

Journey of Faith

Brian Christopher Coulter

My name is Brian Christopher Coulter. I am married to my amazing wife (Megan) and we have two beautiful daughters (Annabel and Paige). I received my undergraduate degree (B.A.) in sociology from Oklahoma State University, my masters (M.Div.) from Columbia Theological Seminary, and my doctorate (D.Min.) from McCormick Theological Seminary through the Association of Chicago Theological Schools program in homiletics.

I am a fifth-generation pastor. You can call it a providential gene or a pastoral proclivity, but it seems to be a hereditary condition in my family. My father, my great-uncle, my paternal great-grandfather and his uncle-in-law were all ordained ministers. I grew up around clergy, I spent my life in the church, and I began to wonder if I was called to ordination early on. I began leading youth group while I was still in youth group. I started working at a church camp as soon as they would hire me. My home congregation nudged me towards ordination as I served a variety of churches in a variety of roles in my college years. I even did a year-long pre-seminary internship with a ministry mentor after I graduated to further explore this odd and wonderful vocation. All of these experiences served as continual affirmations for me. They assured me that I was on the right track. They helped me develop confidence in my calling. They allowed me embrace my faith and explore my doubts. They encouraged me to keep pursuing ordained ministry in a congregational setting. I never saw a burning bush nor was I struck blind when I stood on the road to Damascus, but God's calling came to me time and time again through the body of Christ in the Spirit of discernment.

From children's choir to Sunday school, youth group to college fellowships, seminary classes to continuing education - my faith has been shaped within the institution of the PC(USA). I was born, baptized, raised, confirmed and ordained within the PC(USA). I have always felt nurtured, blessed, welcomed, and loved by our denomination. I am sinfully proud to be a Presbyterian. I am grateful to the visionary saints who came before and I actively dream dreams for the saints who will come after. I appreciate our rich history and wonderful traditions while recognizing that God is active and moving among us in new and surprising ways. I am committed to the PC(USA) and remain loyal to the ordination vows I took.

I greatly enjoyed my first call as a general associate pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Fairhope, AL where we followed God into some pretty amazing opportunities like the Orange Street mission, Love Fairhope, and radical hospitality. I also loved my second call as the senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Aiken, SC where we added an exciting new chapter in their story filled with covenant groups, Pentecost projects, and even a jubilee. While I treasured that time in both of these congregations, the Spirit stirred something within me to begin the search process once again. Through prayer, discernment, conversations, and countless pages of information forms — I now find myself being called to First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth, TX with their solid foundation, vibrant community, missional emphasis, and authentic relationships. I have greatly enjoyed meeting the people on the nominating committee and I look forward to being with the rest of the congregation, meeting my new partners in ministry, and serving within Grace Presbytery.