

Spiritual Autobiography

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Attending the local United Methodist Church (UMC) every Sunday was a part of the rhythm of life as I grew up. It was something I never questioned. During my teenage years, that changed. I began to become acutely aware that something was amiss within me. I experienced a restless longing for something more. That something more became clear one night as I read a book by Billy Graham entitled, Peace With God. It was then that I realized that Jesus wasn't a sterile Sunday School character far removed from real life. Jesus was real and he loved me enough to undergo the agony of the cross! This truth transformed me. My life's focus shifted to knowing and serving Jesus more deeply.

My discipleship in high school grew through youth group, worship, the Bible, Christian books, and an interdenominational renewal movement for teens called DecoTec. In college my faith underwent challenges as I grappled with what it meant to follow Jesus in light of postmodern teaching. With the help of the chaplain and other Christian students I came out of the experience more grateful for our never-changing, never-failing God.

It was in college that I experienced a certain call to ministry. The initial experience took place on a retreat and was confirmed in various ways by different people. I began the ordination process in the UMC, actively pursuing ordination in the West Michigan Conference of the UMC through most of seminary. I was on track for that ordination until I experienced God gradually changing my course.

Along with my now husband, in 1999 I experienced a definite call to a rural church, not in Michigan, but in Kentucky: Old Springfield Presbyterian Church. As time progressed, our task at that church began to include teaching the members and inquirers what it means to be Presbyterian. Slowly, many of them began to identify themselves as Presbyterian and, to my surprise, I began to identify myself as Presbyterian as well. The past few years have contained much reflection and prayer as to what it means to be Presbyterian, particularly as a pastor.

The call God has placed on my life and the desire of my heart is to serve people in relationship and leadership and, through this, to help people grow as sold-out disciples of Jesus Christ.