

4. LIST THE 10 PRIMARY SKILL CHOICES FROM THE PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM:

Communication – Written and Oral

Hospital and Emergency Visitation

Congregational Fellowship

Pastoral Care

Congregational Home Visitation

Preaching

Corporate Worship and Administration of the Sacraments

Spiritual Development

Group Process Facilitation

Teaching

5. FORMAL EDUCATION (List most recent first)

Institution	City/State	Major	Dates	Degree
Columbia Theological Seminary	Decatur, GA	Early Elementary Education	07/07 to 05/10	M. Div.
Berry College	Mt. Berry, GA		08/74 to 05/78	B.S.

6. SEMINARY HONORS/SCHOLARSHIPS/LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

I earned Merit Scholarships each year of seminary.

7. GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS:

None

8. BRIEFLY INTRODUCE YOURSELF:

One important aspect of my personal and cultural background which impacts my pastoral identity is that I am a first-born child of four children – one sister and two brothers. As a ‘big sister’ I learned to share my things early in life and developed a sense of responsibility to help others and protect those who are weaker and/or younger. Even in elementary school I was praised by a teacher for my compassion in befriending a new girl in my class. My dependability, self initiative, trustworthiness and compassion for others are gifts from this part of my personal history.

Second, I am a life long Presbyterian. I was baptized as an infant in the church where many of my family members were elders, teachers and leaders and made my profession of faith in the congregation where my family and I had been active for many years. Though I did take some side journeys into the Methodist church as a teenager for a couple of years I have always retained my membership in the Presbyterian Church and have found my spiritual home there. I have participated in many areas of the worship, work and service of my home congregation of First Presbyterian in Douglasville, GA and it was there that God brought me to the place of hearing his call to ministry.

I am also a life long learner; my love of learning led me to seek a degree in education which I achieved. I spent three years teaching elementary school before discerning that was not my calling. I then began working in the corporate world and I left teaching for a while. Several years later, I became a member of the church in Douglasville and my love of learning and teaching were rekindled. I participated in the Bethel Bible series for a period of about two years and then began to teach and lead in a variety of ways in that congregation. As I look back over that time I can see how God provided the opportunities, the learning partners and the growth I needed to bring me to this point in my journey with him.

Most recently, I have worked as a hospital chaplain at Atlanta Medical Center where God provided me with further learning and growing opportunities. My ministry there brought me face-to-face with the challenges of violence, tragedy, death and the messiness of interpersonal relationships and sometimes challenged my theology and my sense of call. But, though the work was often very difficult and sad, I frequently found God profoundly present in my encounters with patients and staff and marveled at the ways in which people’s faith in God sustained them and gave them the courage to make the life-and-death decisions many were asked to make. In the end, my experiences as a hospital chaplain reaffirmed my gifts for ministry and my confidence in God’s call on my life to minister in his name, especially in the areas of pastoral care, teaching and discipleship.