

# MEET OUR TEMPORARY ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY



Berry French is first and foremost a follower of Jesus Christ. He has long articulated that the heart of his call to ministry lies in mentoring young people. Berry is beyond thrilled to join us in ministry here at University Presbyterian Church and especially among the students at Presbyterian Campus Ministry. He is a native of Lumberton, North Carolina where he was raised at First Presbyterian Church. He attended the University of North Carolina, graduating in 2003 with degrees in both Economics and Recreation and Leisure Studies. But between freshman dorm move-in and donning a cap and gown, he found a home here at PCM.

After two years of camp and conference ministry and extensive international travel in Central America and Africa, Berry discerned a call to ministry and attended Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond. From there, he has served as an associate pastor at both White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh as well as Black Mountain Presbyterian Church near Montreat. In 2017, Berry and Katie, their daughter Aubry and son Will embarked on a two-year journey sailing through the Caribbean and the North American Eastern Seaboard, visiting 12 Caribbean countries in their own 43' sailboat from Grenada to Maine.

After serving briefly as Interim Associate Pastor in Greer, SC, he is now ready for the next chapter in ministry here with us and with the students of PCM. He will begin work on August 5th, just in time for the students' return to campus. His enthusiasm, welcoming spirit, ability to quickly connect with individuals and groups, and theological depth will be a gift to our PCM students and UPC family. He loves the outdoors, hiking, camping, biking, gardening, and playing outside with his kids. Please give Berry a warm welcome any way that you can when he arrives.



## A MESSAGE FROM BERRY

UPC family, I am thrilled to be joining you as your Campus Minister! As a PCM alumnus, I know the long-lasting and potentially life-altering impact that PCM has on the lives of students, and I look forward to leading this vibrant ministry. My own life has been shaped by my experiences through PCM, and I look forward to leading and supporting our students as they explore and expand their faith during their college years.

Mentoring students in following Jesus has long been my passion for ministry, and I clearly felt God calling me to this ministry to work with college and graduate students and work alongside such exceptional staff at UPC. My ministry style has always been relational, so investing my energy and gifts in students individually and as a PCM family excites me, even as I anticipate the anxiety many students and families must be feeling as they prepare for a semester in such uncertainty.

It is certainly a strange time to begin a new ministry, but I feel confident that together the student Leadership Team, PCM Board, and I will be able to support, encourage, and nurture the students who already have a home at PCM as well as the new students who God will lead to us in the coming academic year. Thankfully, several of the current PCM students have known me as their youth pastor and I have known your clergy and program staff for years, so I am confident that I will be able to hit the ground running in early August. I look forward to meeting you and being a part of your church family.