual Direction
Haden Institute. Mt. Carmel, Ontario
Sept 2012-May 2014

Interim Ministry Training
Interim Ministry Network. Montreat, NC
2000

Master of Divinity
Princeton Theological Seminary. 2000

Bachelor of Arts
Davidson College. 1983

Other Experience

- Married with two children (born in 1990 and 1993)
- Copywriting and editing position for an academic publishing house
- Contributor to each volume of Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion (John Knox Press)
- Summer Liturgy Writer, Montreat Conference Center, Summer of 2014 and Summer of 2010

Introducing Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Interim Pastor and Head of Staff

The Transition Team, serving as the interim pastor nominating committee, is excited to announce that Session has approved the call of **The Reverend Margaret LaMotte Torrence** to fill the position of Interim Pastor and Head of Staff of University Presbyterian Church - and she said, "Yes!" Her first day with us will be **September 5, 2017**. She comes to us not as a stranger, but as a child of God who has given many years of faithful service to the Presbyterian Church. We are pleased to provide this written introduction, and encourage you to reach out and connect with Margaret as she joins us during this important Interim Time at UPC.

A Word from Margaret...

"I am delighted by the prospect of becoming your interim pastor beginning in September. In my conversations with your Transition Team and your program staff my overwhelming impression from all is that you are a community that has been extraordinarily blessed. That suggests to me that God expects a great deal from you. I so look forward to the season we are about to share.

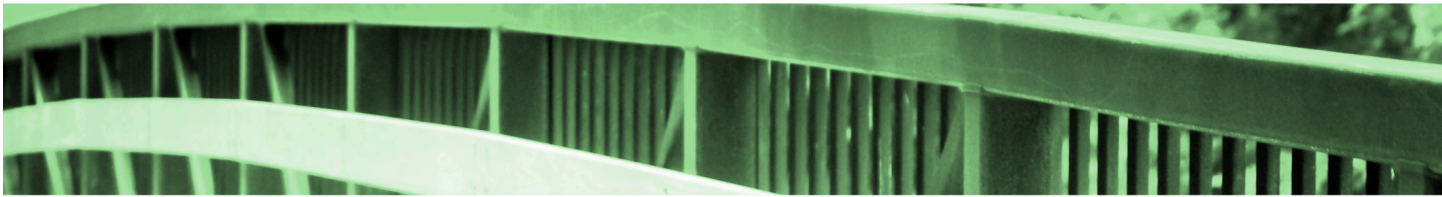
I want to say from the outset that interim times can be times of excitement, and energy, and all kinds of new learning. Few of us look forward to times of transition in our lives, but when we look back on those times, often we find that some of our best learning – our best growing – came from those times, when things felt a bit unsettled, and we had some new decisions to make.

"I felt we were definitely led by the HAND and SPIRIT of GOD throughout our search and discernment for an interim and I believe Margaret has felt the call of God to be with us during this time. Margaret brings a deep spirituality and sense of God's presence and purpose for the world today. Her sermons are rich and thought-provoking. She showed great care in learning all she could about our staff and will be a tremendous support for them. The congregation will feel well loved and cared for. She is careful to listen and to lead from that listening.
- **Betsy Edwards**, elder and Transition Team member

"Margaret is an awesome relationship builder, staff supporter, excellent preacher, and incredible poet. I am convinced UPC would be thrilled to have her. She preaches at depths a university community would be enriched by. She's very bright and can go deep theologically, which will help stretch the congregation. I think she would be a breath of fresh air.
- **Rev. Dr. Pete Peery**, former Pastor and Head of Staff, First Presbyterian Church of Asheville

The interim season offers us a chance to take a fresh look in the mirror, and a fresh look in the neighborhood, and listen for the ways that our particular story is echoed in the larger story of God's way in the world. One of the deepest convictions of our faith is that we are blessed to be a blessing. And so in the months to come, it will be our privilege together to consider the particular shape of the blessing you know, and listen for the ways that God may be calling you to inhabit that blessing in the world. The work we will do together will prepare you to discern the kind of leadership that you need for the next chapter of the story that God is writing even now in Chapel Hill. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to come and share this time with you. I will be praying for you in the intervening weeks and will welcome your prayers in return. See you in September!"

Margaret



Margaret and husband Lee

Transition Team Members

Jim Baxley

Kathy Clemmons

Betsy Edwards

Dave Moreau (chair)

Mary Ellen Olson

Sarah Owen

Elizabeth Michael (staff)

Scott Singleton

Brian Vandersea

From Margaret's Statement of Faith: "I trust that the same God who called to the child Samuel, provided for the stranger Ruth, brought life from aged Sarah, and knit once hapless disciples into the body of Christ, continues to seek, nourish, and send the Church today. By the stirring of the Holy Spirit, God comes to us in the most ordinary circumstances: in the wonder of creation, in the "otherness" of strangers, in the friction and ease of life together. As we wrestle with scripture, are washed at the font and fed at the table, and then loose our peculiar offerings in the world, God makes more of us than we ever imagined we might be.

The Presbyterian Church is home to me; it is the family that loved me into life. Though we can be a fractious and distracted community, I am convinced that God wastes no offering we bring in trust. When we are most faithful, we come expectantly to scripture, hoping to encounter the Living Word in ancient words. We remember that discernment and the exercise of power are shared responsibilities, and that the Spirit's leading often comes from beyond comfortable centers of power. We are engaged in the world in solidarity with all who suffer, and we challenge each other to be faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to our care. I am grateful for the witness and the love I have known in this corner of Christ's church."

What Comes Next Between moving and preparing for the call, it will be a busy summer for Margaret! With an anticipated starting date of September 5th, Margaret will work with the program staff to determine an appropriate onboarding process, including introductory meetings with staff, Session, and the entire congregation.

Margaret's plan will be to join the Congregational Retreat September 8-10. Her first Sunday in the pulpit is planned for September 17th.

As we move into the Fall, Margaret will also assist Session and staff in developing a plan to conduct a Mission Study, which will include forming a team for that purpose. For more information, please visit <http://UPCCH.org> online for the latest updates.

Margaret has exhibited a deep Christian commitment that has been manifest in her preaching in a way that draws people sensitively into a fresh hearing of scripture and the bearing of the Christian message on daily living.
- **Rev. Dr. Cameron Murchison**,
Current Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Western North Carolina (WNC)

Humility, thoughtfulness, depth, wisdom, spirituality and heart: these are words I readily associate with Margaret. I am impressed by the depths of her preaching and of her care for others. The staff is overjoyed to be gaining her strong faith, bright mind, tender heart, and easy collegiality. Margaret offers willing testimony to a strong sense of call to UPC; the Transition Team could not have agreed more.
- **Elizabeth Michael**
Interim Associate Pastor

After meeting Margaret and speaking with her one on one, I just want to add to the chorus of my colleagues--she is richly gifted! Her pastoral ways and attentiveness were evident right away. She clearly did her homework and had spent time familiarizing herself with each staff member. I was amazed that she was able to go around naming each of us when we gathered together first thing! With her passions in preaching and pastoral care, I think she is just the person the Spirit is sending us for this season.
- **Kate Fiedler**
Associate Pastor for Adult Ministries