

# THE REV. HEATHER WOODWORTH BRANNON

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**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, 2010  
B.M. Clarinet Performance, 2008

Geneva High School Graduate, Geneva, New York (2004)

## Employment History

Pastor and Head of Staff, Wyoming Presbyterian Church, Millburn, 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 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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, 1,000 members
- Directed choir in weekly 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)

- 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

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 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.

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–current)

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–current)

## **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)

### **Selected Community Service**

Member of the Millburn Short Hills Interfaith Clergy Coalition (2021–2024)  
Partners 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 advises and makes 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