

2017-2019 RESIDENT MINISTRY PROGRAM



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

RESIDENT MINISTRY AT FIRST PRES

In August 2017, First Presbyterian Church welcomed its ninth cohort of Resident Ministers, continuing a tradition begun in 2001 that has already prepared 24 recent seminary graduates for the challenges of twenty-first century ministry. These Residents are a particularly accomplished and experienced team of young pastors. Each of them is fully ordained, and each brings valuable prior experiences to our congregation. Blair Buckley worked for four years as Director of Youth and Children's Ministries at a church in Colorado and has a full year of CPE training. Eric Koenig-Reinke holds a second master's degree, in theology, from Union Presbyterian Seminary and has worked for many years with young people at Presbyterian camps and retreat centers. Dorothy Parks-Piatt brings extensive experience as a writer and managing editor for a health-care media firm and several years of chaplaincy work to her ministry here.

First Pres's Residency Program is different this time around because it includes responsibility for an innovative collaborative ministry with college students and young adults. Each Resident spends about one-third of his/her time on campus ministry. Blair and Eric are focused primarily on our undergraduate program (now called UKirk@UM). Dorothy works more directly with graduate students and young adults in the T2A2 group. One of our former Residents, the Rev. Evans McGowan, serves as coordinator for these ministries. Thanks to these innovations, our church currently devotes more of its resources to campus ministry than we have in many years. At the same time, we have ensured that the excellent peer education coupled with deep immersion in the life of the congregation that has always characterized the residency program will continue.

With the 2017-19 cohort has come another innovation as well. After sixteen years of generous assistance from the Lilly Endowment, First Presbyterian will make the Residency Program its own. The program expenses will be supported by income from a designated endowment raised by thoughtful gifts and memorials from church members and friends—a visible testimony to our church's commitment to this unique teaching ministry. As of December 31, 2017, the Resident Ministry Endowment stood at \$4.45 million. Further gifts and pledges to advance this ministry will be gratefully accepted.

THE 2017-19 RESIDENTS

BLAIR BUCKLEY

Growing up Presbyterian in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Blair was involved in a wide range of activities ranging from sports (gymnastics, track, diving) to singing and study abroad in France. She loves hiking and camping—“anything outdoors”—and is an avid photographer. She traveled East for college at Elon University in North Carolina, where she earned a B.A. in religious studies. By exposing her to some of the intellectual challenges of belief, the Elon experience shaped in her a new, more mature and ultimately stronger Christian faith; and it led her to consider the ministry. At Elon she also caught the “service bug.” A year as a PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer in a homeless resource center helped confirm her calling and, in turn, led her to enroll in the M.Div. program at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.



Blair returned to Colorado after seminary to accept a yearlong CPE residency in a large hospital. From 2013 to 2017, she served as Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Boulder, while continuing her work as a chaplain. One of her most exciting accomplishments at St. Andrew’s was founding an interfaith Community Peace Camp, which drew children and youth from six local congregations, including a neighboring synagogue.

Immediately before moving to Ann Arbor, Blair completed training as a certified yoga teacher. Having taught yoga classes in several church settings, she sees many applications for her training, not only as a centering process for self-care but also as a link to diverse spiritual and meditative traditions; and she hopes to offer yoga as part of our college and pastoral ministries. On November 5, 2017, Blair was ordained as a teaching elder in her home church in Colorado Springs. As she thinks back on her journey of faith, she writes: “God [has] continued to use other people to challenge my presumptions about the divine, the Bible, and what it means to follow Christ. God is always humbling me and continues to do so every step of the way in my life.” In her life since seminary and now at First Pres, Blair sees “endless opportunities to learn and grow.”

ERIC KOENIG-REINKE

Eric grew up in the diverse community of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and is the son of ordained ministers in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He graduated from Bowling Green State University with a B.A. in Geography and Sociology. During college Eric spent his summers working at Ghost Ranch, a PC (USA) education and retreat center in New Mexico. The year after graduating from college, he served as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Austin, Texas, working at the non-profit, Front Steps, whose mission is to end homelessness in Austin. Part of the YAV program involves discerning the next steps in one's vocational life. In the course of his year at Front Steps, Eric felt a call to ministry in the Presbyterian Church. He enrolled in Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, in the fall of 2013. During seminary, Eric served as a seminary intern and Youth Minister at Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond. He spent the summer of 2014 as a member of the Ministry Team at Montreat



Conference Center in North Carolina.

While attending Union, he earned both Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees. Also in seminary he met a very special person, Essie Reinke. They were married in June 2017, before they moved to Ann Arbor. A Union graduate herself, Essie currently serves as Youth Ministries Coordinator at First Pres. Eric was ordained in his home parish, Noble

Road Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, on October 29, 2017. Both his parents participated in the service.

Now that they are settled in Ann Arbor, Eric and Essie have adopted a dog and enjoy walks in County Farm Park. Eric, who was a member of the Ultimate Frisbee team in seminary, is pleased to find some recreational Frisbee leagues here. As he considers his work as Resident Minister, Eric would like to teach classes in adult education and to grow as a worship leader and preacher.

DOROTHY PARKS-PIATT



Dorothy was baptized as an infant in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and has been active in the denomination since childhood. She was born into a close-knit military family, who had three daughters. They lived in Stuttgart, Germany, and then settled in Chattanooga, Tennessee, when they returned to the States.

Dorothy earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Sewanee: The University of the South. Seeking to clarify her vocation, she participated in the Lilly Summer Discernment Institute as an intern for two faith-based non-profits in California. This led to a period of spiritual growth and discernment of her call to pastoral ministry during her first career as an editor. "The yearning to grow into professional ministry, like my belief in God's unshakable love for all God's children, abided with me," she reports.

Having first served as a hospital and hospice chaplain intern, Dorothy received her Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School. She bridged her academic and pastoral interests as an Arcus Foundation Justice through Engagement researcher and a pastoral intern at Second Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Her contributions focused on faith-based communal learning and social action at the intersections of religion, race, class, gender, and sexuality. Among other service commitments, Dorothy served on the worship committee at seminary; participated in ministry on Tennessee's death row; was involved in community organizing through the faith working group of Nashville's chapter of "Showing Up for Racial Justice"; provided trauma-informed care for young men in state custody as a residential specialist in a group home; and was actively involved in the Vanderbilt chapter of the PC(USA) Company of New Pastors. Dorothy was ordained a teaching elder on July 9, 2017, at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga.

Among her many interests, Dorothy is a percussionist and an outdoors enthusiast who loves to make music, hike, run, bike, canoe,

kayak, and share fireside songs and stories with family and friends. She shares her home with dogs Brennen and Bailey.

Dorothy appreciates First Pres as a community where complex questions about Christian discipleship in our pluralistic society come into conversation with Scripture, our personal experiences, our tradition's resources, and members' varied perspectives. She enjoys walking alongside individuals and families in all life stages and making space for people to bring their whole selves to church — joys and griefs, faith and doubt, hopes and fears. "I seek to grow in pastoral care, worship leadership, faith-formative education, and community building with other ordinary, imperfect, and deeply loved people," she writes. "Together, I hope we engage people of all ages to nurture spiritual well-being, awe and wonder about creation, love for God's abundantly diverse children, gratitude for grace, and deep senses of meaning and purpose. As we come together in worship, service, learning, and friendship, we can learn from our differences and build on shared values."

2001-2017 RESIDENT MINISTER COHORTS

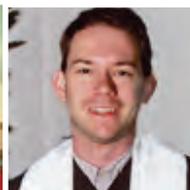
2001- 2003

Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol
Rev. Sung Soo (Sam) Jun
Rev. Robert Woodruff



2003-2005

Rev. Mark Brainerd
Rev. Matthew Morse
Rev. Maggie Shreve



2005-2007

Rev. Amanda Adams Riley

Rev. Meghan Gage Finn

Rev. Andrew Parnell



2007-2009

Rev. Aaron Janklow

Rev. Deborah Knott Forger

Rev. Jana Reister



2009-2011

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Rev. Sarah Wiles

Rev. Matthew Nickel



2011-2013

Rev. Brennan Pearson Blue

Rev. Evans McGowan

Rev. Mary Elizabeth

Prentice-Hyers



2013-2015

Rev. Lindsay Conrad

Rev. Kristin Riegel

Rev. Lal Rodawla



2015-2017

Rev. Emily Béghin

Rev. Daniel Ervin

Rev. Angela Ryo



