



First Baptist Church of Colorado Springs

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An American Baptist Church



Candidate for our Pastoral Residency: Katie Hambrick, M.Div., Wake Forest School of Divinity (Virtual) Congregational Vote: May 31, 2020

The Pastoral Residency Search Team is overjoyed to introduce you to our candidate for our 2020-2022 Pastoral Residency with an emphasis on Youth and Their Families!

After reviewing 13 resumes and interviewing 4 candidates, Katie stood out as the clear front runner, with a curious mind, a deep love of scripture, a passion for youth, and a strong desire to participate in a residency program. Immediately upon completing her interview, the search team was unanimous in its desire to extend the candidacy to Katie.

Since that time, Katie has confirmed her desire to come be a part of FBC, Colorado Springs, the Executive Council has received the Search Team's report, and is now putting her name forward as our candidate for a congregational vote to be held virtually on May 31, 2020. On that Sunday morning, in the email you receive for worship, there will be a link that takes you to a simple "Yes" or "No" form that will allow you to vote.

Between now and then, we encourage you to read Katie's bio and answers to some questions, and to be praying about your vote. We will be looking for creative ways to help you get to know Katie better — so keep your eyes peeled for those opportunities.



Katie is originally from Atlanta, GA. She is the daughter of an Army Chaplain, which gave her a very diverse upbringing. Katie earned a Bachelors of Arts in English Literature from Kennesaw State University, as well as a Masters of Divinity from Wake Forest University School of Divinity.

She served as a Children's Ministry Intern at First Baptist Church in Marietta, GA for two years. She currently serves on ministry staff at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, where she has served for almost four years. Her jobs here have included experience in interim ministry, children's ministry, youth ministry, and adult faith formation. She has a passion for youth and pastoral ministry.

In her free time, Katie loves to read, explore local coffee shops, garden, travel, and spend as much time outdoors as possible.

FAQs:

What are your current vocational goals or directions, with specific reference to pastoral ministry?

My current vocational call is towards pastoral and youth ministry. Both of these types of ministry bring me life and joy. I first realized God was calling me deeper into pastoral ministry when I was able to preach for the first time. It was only for my classmates at seminary, however I knew at that moment a fire had been lit in my spirit. God was showing me my gifts, as well as my call. This led to me being able to learn everything I could about pastoral care, going on hospital visits, bible studies, sermons, and more. I have felt led to look for a church where I could bring my eagerness to learn and passions to make them into real skills.

Why do you think the church ought to invest in its children? How do you propose we go about supporting young families?

The church needs to invest in their youth because they are the present and the future. It is important for each youth to know that God loves them, that they were uniquely made with a purpose — and not only for them to know that, but to like who God created them to be. From here, tomorrow's leaders are born.

I believe in relation-based ministry and community. It is through community that we form the fundamental foundations for faith development. Listening to what our youth and parents need, creating intergenerational connections, being in relation with each other, and service opportunities are a few ways in which we can build this foundational community for youth and their families. However, this also must be balanced with giving the youth their own programming, as well as space to be youth. This balance only comes through loving vision and hard work.

What are the characteristics of the church or organization you would like to serve, and what unique gifts, skills, and experiences would you offer?

A church I would envision myself serving at is a church built on the love and hope of the gospel; a place where every person was welcomed and loved; a place full of a compassionate community. For any church community, I bring many interpersonal skills. The ability to build meaningful relationships quickly. I bring leadership and an eagerness to learn. My former church ministry experiences have prepared me to enter a role of pastoral and youth minister. My talents and gifts were molded into skills during my last few years of ministry that sets the stage for only more growth and improvement.

As you begin your pastoral ministry, what do you see as one of the most significant challenges facing the church today and how should emerging church leaders approach it?

During these times of uncertainty, I think the toughest challenge for churches is how to adjust to a new normal. Worship and church gatherings will not be like they were. The adjustment from pre- COVID to post- COVID and keeping human connection is the toughest challenge. This will not be an easy adjustment. There will be ups and downs throughout, thus emerging church leaders should approach the situation with compassion and grace, as well as keeping the safety of all in their minds.

What denomination raised you? Have you been a part of other denominations? Where do you feel you best fit thus far?

I was raised with a Southern Baptist Army Chaplain for a father. I was raised going to Southern Baptist Churches. During Seminary, I was introduced to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Alliance of Baptists, and American Baptists. I am a Baptist through and through. I hold the four freedoms to be foundational truths to me.

What do you need to help you adjust to a new place? What can we do to help?

Being from a military family, I am used to going new places every few years. I have grown accustomed to adjusting quickly to new environments and building community where I am. Something that would be helpful is stopping me to introduce yourself. I love building community. I love hearing people's stories. By getting to know people of an area, I start to feel at home in new places quicker. (As well as giving me coffee shop recommendations...)