

REV. LIBBY MAE GRAMMER

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PERSONAL VISION STATEMENT:

As an ordained minister of the Gospel, my calling is to share the rich experience of God's grace through teaching, preaching, and leadership. Having completed theological and ethical training and having gained real-life experience serving the church in various capacities, I now seek a full-time church staff position. My passion is for the church to be part of a community that makes space in which the Spirit of God can move and provide new life as we journey together in the Way of Jesus.

EDUCATION

D.Min.	(2019)	Mercer University, McAfee School of Theology (Justice & Peacemaking)
M.A.	2015	University of Virginia, Graduate School of Religion Theology, Ethics, & Culture Program (Christian Feminist Ethics)
M.Div.	2010	Mercer University, McAfee School of Theology (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) Studied Abroad: Seville, Spain, January-Spring 2006

ORDINATION

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

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, August - December 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.

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

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

River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA:

- Active Member, 8/2014-present.
- Chancel Choir Member, 9/2014-present.
- Interim Minister of Christian Education & Spiritual Formation, 9/2015 - present.
- Pastoral Internship, 1/2015 - 9/2015.

University Baptist Church, Charlottesville, VA:

- Active Member, 7/2013-7/2014.
- Leader in Worship (reading, praying, speaking, etc.), 2013-2014.
- Supply Preacher, April 2014.
- Worship planning, 2014.

First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN:

- Active Member 8/2011-7/2013.
- Epiphanies Median Adult Group Leader/Teacher (Spiritual/Ethical Issues Conversations), 2012-2013.
- Fusion Young Adult/College Volunteer (Homeless ministry, teaching, leadership), Summer 2011-2012.
- Young Adult (ages 20s-30s) Leadership Team/Sunday School Teacher, 2012-2013.
- Supply Preacher, October 2012.
- Supply Music Minister, 2012.
- Worship Planning, 2012.
- Percussionist/choir member/soloist, 2011-2013.
- Homeless Shelter and Fellowship Volunteer, 2012-2013.
- Worship Leader Volunteer, 2011-2013.

First Baptist Church, Rossville, GA:

- Supply Music Minister and Preacher: Sermons, worship planning, music direction, Summer-Fall 2009.

First Baptist Church, Fort Oglethorpe, GA:

- Active Member 2003-2011 (in college 2004-2007).
- Young Adult Ministry Team Leader, Spring 2011.
- Orchestra Member/Percussionist, 2007-2011.
- Choir Member 2007-2009.
- Ministry Mentoring: Preaching, teaching, staff meetings, worship planning, and other duties as assigned, Fall 2010.

MISSION WORK

River Road Church, Baptist:

- Medical/Dental Mission to Gnobe Indians of Panama, Translator & Volunteer, January 2017.
- Youth Mission Trip Chaperone to Asheville, NC, Summer 2015.

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.

PARACHURCH/NONPROFIT WORK

Baptist Joint Committee Fellow, Summer 2017.

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.

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

PUBLICATIONS

New Book:

Privilege, Risk, and Solidarity: Understanding Undocumented Immigration through Feminist Christian Ethics. [Wipf and Stock Publishers](#): Eugene, OR, 2017.

Online:

Personal/Ministerial Blog at 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/>

Ongoing:

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

Articles in printed and online publications such as *Baptist News Global*, *Ethics Daily*, *Nurturing Faith*, etc.

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.

FAMILY

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).

REFERENCES

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