

Pastoral Candidate, Carrie E. Yearick

Carrie Yearick is a Presbyterian pastor with an outgoing personality coupled with a team-oriented management style that reflects her background in both theology and social work.

Born into a family of seven children, she grew up outside Orlando, FL. Carrie was nurtured by close-knit community ties that stressed the importance of faith and service.

A Presbyterian since her early youth, Carrie never considered serving as a pastor until she was an undergraduate student of psychology at Wingate University in Wingate, NC. There she realized that she could marry her interests in counseling and spirituality through ordination.

After receiving her undergraduate degree in 1984, Carrie obtained a master's degree in divinity in 1987 from Duke University, Durham, NC. Two years later, she earned a second master's from Duke in theology. This time her focus was on pastoral psychology/preaching. Carrie also served during this period as chaplain at Duke Medical Center, where she provided pastoral care to patients in a 120-bed pediatric ward.

Following her ordination in September 1988, Carrie's first ministerial post allowed her to pursue another longstanding interest: helping churches achieve growth. From 1989-90, she served as interim solo redevelopment pastor at Pinewood Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro, NC (90 members). From 1990-'92, she served as a supply pastor to churches in the New Hope and Salem presbyteries of North Carolina.

Carrie's next career move came in the secular world. She found an opportunity to help people in a direct way that she found compelling. From 1992-'98, she served as program director/instructor for the Human Services Technology Program at Piedmont Community College, Roxboro, NC. This job enabled Carrie to pursue counseling and teaching. She also fine-tuned her management and networking skills. The college recognized Carrie's service with two "Teacher of the Year" awards. Carrie also worked with two

small churches in the area during this period. In both her secular and religious roles, Carrie's focus centered on program development, growth and fellowship.

Meanwhile, the call to full-time ministry exerted a strong pull on Carrie. In 1998, she and her husband Bill relocated to Fairfax, VA, where she was named associate pastor at Fairfax Presbyterian Church. Carrie's duties at this 700-member church included preaching, pastoral care and organizing church volunteers. The youth program she oversaw grew from 16 to 75 participants. She also expanded the deacon's organization and instituted a communion program for homebound church members. Carrie has led Fairfax youth and adults on 12 mission trips to destinations ranging from Mexico to Michigan.

Carrie has continued to pursue her interest in church redevelopment by participating at the presbytery level in the "Transforming Congregations Project." This initiative is designed to help churches reach out to young people, families with children and others. In 2004, she received a three-month sabbatical grant from the Eli Lilly Foundation to study church redevelopment across the United States.

On a personal note, Carrier enjoys volleyball, hiking, baking and scrapbooking. She and Bill have been married for 21 years.

In accepting RPC's nomination to serve as our new pastor, Carrie said she expects to apply some of the lessons she's learned about dynamic and growing congregations to this new opportunity in ministry. She'll begin by working closely with RPC members to build relationships and carefully assess what steps are needed to enhance both programs and spiritual life at RPC. At the same time, she'll begin reaching out to the community and to prospective new members. Carrie's experience in counseling as well as ministry has convinced her of the importance of working with people of diverse viewpoints in order to move forward on common goals. Members can look forward to a period of introspection and fresh ideas as Carrie draws on her faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as well as her pastoral and leadership skills to help RPC achieve its true potential.