

**The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is  
pleased to recommend that UPC call**

## **Rev. Berry French**



**as  
Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry**

**UNIVERSITY**  
  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

  
*believe. belong. become.*  
UNC - Chapel Hill Est. 1953

# About The French Family

The French family just relocated from Black Mountain, NC to Carrboro. They are excited to be here and engage in our family of faith.

Katie grew up in Orlando and earned her B.S. from the University of Florida in 2004 and her MBA from Kenan Flagler Business School in 2011. Berry and Katie lived in Durham together when first married and spent much of the past decade in Black Mountain, NC. Katie has worked in various management positions and is currently a senior consultant at Summit Search Solutions, a boutique executive search firm for higher education and nonprofits. Katie was the captain of Frenchie, the French family's 43 foot monohull sailboat (ketch) for 2017-2019 sailing over 6,000 nautical miles from SC to Grenada to Maine and back to NC.



Aubry is a creative 4th grader at Carrboro Elementary School who loves reading, camping, swimming, music, and art. Will is an energetic and imaginative 1st grader who loves fishing (all types), biking, and the trampoline.

Maggie is their well-loved 1.5-year-old Black Lab who helps keep Berry in shape with lots of trail runs.

## About Berry

### Education:

- B.S. in Economics and Recreation & Leisure Studies, *University of North Carolina, 2003*
- M.Div, *Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond), 2008*

### Experience:

- Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults, *White Memorial Presbyterian Church (Raleigh)*
- Associate Pastor for Mission, Youth, & Young Adults, *Black Mountain Presbyterian Church*
- 2017-2019 sailing as a family through the Caribbean and the North American Eastern Seaboard
- Interim Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults, *First Presbyterian Greer, SC*
- Temporary Campus Minister, *University Presbyterian Church*



**Interests:** the outdoors: hiking, camping, biking, gardening, playing with his kids, and trail runs with their dog, Maggie.

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# From Berry

UPC, I am thrilled to be joining this incredibly gifted staff and healthy congregation as we seek to follow Jesus and serve God together. I have been privileged to become reacquainted with UPC over this past year while serving in the temporary position. As a college student, UPC and PCM welcomed me in and God used PCM and UPC to shape my calling to ministry. I am deeply honored to lead one of the flagship Campus Ministry programs in the PCUSA.

**PCM is a vibrant ministry** that God has used to deepen the faith of literally thousands of college students through the decades, and I am humbled to stand in line with the campus ministers who have led this innovative ministry. It has been a gift to walk alongside the students this past year, and I am energized and encouraged to begin another academic year.

The PCM Board and the PCM Student Leadership Team have been hard at work over the past year pivoting to respond to the needs of our students and continuing to provide the spiritual home to the students who find their primary community in PCM. I am honored to work alongside our PCM Board and Student Leadership Team **as we follow God's calling to new and exciting college ministry**, including launching our Pastoral Resident program to train new campus ministers.

My life and my faith have been shaped by mentors along my journey, and my calling to Campus Ministry grows out of **a sense of call to mentor the next generation in the ways of Jesus and offering a spiritual path that students can hold onto for decades to come**, even after departing Carolina for a lifelong spiritual journey that continues to expand.

My work with the Congregational Life Committee and the Young Adults at UPC has been life-giving, and we will continue to imagine new ways God is calling us to be community and to disciple young adults.

I look forward to serving as your pastor, and as I vowed when ordained, **I promise to serve this congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.**

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# Berry's Statement of Faith

I believe in the one Triune God, who exists in perfect relationship: Parent, Son, and Spirit. Our only hope in life and in death is through the creating and creative initiative of God, the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ, and the joyful communion of the Holy Spirit.

I believe God called all things into being. God created them good. God created humanity in God's own image. God graciously and lovingly sustains the whole creation. I believe God calls us to treat each other with dignity and respect, caring for all of God's children and caring for God's creation.


God is revealed to us through the Bible and through the person of Jesus Christ, Word made flesh. I believe that the Christian Bible – both the Old and New Testaments – is the authoritative word of God and is the guide to Christian faith. I believe all of us have turned away from God, as individuals and as a society, in thought and in deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Despite this brokenness, God loves us still.

I believe in Jesus Christ, who came as fully human and fully divine to dwell among us and redeem us. Jesus proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God here on earth, healed the sick and broken, preached release to the captives, called for the repentance of sinners, and offered grace to all. Jesus set an example of faithful living in relationship with and in God. Jesus was condemned by the religious and civil authorities and the cries of the crowd and was crucified. Yet, God's love and grace abounded; God raised Jesus from the dead – demonstrating that neither humanity's rejection nor death itself has the power to keep God's love from us. I believe that in his birth, life, teachings, death, and resurrection, Christ Jesus restored a right relation between a sinful humanity and God, giving hope to a life ever after.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who justifies us by grace through faith. God's Spirit comes to us renewing and sustaining us, inspiring us and allowing us faith and grace, bringing us into the truth of God. I believe the Spirit claims us in the waters of baptism and nourishes us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation through the Lord's Supper. The same Spirit calls each of us towards a life of faith and inspires us to deeper faith through Scripture.

I believe we are called to respond to God's love and grace with a life of gratitude, praise, and humble service to others. Out of a response of God's love, we are called to live lives of faith and to gather as a community of faith to proclaim the full gospel of Christ Jesus, acknowledging our dependence on God's grace and love, celebrate the sacraments, and to reach out in love and care for those in need – the hungry, thirsty, lonely, sick, and broken.

I join with believers in every time and place rejoicing that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.





# What Others Say About Berry

"We are blessed at UPC to have Berry working and walking alongside us as Campus Minister and Associate Pastor. Among many skills and attributes, **Berry excels at the personalized and relational ministries** that are critical for college students who seek to believe, belong, and become. Berry has also already proven to be **a passionate, energetic, and visionary pastor** who is working to support and amplify God's stirrings in this place."

*Scott Singleton, PCM Board Member*

"Berry was a **phenomenal temporary Campus Minister for the PCM Community**.

So much so, that I think many forgot that he was filling a temporary position because of how seamlessly he flowed with the group. He is a **graceful leader** who gives space for students to have a voice....We are so lucky to have him as our new Campus Minister!"

*Jamie Cummings, APNC Member & PCM Student*

"I think Berry has never met a stranger. I was immediately struck by **his warmth and curiosity**. Those are important traits for working with UNC students, many of whom are feeling the pressures of school and trying to carve identities separate from their families of origin....I'm also impressed by the time and energy Berry devoted as temporary campus minister to **exploring how UPC and PCM can guide the development of campus ministry for the Presbyterian church nationwide**."

*John Blythe, APNC Member*

"Berry possesses an incredible energy and enthusiasm for campus ministry....He seems to have found just the right balance in supporting and guiding the students while respecting their autonomy and ability to plan and lead worship and programming. Our committee was inspired by his **enthusiastic acceptance** of all who want to be part of the PCM community and his commitment to cultivating a fully welcoming atmosphere for our diverse campus community....**His fun-loving and adventurous spirit will be a gift** to PCM and to our congregation!"

*Alison Kavanaugh, APNC Member*

"**Berry cares deeply about forming intentional, welcoming community**, and his enthusiasm, care, and **genuine connections** will continue to serve PCM and UPC in endlessly beneficial ways as students and congregation members alike seek to grow in their faith and relationships."

*Kim Rubish, PCM Resident*

"**I was so impressed by Berry**...I was particularly impressed by the way **he took time to follow up** on a question I had about communication to a new student who would possibly be interested in joining PCM. I feel the current and future students will be fortunate to have Berry help them along their spiritual path!"

*Mary Bozyski, APNC Member*



## **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee**

John Blythe  
Mary Bozyski  
Scott Buck  
Aaron Cook  
Jamie Cummings  
Alison Kavanaugh

