

## REV. LIBBY MAE GRAMMER

*Minister, Author, Scholar*

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### EDUCATION

D.Min.	(2019)	Mercer University, McAfee School of Theology (Justice & Peacemaking)
M.A.	2015	University of Virginia, Graduate School of Religion (3.73GPA) Theology, Ethics, & Culture (Christian Feminist Ethics)
M.Div.	2010	Mercer University, McAfee School of Theology (3.833 GPA) (Academic Research, Christian Ethics)
B.A.	2007	Shorter College ( <i>summa cum laude</i> ) Major: Spanish                      Minors: Religion, English Member, <i>Academy of Aristaeus</i> (Honors Program)

### AWARDS/HONORS

Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, Fellow, Summer 2017.  
Alpha Chi Honors Society, Member/Alumni Member, 2006-present  
Sara Faust Excellence in Religious Writing Award, Shorter College, March 2007  
Study Abroad, Center for Cross-Cultural Studies: Seville, Spain, January-Spring 2006  
Randall H. Minor GPA Award, Shorter College, March 2006  
*Academy of Aristaeus* Honors Program, Shorter College, 2004-2007  
Dean's List, Shorter College, 2004-2007

### EMPLOYMENT

*River Road Church, Baptist, Interim Minister of Christian Education & Spiritual Formation, Sept. 2015-present.*  
Focus: Planning & implementing the church's ministries of education, spiritual formation, and leadership development. Duties include:

- Providing administrative direction, including planning and implementation, to ministries, programs, and events related to Christian education and spiritual formation.
- Participating in and planning worship services, including weekly bulletin creation and development, weekly worship service participation and leadership, and planning of special services (Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Christmas Eve, summer vespers, baptisms, and others). Providing supply preaching as needed.
- Overseeing a network of small groups, with special attention to groups promoting spiritual formation, leadership development, and fellowship.
- Teaching adult programs on a wide variety of topics, including devotional material, spiritual direction, ethics and theology, and others.
- Preparing and submitting an annual education budget to the appropriate board.
- Assisting lay and paid leadership in recruitment and training for all age levels, with a priority for adult lay leadership.
- Working with other staff and laity to advance the church's efforts to create fellowship and provide an atmosphere of community.
- Working with the communications specialist to enhance the church's internal and external communications, including but not limited to: writing articles and blog posts, website and social media oversight, including troubleshooting and editing, photographing events and posting to various church publications, distributing event flyers and other materials, overseeing new member photography.
- Participating in pastoral care, including visitation for members and prospects.

*River Road Church, Baptist, Pastoral Intern, January-September 2015.*

- Pastoral Internship with a focus on pastoral leadership, pastoral care, education, and congregational spiritual formation. Preparatory internship for position in a local church congregation.

*Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, Immigration Paralegal, May 2007-May 2017.*

- Trained in complex immigration law, assisting in procuring various types of visas.
- Oversaw a case load of hundreds of different situations and people.
- Advocated for clients by assisting with research and case oversight with attorney.
- Assisted in preparing many different kinds of forms and correspondence.
- Learned and mastered the use of an electronic case management system, becoming the top trainer and Senior Paralegal on the immigration team.
- Assisted high-level corporate clients as well as family-based clients, providing service and care as the day-to-day person with whom the clients interacted at our firm.

*Mercer University, McAfee School of Theology, Writing Tutor, 8/2010-12/2010.*

- Assisted other students in proofreading and editing papers for coursework. Taught the rules of grammar and syntax, spelling and punctuation, along with style and organization.

*Shorter College, Writing Center/Religion/Spanish Tutor, 2005-2007.*

- Trained as a tutor in the writing center.
- Taught students from basic ESL level to research students.
- Tutored in Spanish basics as well as reading-level classes.
- Assisted students in better understanding religious material, including biblical studies, Greek, and church history.

## **MINISTRY AND CHURCH/PARACHURCH ACTIVITIES**

Freelance Ministry, including: preaching, music ministry, counseling, officiating weddings, and other activities, 2010-present.

Spanish-English Translation Work for Oak Grove School, Richmond, Va. 2015.

Portrait Photography for Underprivileged Children, Charlottesville, Va. Photography Initiative, 2013-2014.

Mustard Seed Homeless Ministry Volunteer, Chattanooga, Tn., 2012-2013.

*River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA. Chancel Choir member and Pastoral Intern.*

*University Baptist Church, Charlottesville, VA. Worship volunteer/leader. Supply preacher.*

*First Baptist Church Chattanooga, TN, Epiphanies Median Adult Group Leader, Fusion Young Adult Volunteer, Choir Member & Percussionist, Supply Preacher, 2011-2013.*

*First Baptist Church Fort Oglethorpe, GA, Young Adult Ministry Team Leader, Mentoring, Orchestra Member/Percussionist, Choir Member, Supply Preacher, 2007-2011.*

*Y-Clubs of Georgia, Member/Alumni Member, 1999-present.*

*Bormujos Iglesia, Spain: Volunteer Church Leader/Music Leader/Translator, Spring 2006.*

*First Baptist Church McCaysville-Copperhill: Diaz Ordaz, MX, Volunteer/Translator, Summer 2003.*

*Concord Baptist Church, Cumming, GA:*

- Winston-Salem, NC, Volunteer, Summer 2002.
- Charleston, SC, "Acteen Activators" Volunteer, Summer 2001.
- Meizhou, China, Volunteer, Summer 2000.
- Atlanta, GA, "World Changers," Volunteer, Summer 1999.

## **ORDINATION**

Ordained to the Gospel Ministry, First Baptist Church Fort Oglethorpe, GA, December 12, 2010.

## CONFERENCES

- “Immigration 2020 National Strategy Session,” hosted by the National Immigration Forum, Washington, D.C.  
[Mission of Session](#): “Through panel discussions, networking and interactive technology, the session served as a provocative gathering of a unique mix of faith, law enforcement, business and civic leadership working at the economic and social forefront of a rapidly changing America. Building on a foundation of remarkable education and outreach across the country, the session developed a range of new strategies to craft an Immigration 2020 Agenda. Each panel will provide opportunities for interaction and dialogue, with the results shaping the work in the months and years ahead.” Invited Participant with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Advocacy Group, October 23, 2014.
- "A [Baptist] Conference on Sexuality and Covenant," hosted by First Baptist Church of Decatur, Atlanta, Ga. Cosponsored by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Center for Theology and Public Life, Mercer University. Participant & Planning Team Member, April 19-21, 2012.
- "Government, Foreign Assistance, and God's Mission in the World," hosted by Bread for the World Institute and the Center for Applied Christian Ethics at Wheaton College. Conference Staff/Assistant to Dr. David P. Gushee, May 2010.
- QEP Conference, Mercer University Atlanta Campus, Leadership Team Member: Planning, Strategy, and Implementation, Spring 2010. Conferences Included (across the Atlanta Campus Disciplines): Hosting Holocaust survivor and author Fred Gross Presentation on his book *One Step Ahead of Hitler: a Jewish Child's Journey through France* and a Case-Based study and two-stage discussion of the challenges of a child with autism, his parents, and the educational system, with a focus on the concept of Practical Wisdom as a moral grid.
- "Thinking About Character: Character Across the Disciplines," The Phronesis Project at Mercer University (Macon Campus), Invited Participant in a Case-Based Study and Discussion, April 2010.
- Baptist History and Heritage Society Annual Meeting, Presenter, June 2009.
- "Religious Faith, Torture, and Our National Soul," Evangelicals for Human Rights, Conference Staff, September 2008.
- QEP Conference, Mercer University Atlanta Campus, Moral Reflection and Decision-Making. Participant, Spring 2008.
- New Baptist Covenant, Attendee, Atlanta, GA, January 2008.
- "Celebrate Shorter," Shorter College, Senior Thesis Presenter, 2007.
- Alpha Chi Convention, San Antonio, TX, Attendee, 2007.
- Georgia Baptist Convention, Acteen Activator Panelist and Page, 2002.

## PUBLICATIONS

*Forthcoming:*

*New Book:*

*Privilege, Risk, and Solidarity: Understanding Undocumented Immigration through Feminist Christian Ethics.*

[Wipf and Stock Publishers](#); Eugene, OR, 2017.

*Ongoing:*

Personal/Ministerial Blog at [www.libbygrammer.com](http://www.libbygrammer.com)

Ministerial/Theological Blog on Huffington Post Religion: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-libby-m-grammer/>

Ministerial Blog at River Road Church Baptist Pastor's Blog: <http://www.rrcb.org/writer/libby-grammer/>

Writing devotionals for Smyth & Helwys *Reflections*, as requested.

*Printed Master's Theses:*

M.A. thesis, "Privilege, Risk, and Solidarity: How Christian Feminist Ethics Speaks to the Issue of Undocumented Immigration," University of Virginia, May 2015.

M.Div. thesis, "The Baptist Response to the Crisis of Undocumented Immigration," Mercer University, January 2011.

*Online Articles:*

- "A Spiritual Perspective to our Online Etiquette," *EthicsDaily.com*, February 2013.  
"For Christians, Immigration Reform Rooted in Solidarity," *EthicsDaily.com*. February 2013.  
"In North Georgia, Signs of the Times?" *Associated Baptist Press*. October 6, 2009.  
"On Immigration, do Baptists believe the Bible?" *Associated Baptist Press*. September 16, 2009.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- "Sarah Frances Anders: Social Scientist, Minister, and Woman." Baptist History and Heritage Society Annual Meeting, June 2009.  
"Spanglish: Una Mezcla Positiva for the 21st Century?" Senior Thesis Presentation, "Celebrate Shorter," Shorter College, 2007.

**RELEVANT CHRISTIAN ETHICS ESSAYS** (*Unpublished/Available Upon Request*)

- "Hope for the Helpless: A Review of *Compassionate Respect* by Margaret Farley," Ethics Class, Spring 2008.  
"Seminar Paper: Chapters 4-10 of Mary Anne Warren's *Moral Status*," Ethics of Human Dignity Class, November 2009.  
"Defining Human Dignity Post ETH 612.10," Ethics of Human Dignity Class, December 2009.  
"For the Love of the Immigrant: Thinking Biblically and Missionally About the Stranger in Our Midst," Evangelism and Mission Class, November 2009.  
"Spain's Medieval Muslim-Christian Relationships: What They Mean for Christians Today," Church History I Class, December 2010.

**OTHER ESSAYS** (*Unpublished/Available Upon Request*)

- "The Works and Life of Anne Askew and Their Impact on the Modern Christian Woman," Church History II Class, May 2008.  
"There's Something About Mary: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Woman's Model of God Based on Divine Images as Portrayed Historically by the Virgin," Models of God Theology Class, May 2009.  
"Ministerial Theological Reflection: A Conversation with a Holocaust Survivor," Mentoring in Ministry Class II, March 2010.  
"The Case of the Generational Split: A Case Study for Generational Conflict in the Church," Capstone Class, October 2010.  
"Barth, Baptists, and the Bible," Theology of Karl Barth Class, December 2013.

**FAMILY/HOBBIES**

Married to William P. Underwood, Mathematician, and graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA. We have two dogs, Boober (Lab/Irish Wolfhound mix) and Paco (Pembroke Welsh Corgi).

Hobbies: Singing, digital photography, playing percussion, hiking, visiting museums, studying history and ethics, and playing with my dogs.