

Presbytery of the James
Called Meeting – November 21, 2020
Via Zoom Videoconference

Peggy Eloise Raymond Fox
pfox926@aol.com

Church Membership: Woodville Presbyterian Church

Describe Your Activities in the Life and Membership of the Church:

- Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Richmond VA (1963-2005)
 - Sunday School Superintendent
 - Pianist
 - Vacation Bible School Director
 - Licensed to Preach (1992)
 - Ordained as Minister (2000)
 - Minister of Christian Education (2000-2005)
 - Director of Mount Tabor's Summer Children's Ministry
 - Assistant to the Pastor
- Woodville Presbyterian Church, Richmond VA (2005 – present)
 - Elder (ordained in 2008)
 - Minister of Music (2006 – present)
 - Moderator of Presbyterian Women's Ministry (2013 – present)
 - Adult Bible Study Teacher (2010 – present)
 - Adult Sunday School Teacher (2017 – present)
 - Minister (every 2nd Sunday)
- Presbytery of the James Participation, Richmond VA
 - Black Caucus Moderator
 - Leadership Connections Team Member
 - Area 3 Leader for Presbyterian Women
 - Church Women United Member
 - Older Adult Ministry Member

Describe Your Service and Experience as an Ordained Elder:

As an ordained elder at Woodville, I have completed two terms on Session, served as a Sunday morning Worship Leader; helped to serve The Lord's Supper at church and in members' homes; and I have attended several Stated Meetings of the Presbytery of the James. My experiences have not only increased my faith, but they have also allowed me to continue growing as a servant leader within the body of Christ. Serving as an Elder has been a time of learning more about the Presbytery through a better understanding of the Book of Order, and it has given me so many opportunities to strengthen and nurture the lives of members within our congregation through teaching the Adult Sunday School Class and the Adult Bible Study Class.

Describe Your Community Activities:

- Member, NAACP, Richmond Branch
- Member, Richmond Education Association Retirees
- Member, PTA, Franklin Military High School
- Cast Member, James Pettis Productions
- Lupus Foundation of America, Richmond Branch

- M.L.K. Community Learning Week (Volunteer Usher, Youth Curriculum Writer)
- Volunteer Teacher/Workshop Presenter, The Christian Women’s Hope Builder’s Ministry
- The Micah Initiative (works with underprivileged students in Richmond Public Schools)
- Richmond Racers’ Swim Team Parent Group
- Former Member of the Social Services Advisory Board for the City of Richmond
- Sisters United of Richmond, VA (Former Member and President)
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
 - Initiated into Alpha Epsilon Chapter, Virginia State College, Petersburg VA, 1972
 - Reactivated into Upsilon Omega Chapter, Richmond VA, 1984
 - Silver Star Member (46 years)
 - Leadership Positions
 - Graduate Advisor, Alpha Eta Chapter, Virginia Union University (2005-2008)
 - Vice President, Upsilon Omega Chapter (2008-2009)
 - President, Upsilon Omega Chapter (2009-2010)
 - Chairman, Standards Committee, Upsilon Omega Chapter (2011-2012)
 - Chairman, Sisterly Relations Committee, Upsilon Omega Chapter (2015 – present)
 - Chapter Participation
 - Target 2: Health Promotion
 - Debutante Committee
 - Graduate Advisors’ Council
 - Standards Committee (former Chairman)
 - Leadership Committee
 - Membership Committee
 - Nominating Committee
 - Scholarship Committee (former Chairman)
 - Sisterly Relations Committee (former Chairman)
 - Other Sorority Involvement
 - Guest Speaker, Mid-Atlantic Regional Luncheon, Centennial Celebration of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (2008)
 - Presented the Devotions for the 2014 Northern Western Virginia Cluster, Richmond VA
 - Presenter for the 2015 Joint Undergraduates’ Retreat (Alpha Eta, Theta Rho, Rho Mu)
 - Mistress of Ceremonies/Speaker, Scholarship Luncheon in Honor of Mothers
 - Speaker, Luncheon in Honor of the Golden Sorors in Upsilon Omega Chapter
 - Presenter, Chapter Leadership Workshop
 - Presenter, Leadership Committee “Continuing Education Institute”
 - Conference Attendance
 - Joint Founders’ Day

- Mid-Atlantic Regional Conferences (Virginia and North Carolina)
- Northern Western Cluster Conferences

Employment:

- Equitable Life Assurance Society (Medical Claims Adjustor) 1974-1977
Group Benefit Claims Department, Richmond VA
- Pocahontas Middle School (Teacher, Grade 5) 1976-1987
Powhatan, VA
- Richmond Public Schools (Teacher, Grades K-5) 1987-2014
Broad Rock Elementary School, Richmond, VA (ret. 2014)
- Mount Tabor Baptist Church (Minister of Education/Asst.to Pastor) 1993-2005
Richmond, VA
- Woodville Presbyterian Church (Musician) 2005-present
Richmond, VA
- Richmond Public Schools (EIRI Tutor) 2014-2019

Professional Development:

- Presenter, The New Teacher’s Institute for Richmond Public Schools
- Social Studies Lead Teacher for Broad Rock Elementary School
- Language Arts Lead Teacher for Broad Rock Elementary School
- Chairman of the Broad Rock Elementary School Planning and Management Team
- Grade Level Chairman, Grade 4
- Grade Level Chairman, Grade 1

Teaching Responsibilities:

- Creating Lesson Plans,
- Teaching the Curriculum to the Entire Class and Differentiating Instruction in Small Groups
- Administrating SOL Tests
- Plan and Implement Effective Classroom Management Practices
- Communicating with Parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Engage Students in the use of Current Technology and Resources
- Tracking Students’ Academic and Social Progress
- Correcting Work
- Work Collaboratively with the Faculty and Staff
- Monitoring Student Attendance
- Maintain a Safe and Nurturing Learning Environment
- Small Group Reading Remediation

Educational Background:

- Virginia State College/University 1971-1975
B.S. Degree, Cum Laude
Major: Elementary Education (grades 4-7)
- Virginia Union University
Continuing Education Units in Religion 1991-1993
Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology 1998-2000
(completed a year ½ of classes toward Master of Divinity Degree)

- Elementary Education Recertification Classes (Grades 4 & 5) 1980-2010
(VCU, UVA, J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College, Pepperdine Univ.) (every 5 years)
- Elementary Education Recertification Classes (Grades K-3) Summer 2012
Virginia Union University
- Union Presbyterian Seminary 2017-2019
Pathways to Learning and Leadership
(Completed 9 of 10 classes for CRE Certification)

Ordination Questions

1. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge Him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through Him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

I trust Jesus because I believe that He is the Son of God. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He was anointed by the Holy Spirit to proclaim good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, and to set the oppressed free. I believe that He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried but that after three days, God raised Him from the dead. I trust the blood of Jesus that flowed on Calvary for the remission of my sins. Because of everything He has done and is doing for me (saved me by His grace, transformed me, forgives me, looks beyond my faults and provides for me, makes a way for me, loves me) I trust Him, I lean on Him for strength, and I surrender my life to Him as my Lord and Savior. If Jesus is not Lord of all of me -- if He is not the center of my life, if I am not abiding in Him -- He is not Lord at all. I acknowledge Him not only as my Lord and Savior, but as the Head of the Church. Ephesians 1:22, 23 says, "And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way." I acknowledge that as the Head of the Church, Jesus has all authority over the Church. He rules, calls, teaches, equips, and sends the Church out to share the good news of the gospel. I believe in one God with three distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. It is by faith in Christ that we have access to God the Father and to God the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Him (John 14:6); and no one has access to the power of the Holy Spirit unless we love Jesus who will ask the Father to give us the Holy Spirit (the Advocate) to help us and be with us forever (John 14:15, 16).

5. Will you be governed by our church's polity and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

I will follow and be governed by Presbyterian Polity as written in the Book of Order which contains the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, the Form of Government, the Directory for Worship and the Rules for Discipline. Adherence to this document is important because it denotes the structure and expectations of the denomination as well as the mission of the church. I will also abide by/follow the guidelines for discipline (corrective measures/the judicial process used for handling irregularities, delinquencies, or offenses) as specified in the Book of

Order. In an article I read, the author wrote, “Ministry is muddy. Rain sometimes comes at us from all directions, and we often don’t have anywhere to lay our heads to rest.” God made us to be in community with each other. I believe we need friends to lean on when we don’t understand something, when we are frustrated, or when we just need someone with whom to fellowship and talk. Friendships are not optional in ministry – I believe they are essential. I believe that friendships are often what God uses to not only keep us in ministry, but to encourage us and to keep us in the faith. In order to have a friend among my colleagues, I need to be a friend by being approachable, dependable, considerate, respectful, and cooperative, even if it’s not reciprocated.

Statement of Faith

I believe that one of the first steps in faith is to accept by faith that God is. I believe that God is holy, that He is our Creator because He created the universe and everything in it (Psalm 24:1); that He is Sovereign; and that He is our Sustainer and Keeper (Psalm 55:22). I believe that God is almighty and infinitely powerful. I believe that nothing is too difficult for Him, that He loves us with an everlasting love, and that He is present and active in the world. I believe that God has eternally existed as one God with three distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. I believe that each person of the Trinity is fully God yet with distinct functions.

I trust and believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who is the second person of the Trinity. I believe that He is the incarnate Word of God, fully human and fully divine. I believe that He came to earth through the birth of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and even raised the dead. I believe that He was innocent of any guilt yet He suffered and died on a cross in obedience to His Father’s will. I believe that God raised Him from the dead, that He ascended into heaven, and that He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe that He now sits at the right hand of God as our High Priest interceding for us. By faith, I accept Jesus Christ as the Lord of my life.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, our Advocate, who convicts us of our sin, who testifies to the truth about Christ, who renews us, empowers us for service, teaches, guides, comforts, encourages believers, and who is with us forever. The Holy Spirit was present when the world was created and was poured out on all believers at Pentecost.

I believe that God created people in His image to know, love and serve Him with all of our heart, and mind, and strength. But the nature of people is to sin and we all fall short of God’s glory because of Adam’s fall in the Garden of Eden. Sin separates us from God and damages our relationship with Him and with others. I believe that we must continually repent so we can be forgiven of our sins.

There is no forgiveness of sins without God’s grace. I believe that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ who died to take away our sins. The blood that He shed was for our atonement and forgiveness. Grace is God’s favor that He gives to those He saves. We can’t

earn salvation or His grace, nor do we deserve it. To receive this free gift, we must acknowledge that we can't save ourselves that only God can save us, and then we respond with gratitude, praise, and joy.

The Sacraments are also acts of God's grace. I believe that there are two sacraments, sacred practices initiated by Christ that are to be observed in the church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Ordinary things (water, bread, and wine) are used to show the extraordinary love of God. In Baptism, we are called to a new way of life as Christ's disciples symbolizing that the old has gone and the new has come. In the Lord's Supper, when we eat the bread and drink the wine, we receive anew the Lord's presence in Christ, we remember God's promises, and we renew our pledge to obedience.

I believe that the Church is the gathering or assembly of believers who worship, serve, and follow Jesus Christ who is the head and His teachings. Christ calls and equips the Church for service to God. Christ is the hope of the Church, the life of the Church, and the foundation of the Church. The Church is to be a community of faith, a community of hope, a community of love, and a community of witnesses of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church is to be holy (set apart for the work of God), catholic (inclusive of all Christians everywhere), and apostolic (able to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, like the first apostles, wherever we go through the power of the Holy Spirit).

The Church is faithful to the mission of Christ as it proclaims the gospel, provides care and spiritual fellowship, maintains worship, uplifts social righteousness and justice, and exemplifies the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

I believe that Scripture is the inspired Word of God given to its writers by the power of the Holy Spirit. It teaches us the will of Christ for the Church. It orders the worship and government of the Church. I believe that it was given to us as our guide to faith and life. Everything that I believe and everything that sustains my faith is found in God's living Word. I trust in the Scriptures and the Church as faithful guides to direct my paths closer and closer to God's Kingdom.

My mother and my grandparents always reinforced in me that if you don't believe in something, you will fall for anything. More importantly, they understood the need for me to develop my own understanding of God and why I should have a personal relationship with Him, the importance of studying the Bible, God's purpose for my life, why I should be a member of the church, and the consequences of sin. As I have continued to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, my faith has grown and is continuing to grow.