

Biography - Barry W. Williams – October, 2022

I was born in Jennings, Louisiana in 1952; the third of what would be five children. It was in Southwest Louisiana that I grew up in the 50's and 60's, learning a bit about Cajun culture and cooking. Beginning in 1970, I attended Centenary College in Shreveport, La., earning a B.S. degree in Business. I married Brenda in July of 1974. We were active in Westminster Presbyterian Church; where I was elected and served as Ruling Elder. In 1977 we moved to Austin, Texas where I attended seminary, while I was under the care of Pines Presbytery. I went on to serve churches in the suburbs of Houston, Dallas, and Ft. Worth (FPC, Mansfield; where I was ordained in 1984). My second installed call was with FPC in Salina, Kansas beginning in 1989.

In 1996 the Williams family (Brenda, and sons, Stephen and Peter) moved to Springfield, Missouri. Brenda recently retired as a Ph.D. Psychologist with Cox Hospital System. Stephen went to the University of Tulsa where he met Shelby Riker. They were married in 2008. Stephen is a Captain in the U. S. Army, having spent most of 2012 in Afghanistan. Stephen, Shelby, and our grandsons Oliver and Wyatt live in Columbia, Maryland. Peter married Wynne Anderson in September of 2021, where they live and work in Washington, DC.

Since 1996, Springfield has functioned as “home base” for me as I served as an intentional interim/transitional pastor in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. I finished my fifteenth, and last, interim/transitional pastorate (in Lawrence, Kansas) at the end of March, 2022. My retirement was effective April 1, 2022. I have been a member of Grace Presbytery, the Presbytery of Northern Kansas, John Calvin Presbytery, and Missouri Union Presbytery. I am currently a member of the Presbytery of Northern Kansas.

My training for interim ministry was in 1995 and 1996. I have been a Certified Interim Ministry Specialist in the Presbyterian Church (USA); (a certification process that the denomination discontinued about a decade ago.) I have been part of the PCUSA interim ministry education faculty since 2000.

My interests include fly fishing, cooking, and staying in contact with family, friends, and colleagues. What I am going to do to occupy my time in retirement is part of extended and ongoing conversation, of which I am in no hurry to resolve.

In Christ's service,
Barry W. Williams