



## Personal Discernment Profile ID# 102860

### Profile Information

Name	Email	Pronouns
Rev. Heather Woodworth Brannon	pastor.heather.w@gmail.com	she/her
Address	Phone Number	Secondary Phone
Ecclesiastical Status	Presbytery of Membership	Ordination Date
PC(USA) Minister of Word & Sacrament	Northeast New Jersey	2020-12-06

### Preferences

<b>Employment Type</b>	<b>Minimum Effective Salary</b>
Full-time	85000
<b>Position Type</b>	<b>Housing Type</b>
Associate Pastor (Christian Education) 2 to 5 Years	Manse, Housing Allowance, Open to Either
Associate Pastor (Other) 2 to 5 Years	<b>Available to Match?</b>
Associate Pastor (Youth) 2 to 5 Years	Yes
Chaplain Up to 2 Years	
Executive Pastor 2 to 5 Years	
General Presbyter/Executive Presbyter/Presbytery Leader	
No Experience	
Head of Staff 2 to 5 Years	
Mid-Council Program Staff No Experience	
Solo Pastor: Installed 2 to 5 Years	

## Formal Education

### Formal Education

PhD Candidate (ABD) - Emory University, (2019-08-01 - 2020-12-31)

Master of Divinity (M.Div.) - Union Presbyterian Seminary, (2016-07-01 - 2019-05-31)

Master of Music, M.M. - Johns Hopkins University, Peabody Conservatory of Music, (2008-08-01 - 2010-06-01)

Bachelor of Music, B.M. - Johns Hopkins University, Peabody Conservatory of Music, (2005-08-01 - 2008-05-31)

### Continuing Education

Interim Training, The Art of Transitional Ministry (TMEC), Part I (2025)

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)

Richmond, VA / Little Rock, AR

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

Silver Bay Spiritual Life Center, Pastoral Respite Retreat, Lake George, NY (2021, 2024)

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

### Training/Certification

Week 1 (Introductory) - Online, NJ (2025)

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Conflict Mediator Training: Lombard Mennonite Peace Center - 2021

Clinical Pastoral Education Training: University of North Carolina Rex Hospital, Raleigh, North Carolina - 2018

### Language Proficiency

Spanish-Basic

### Technical Skills

Word, Zoom, Web Design, Google Drive-Trained, AV, Audio Engineering/Recording-Specialized

## Work Experience

12/31/2020 - 10/28/2024

Church Pastor/Head of Staff

Wyoming Presbyterian Church

Millburn, NJ  
(Suburban, 251-400 members)  
Installed solo pastor at suburban church  
outside New York City. Supervised 5 church  
staff and 12 nursery school staff (FT/PT).  
Responsibilities include worship leadership,  
administration, pastoral care, and mission  
development. Flexible leadership throughout  
the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond,  
including leading two capital campaigns and  
growing the church.

**6/30/2019 - 12/30/2020**

Other PhD Candidate, Graduate Teaching  
Assistant  
Emory University, Candler School of Theology  
Atlanta, GA

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

**4/30/2018 - 8/30/2018**

Other Chaplain  
University of North Carolina Rex Hospital  
Raleigh, NC

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

**7/31/2017 - 6/29/2018**

Church Pastoral Intern  
Bon Air Presbyterian Church  
Richmond, VA  
(Suburban, 251-400 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

**7/31/2016 - 6/29/2017**

Church Pastoral Scholar in Residence

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Richmond, VA  
(Urban, 401-650 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

**7/31/2012 - 6/29/2016**

Church Children's Choir Director, Assistant Music Director  
Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Raleigh, NC  
(Suburban, 1001-1500 members)  
Directed choir in weekly rehearsals and worship services  
Significantly grew the membership of ensembles  
Collaborated with pastoral staff and children's ministry

**7/31/2010 - 6/29/2016**

Other Music Teacher, Head of Arts Department  
Montessori School of Raleigh  
Raleigh, NC

Collaborated with faculty on curriculum planning, lessons, and evaluations  
Produced concerts and classroom productions  
Sought out guest artists and opportunities for community outreach  
Fundraised \$65,000 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

**7/31/2008 - 6/29/2010**

Other Graduate Teaching Assistant, Computer Music Department  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD

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

**12/31/2003 - Present**

Other Professional Orchestral  
Musician/Soloist (Clarinet)  
Professional Orchestral Musician/Soloist (Clarinet)  
Baltimore, MD

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

## Service to the Greater Church

**9/30/2024 - Present**

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

**8/31/2024 - 10/28/2024**

Member  
Citizen Advisory Committee on Affordable Housing, Millburn Township  
Member of the local government committee that advises and makes recommendations to the Township Committee on the Township's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

**12/31/2023 - Present**

Vision Team Member  
Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey  
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.

**12/31/2022 - Present**

Chair, Property Transfer Task Force  
Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey  
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.

**12/31/2022 - 10/28/2024**

Member, Board Member  
Millburn Township Beautification League

**12/31/2021 - Present**

Commission on Ministry, Transition Team Moderator (COM)

Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey

Church Liaison + Administration Team Member (2022–2024) + Moderator of Transition Team (2024–current)

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.

12/31/2021 - 6/29/2024

Public Relations Chair

Boy Scouts, Troop 5 Maplewood (NJ)

12/31/2020 - 10/28/2024

Member

Millburn Short Hills Interfaith Clergy Coalition

Partners with Township Counsel, Board of Education, Superintendent, and Police/Fire Department on community-wide projects and social issues

12/31/2018 - Present

Author/Scholar

Publications/Scholarship

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)

## Statement of Faith

I believe in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, mysteriously and uniquely unified in triune essence.

I believe in a living God,  
wise counselor, perfect teacher, faithful friend,

one loving, sovereign God,  
the thoughtful creator of all things whose work is infinite,  
always present and listening,  
incarnate and self-revealed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
eternally bonded to creation through gracious reconciliation.

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
compassionate companion, courageous advocate, moral innovator,  
fully human and fully divine, God with us, Emmanuel,  
modeling love for all people and creation,  
suffering beyond human comprehension, conquering sin and death,  
our assurance of eternal life, the Messiah who will come again,  
the one who reconciles all things to God for the gift of new life.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
constant guide, welcomed liberator, communal sender,  
God in and among us,  
breaking the old to make way for the new,  
a speck of light in the darkness,  
calling us to participate in God's robust work,  
always accompanying us on the journey ahead.

I believe that humans are broken,  
in need of redemption and love,  
seeking healing in the wrong places,  
yet receiving redemption through God's abundant grace,  
freely offered, not earned or rescinded,  
we respond with gratitude through faith and action,  
binding us together in community to serve the world with justice, peace, and love.

I believe that Word, water, bread, and wine unite us,  
the illuminating stories in our sacred scriptures,  
our field guide to the wilderness, the rule of faith and life,  
the nurturing waters of Baptism, its gift of a new life in Christ,  
the sustaining bread and wine of the Lord's Supper,  
carefully prepared and set on a communal table, a sign of God's grace offered to all people,  
these gifts of thanksgiving unite us as disciples of Christ who transform the world.

I believe that we are called to be the church in the world,  
to be the body of Christ,  
to worship together with vigor,  
to proclaim the gospel with confidence,  
to imagine a world without suffering,  
to strive for God's justice with compassion,  
to perceive what is right,  
to pursue it with courage,  
and to accomplish it by grace,  
always together, never alone,  
navigating uncharted territories with open arms and hearts for all of God's children.

## Narratives

How do your particular gifts, experiences, and training help you in the ministry setting you believe God is calling you?

**This question applies to the following positions: Associate Pastor (Christian Education), Associate Pastor (Other), Associate Pastor (Youth), Executive Pastor, Head of Staff, Chaplain, General Presbyter/Executive Presbyter/Presbytery Leader, Mid-Council Program Staff, Solo Pastor:  
Installed**

Response:

I believe that God is calling me to partner with a church that is not afraid to imagine what their future might look like and is excited by the possibilities. As a second career pastor, I have over 20 years of experience working in churches and non-profits of all sizes, demographics, and theological perspectives. My extensive experience and collaborative leadership style have equipped me to guide inspiring discussions about the future, to see hope in the darkest places, and to support a congregation as they live into their mission and vision, helping shed light on a path forward. I prioritize relationships by creating a welcoming, inclusive community where everyone is included, especially children and youth. I have a passion for empowering others to use their gifts to contribute to the life of the church through shared leadership. I am an energetic, hopeful, compassionate leader who embraces challenges, trying new things (even if it does not turn out as expected), and creativity.

Explain with theological details what areas of ministry you value most in your calling.

**This question applies to the following positions: Associate Pastor (Christian Education), Associate Pastor (Other), Associate Pastor (Youth), Executive Pastor, Head of Staff, Chaplain, General Presbyter/Executive Presbyter/Presbytery Leader, Mid-Council Program Staff, Solo Pastor:  
Installed**

Response:

Sharing God's unconditional love lies at the heart of my life and ministry. I did not grow up in the church, but discovered the church as an adult. But before this discovery, there were times in my life when others shared God's love with me in transformative ways. One such occasion was when my father died in a tragic car accident when I was eight years old. The community showed up to take care of my family, many of whom I had never met before. After receiving God's love in unexpected ways throughout my life, my call as a pastor is to share this love with others, especially those who have never experienced God's love before or have been hurt by the church. I am passionate about inviting others to experience the Presbyterian Church, where all are welcome and loved, no matter your story. This is how I discovered the church as an "unchurched" adult. It is now my life's work to continue inviting and inspiring others to join us in our mission to share God's love with the world.

Describe a moment when you have "served using your energy, intelligence, imagination and love", that led change positively.

**This question applies to the following positions: Associate Pastor (Christian Education), Associate Pastor (Other), Associate Pastor (Youth), Executive Pastor, Head of Staff, Chaplain, General Presbyter/Executive Presbyter/Presbytery Leader, Mid-Council Program Staff, Solo Pastor:  
Installed**

Response:

I served a church that was passionate about mission. Yet, most of their outreach efforts were at an arm's length via monetary donations. I accidentally discovered a homeless individual living inside of the church. When I shared this with the session, they wanted this person to be arrested. I

Describe a moment when you have “served using your energy, intelligence, imagination and love”, that led change positively.

encouraged them, however, to keep an open mind by reflecting upon what it means to love your neighbor as yourself. We also imagined how Jesus might navigate this with us. Through reflection and prayer, we decided to share God’s love in a new way and help support this individual. We learned about why they were struggling and asked how we could help. We secured safe housing and employment for them, while also building a relationship with them. This transformative opportunity inspired the congregation to re-imagine how they do mission. Their outreach is now centered around sharing God’s love by building authentic, long-term relationships with their neighbors.

Please describe how have you dealt with failure or disappointment before.

**This question applies to the following positions: Associate Pastor (Christian Education), Associate Pastor (Other), Associate Pastor (Youth), Executive Pastor, Head of Staff, Chaplain, General Presbyter/Executive Presbyter/Presbytery Leader, Mid-Council Program Staff, Solo Pastor:  
Installed**

Response:

I was ordained a pastor in the middle of the pandemic and began my ministry during lockdown. It took a year before I finally met my congregation in person. Additionally, on my first day at the church, the beloved church administrator, who was also a longtime member, was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died months later. Some of our members also died from Covid. From the beginning of my ministry with them, there was a high level of isolation, grief, anxiety, and hopelessness in the congregation. It was a disappointing way to begin with them as their new pastor. Yet, instead of giving up hope, we embraced this moment. I helped transform this challenging chapter into an opportunity for the church to process their grief together and begin to heal. We grew closer together as a community and expressed our gratitude for the gift of life. We became the light in the darkness within the community, inspiring others who were also struggling to join our church and find hope once again.

Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of effectiveness and fulfillment.

**This question applies to the following positions: Associate Pastor (Christian Education), Associate Pastor (Other), Associate Pastor (Youth), Executive Pastor, Head of Staff, Chaplain, General Presbyter/Executive Presbyter/Presbytery Leader, Mid-Council Program Staff, Solo Pastor:  
Installed**

Response:

During a capital campaign, a very active couple struggled with the financial implications. They resigned from their leadership roles and stopped attending worship. Some members dismissed their views because the campaign seemed more important. I was sad that this couple felt hurt by their church family. I wanted to ensure that they felt supported. With encouragement and pastoral care, I discovered that the root cause of their pain was a secret estrangement from their family due to financial issues. The church was their only family. They were grieving the loss of their family during this time of disagreement. I helped the couple feel heard and affirmed, leading to participation in the church again. Their renewed enthusiasm inspired the church, leading to new outreach projects, a successful capital campaign, and an increase in membership. It was fulfilling to help them transform their grief into a closer relationship with their church family.

## Optional Links

Heather's Website - View more about Heather here, including links to sermons, speeches, and interviews. - <https://www.revheather.com/>

References available upon request.

## Sexual Misconduct Self Certification

I certify below that no civil, criminal, or ecclesiastical complaint has ever been sustained\* or is pending\* against me for sexual misconduct; and I have never resigned or been terminated from a position for reasons related to sexual misconduct.

I have read this certification and release form and fully understand that the information obtained may be used to deny my employment or any other type of position from the employing entity. I also agree that I will hold harmless the employing or judicial authority or any other entity from any and all claims, liabilities, and causes of action for the legitimate release of any information related to sexual misconduct.

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