

THE REV. HEATHER WOODWORTH BRANNON

<https://www.revheather.com/>

Objective: To serve God and love my neighbor. Effective and flexible leader, whether preaching, empowering, advocating, partnering, or teaching. Energetic, hopeful, compassionate, and creative, dedicated to building relationships and seeking justice for all of God's children.

Education

Emory University, Graduate Department of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia
PhD Candidate in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, ABD, 2019–2020

Ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament: December 6, 2020
New Hope Presbytery, Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, North Carolina

Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Virginia
M.Div., 2016–2019

Johns Hopkins University, Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, Maryland
M.M. Computer Music Research, 2010
M.M. Musicology (Music History), 2010
B.M. Clarinet Performance, 2008

Employment History

Interim/Transitional Pastor and Head of Staff, Bellmore Presbyterian Church, Bellmore, New York. Presbytery of Long Island (2025-current)
Suburban, bedroom community of NYC, 250 member congregation, 5 church staff
Leading the congregation through a transitional period following the retirement of their long-time pastor of 34 years
Developing a new mission/vision statement/strategic plan, completing a mission study, and laying the foundation for the incoming installed pastor
Conducting an overall assessment of the church's operations and implementing revitalization strategies, especially around stewardship, communication, staffing needs, technology, membership, worship, outreach, and education

Pastor and Head of Staff, Wyoming Presbyterian Church, Millburn, New Jersey. Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey (2021–2024)
Suburban, bedroom community of NYC, 250 member congregation, 5 church staff/12 nursery school staff
50 new members joined the church within the last two years (mostly young families with children)
Raised funds for two capital campaigns, totaling over \$350,000
Led strategic planning initiative to discern WPC's mission and vision for the future
Created a Social Issues Task Force to discern a united way forward for the church to respond to challenging social issues

Celebrated WPC's 150th Anniversary with a series of community events and mission outreach projects
Restructured staffing and implemented new financial model to support current and future ministry needs

PhD Graduate Teaching Assistant, Emory University, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia (2019–2020)

Provided academic support to M. Div., M.T.S., M.A., and D. Min. graduate students
Taught Master's level classes: Introduction to Old Testament, Introduction to Preaching and Worship, Hebrew
Mentored seminarians/early career clergy

Chaplain (CPE), University of North Carolina Rex Hospital, Raleigh, North Carolina (2018)

Provided spiritual care for patients, families, and staff
Collaborated with medical staff to ensure optimal care
Led worship and educational opportunities

Pastoral Intern, Bon Air Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia (2017–18)

Diverse, suburban community, multi-clergy staff, 300 members
Assembled and led worship services each week (liturgist, preacher)
Taught adult education biblical courses and workshops
Moderated and assembled committees, session
Assisted with financial and logistical administration, including capital campaign
Provided weekly pastoral care visitation
Led interfaith and social justice events in collaboration with city officials and clergy

Pastoral Scholar in Residence, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia (2016–2017)

Urban, historic church, multi-clergy staff, 350 members
Taught adult and youth biblical courses and workshops
Assembled and led worship services
Collaborated with community leaders and city officials to promote educational outreach

Children's Choir Director, Assistant Music Director, Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, North Carolina (2012–2016)

Suburban community, multi-clergy staff, 1200 members
Directed weekly choir/handbell rehearsals and worship services
Significantly grew the membership of ensembles
Collaborated with pastoral staff and children's ministry

Music Teacher, Head of Arts Department,
The Montessori School of Raleigh, North Carolina (2010–2016)

Oversaw a department of a dozen faculty members
Collaborated with faculty on curriculum planning, lessons, and evaluations
Produced concerts and classroom productions
Sought out guest artists and opportunities for community outreach
Fundraised for new performing arts center
Acquired resources for music program within annual budget

Served on admissions, hiring, and professional development committees, including leading workshops, small group discussions, and educational opportunities for adults

Professional Orchestral Musician/Soloist (Clarinet) (2004–current)

Performed hundreds of concerts/recitals and toured internationally with major orchestras and ensembles

Taught private lessons, including at the Peabody Preparatory and at the Baltimore School for the Arts

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Computer Music Department,
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland (2008–2010)**

Taught master’s level introductory courses in computer science

Administered departmental web server and website

Produced and promoted concerts of student works

Coordinated logistical arrangements with guest artists

Greater Church Involvement

Committee on Ministry (COM), Presbytery of Long Island (2025–current)

Oversee churches, serving as a liaison and support on behalf of the Presbytery. Member of the Conflict Resolution/Reconciliation team that helps churches navigate crises and challenges.

**Committee on Ministry (COM), Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey: Church Liaison +
Administration Team Member (2022–2024) + Moderator of Transition Team (2024–2025)**

Oversaw churches, serving as a liaison and support on behalf of the Presbytery. Worked to update administrative documents, including presbytery policies, procedures, and HR.

Transition Team: Supported congregations in transition, worked with mission studies and Pastor Nominating Committees, advised congregations on staffing model changes and conflict.

Vision Team, Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey (2024–2025)

Collaborated with a team to lead a strategic planning effort to discern the purpose of the new presbytery and its vision for how best to support congregations.

Property Transfer Task Force, Chair, Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey (2023–2025)

Helped dissolving churches determine how to continue their vital ministry in the community and responsibly sell their property to developers, with the intent on building affordable housing, mixed use spaces, and worship/community centers.

**Synod Assembly Commissioner for the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey, Synod of the
Northeast Annual Meeting (Albany, NY; 2024–2025)**

Continuing Education

Interim Training, The Art of Transitional Ministry

Part I (Jan–March 2025), TMEC, Transitional Ministry Pathways

Part II (March 2026), Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Center for Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary (2024)
Pastoral Excellence Ministering to Ministers Retreat, Eagle Eyrie Conference Center,
Lynchburg, VA

Stewardship Kaleidoscope Finance Conference, Minneapolis, MN (2023)
Received a Presbyterian Foundation Church Financial Leadership Grant

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Workshops (2021, 2022)
Conflict Management Training for Churches
Facilitating Healthy Pastor-Congregation Relations

Credo Conference, PC(USA) Board of Pensions Pastoral Wellness Retreat (2022, 2023, current)
Richmond, VA / Little Rock, AR
Annual clergy retreat across the US

Montreat Women's Connection Conference, Montreat, NC (2022, 2023)

Silver Bay Spiritual Life Center, Pastoral Respite Retreat, Lake George, NY (2021–2026)

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), University of North Carolina Rex Hospital, Raleigh, North
Carolina (2018)

Selected Community Service

Member of the Millburn Short Hills Interfaith Clergy Coalition (2021–2024)
Partnered with Township Counsel, Board of Education, Superintendent, and Police/Fire
Department on community-wide projects and social issues

Citizen Advisory Committee on Affordable Housing, Millburn Township (2024)
Member of the local government committee that advised and made recommendations to
the Township Committee on the Township's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

Boy Scouts, Troop 5 Maplewood (NJ), Public Relations Chair (2022–2024)

Millburn Township Beautification League, Board Member (2023–2024)

Faculty Committee on Academic Programs, Student Body Representative
Union Presbyterian Seminary (2018–19)

Richmond Student Government Association, Union Presbyterian Seminary (2016–18)
Clerk, Commuter Student Representative

RISC (Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Community)
Advocate for affordable housing, health insurance, and education (2016–2019)

STEP Richmond (Strategies to Elevate People)

Tutored elementary children, employment mentor to women experiencing homelessness (2016–2018)

Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, North Carolina (2010–2016)

Member of Chancel Choir, Handbell Ensemble

Served on Children’s Committee, Worship Arts Committee (ex-officio)

Taught and coordinated Elementary/Youth Sunday School, Children’s Sermon

Served on Stop Hunger Now planning committee to raise \$25,000 and package 100,000 meals

Kairos Torch Prison Ministry (2015–2016)

Served as a team leader and mentor to youthful offenders

Habitat for Humanity (2010–2016)

Helped build residences for deserving families

Publications/Scholarship

The Presbyterian Outlook, regular contributing author (2022–current)

“‘[God] set infinity in their mind’: Qohelet’s Quest to Comprehend the Incomprehensible,” in the book *Seeking Wisdom’s Depths and Torah’s Heights: Essays in Honor of Samuel E. Balentine* (Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 2020).

Book review of Walter Brueggemann, *Materiality as Resistance: Five Elements of Moral Action in the Real World* (2020), The Presbyterian Outlook (June 2020).

Book review of Russell E. Meek and David J. H. Beldman, *A Classified Bibliography on Ecclesiastes* (2019), Journal of Interpretation (January 2021).

Invited Public Speaking Opportunities

The Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Samuel E. Balentine Festschrift Session (2020)

The Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting Paper, Wisdom and Apocalypticism section, San Diego, CA (2019): “[God] set infinity in their mind” (Eccl 3:11b): Qohelet’s Quest to Comprehend the Incomprehensible

Invited Guest Preacher, Massanetta Springs Bible Conference, Massanetta Springs Conference Center, VA (2019)

Invited Social Justice Speaker, Nehemiah Action Interfaith Event (1,000 people in attendance) for Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Our Communities (RISC), Richmond, VA (2019)

Awards & Honors

Presbyterian Foundation Church Financial Leadership Grant (2023)

Full Tuition Scholarship and PhD Stipend, Graduate Department of Religion,
Emory University (2019–2024)

The Hammond Award for Excellence in Preaching and Worship, Union Presbyterian Seminary
(2019)

The Sallie Shepherd Perkins Graduate Fellowship for Superior Academic Achievement, Union
Presbyterian Seminary (2019)

The Percy and Virginia Keffer Scholarship for Ministerial Students, Union Presbyterian
Seminary (2019)

Presbyterian Church (USA) Graduate Book Award (2019)

Presbyterian Church (USA) Study Grant (2017–19)

Full Tuition Promise for Parish Ministry Scholarship, Union Presbyterian Seminary
(2016–2019)

Pi Kappa Lambda Honorary Music Society, Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University
(2010)

Technology Research Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University Center for Educational Resources
(2009)

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Full Tuition Scholarship, Johns Hopkins University
(2008–2010)

The Irving Lowens and Margery Morgan Lowens Prize for Musicology (2008)

Provost Undergraduate Research Award, Johns Hopkins University (2007)

References

Available Upon Request