

## REV. LIBBY MAE GRAMMER

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### PERSONAL VISION STATEMENT:

*As minister of the Gospel, my calling is to share the rich experience of God's grace through teaching, preaching, and leadership. My passion is to lead a church in becoming 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.*

### MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

*Pastoral Resident*

*River Road Church, Baptist, January 2018-present*

Focus: Intensive, post-graduate pastoral training within this teaching congregation. Responsible for intentionally studying and supporting the church's Pastoral Ministries.

- *Preaching:* Hone preaching skills, preaching in worship as assigned and other venues. Participate in critique of sermon writing and delivery. Compile list of pastoral literature to subscribe. Create and maintain a Preaching Database from the material read through the course of the residency.
- *Worship:* Oversee the planning of weekly worship and special services, including the writing of litanies and prayers, assigning roles for worship leadership, etc. Lord's Supper and baptismal training.
- *Pastoral Care:* Weekly hospital visitation and make homebound visits as needed. Pastoral counseling as need arises. Baptismal counseling, funeral planning, and wedding planning, including pre-marital counseling.
- *Leadership and Administration:* Attend all and occasionally lead staff meetings. Attend meetings of all boards and committees. Participate in intentional discussions and training regarding:
  - Personnel management and supervision and hiring of staff
  - Creating and maintaining personnel policies
  - Understanding the dynamics of staff configuration in churches of various sizes
  - Writing for church ministry
  - Church marketing and advertising
  - Managing staff communications
  - Denominational identity and awareness
  - Operation of facilities: Learn to operate essential church systems including HVAC, Telephones, ACS, and Computer Network.
- *Missions:* Intentional learning conversations to understand philosophy and practice of missions/serving ministry. Visit local mission partners and discuss their engagement with the community. Organize and lead a tour of local mission partners. Connect with the church's ongoing mission partnerships and look for ways to promote their work to the larger congregation. Learn River Road's guidelines for use of Fellowship (Benevolence) Funds. Go on a mission trip and help lead the trip.
- *Christian Education:* Further understand the philosophy and practice of all ages and types of educational ministry, including shadowing and teaching in children, youth, young adults, and older adults small groups. Participate and lead in Vacation Bible School. Plan and implement one major church-wide Christian Education event (lecture, retreat, etc.).

*Interim Minister of Christian Education & Spiritual Formation*

*River Road Church, Baptist, September 2015-December 2017*

Focus: Planning & implementing the church's ministries of education, spiritual formation, and leadership development.

- 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.

## OTHER EMPLOYMENT

### *Immigration Paralegal*

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

- Trained in complex immigration law, assisting in procuring various types of visas, overseeing 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.

## 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) Study Abroad: Seville, Spain, January-Spring 2006

## ORDINATION

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

## MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

### *Supply Preaching:*

- River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA
- Gayton Christian Church, Richmond, VA
- Lakewood Retirement Community, Richmond, VA
- Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, Milford, VA
- University Baptist Church, Charlottesville, VA
- First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN
- First Baptist Church, Rossville, GA

### *Educational Leadership:*

- River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA
  - Leadership of entire educational ministry for all ages
- First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN
  - Leader and teacher for young adults and college students
  - Leader of Epiphanies adult small group discussion of faith and current events

### *Mission Leadership:*

- River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA
  - Panama, Asheville, local homeless ministry
- First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN
  - Local homeless ministry
- Bormujos Iglesia, Spain
- Meizhou, China

### *Religious Non-Profit:*

- *Board Member*, Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry, 2017-present
- *Fellow*, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, 2017
- *Translator*, Oak Grove School, 2015
- *Portrait Photography for Underprivileged Children*, Charlottesville, VA Photography Initiative

## PUBLICATIONS

Book: *Privilege, Risk, and Solidarity: Understanding Undocumented Immigration through Feminist Christian Ethics*. Wipf and Stock Publishers: Eugene, OR, 2017.

Personal/Ministerial Blog: [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: <https://rrcb.org/pastors-blog/>

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

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

## FAMILY AND HOBBIES

Avid hiker and photographer who has a soft spot for dogs and sunflowers. Author and blogger who loves to explore the world through writing. Married to William P. Underwood, Mathematician and IT Professional, and graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA. We have three dogs, Boober (Lab/Irish Wolfhound mix), Paco (Pembroke Welsh Corgi), Samson (collie/shepherd mix).

## REFERENCES

**Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Glaze**  
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