

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW BRUNSWICK
Introduces

Reverend Roberta Kearney

Our New Pastor



*For we know that God works all things for good for those
who love Him and are called according to His purpose.*

Romans 8:28.

Reverend Roberta Kearney

(Last name pronounced Car-nee)

Pastor Roberta comes to the Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick with 22 years of ordained experience in both installed and interim positions. She has faithfully served the Carlisle, John Knox, Newton and Lehigh Presbyteries in leadership and other roles. She has completed extensive continuing education in Church Systems and Organization; Conflict Resolution; Discipleship Skills; Multi-Cultural, Interfaith and Outreach; Worship and Preaching Skills; Spiritual, Counseling and Bereavement Skills. She also has experience in church finances and music ministry.

Pastoral Experience

Solo Interim Pastor

Pilgrim Presbyterian, Phillipsburg, NJ; 7/11 – 3/15; 195 members.

Solo Interim Pastor

Faith Presbyterian, Emmaus, PA; 3/09 – 6/11; 280 people all ages.

Associate Pastor

First Presbyterian, Bethlehem, PA; 10/98 – 2/09; 2,300 members.

Associate Pastor

Christ Presbyterian, Madison, WI; 2/96 – 9/98; 800 members.

Interim Associate Pastor

Pine Street Presby., Harrisburg, PA; 10/93 – 12/95; 800 members.

Other Experience

Pennsylvania General Assembly (3 positions)

Senate Research Director

Senior Policy Analyst for a Senator

Legislative Research Analyst, House Judiciary Committee

Education

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ
Master of Divinity, 1993

Albright College, Reading, PA
Bachelor of Arts in Urban Affairs, 1979

Some Personal Information

Over the course of my lifetime, I have lived in Madison, Wisconsin; Seattle, Washington; Decatur, Georgia; Harrisburg and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Each place has been unique. In each place, I have learned great and wonderful things about people and about life. Every community and every church has helped me appreciate how many different ways there are to do things.

I am the oldest of six children. My dad and most of my siblings are located in eastern Pennsylvania. I have always been single and enjoy being an aunt to my nieces and nephews.

I enjoy walking, lots and lots of reading, and playing board games. I belong to two film discussion groups and serve in leadership roles in the Spiritual Directors of the Greater Lehigh Valley and a local Toastmasters group.

I have various food intolerances which limit what I can eat. I am both gluten and lactose intolerant. Please know that as much as I would like to eat the wonderful foods you might provide, I may have to ask the ingredients, and I may need to say no thanks. I appreciate your understanding as I seek to remain well.

I am very glad to once again be serving a congregation in an urban setting and really looking forward to getting to know the people of New Brunswick Presbyterian church and the people with whom you do ministry.

Reflections by Pastor Roberta from her.....

Personal Information Form (PIF)

I want to walk and grow with a church that is open to the Spirit's leading presence as it pursues a new course in its life and ministry. Such a congregation is listening for God by deliberately coming together for prayer, Bible study and to grow in the ways of Christian community.

Listening to people and God is core to who I am. The joy of Transitional Ministry is adapting or developing skills to best meet the needs of each congregation I serve. In each congregation, I want to equip people to engage the changing needs of the congregation and the community outside its doors.

I love to teach, mentor and spiritually nurture individuals and groups. I am energized by helping people to mature as followers of Jesus, to grow in understanding one another, and to work through many forms of differences and conflict.

My relationship with Jesus Christ is one of constant renewal. Jesus lovingly reshapes my sense of who I am, who God is, and where God is at work in the world.

God has used two scripture verses to assure me God is always faithfully at work. Both verses are from Paul's letters. From Philippians 1:6 I know ".....God who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" and from 2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you" I thank God for knowing: At my lowest, God is my hope. At my darkest, God is my light. At my weakest, God is my strength. At my saddest, God is my comfort.

My desire for myself and each of us – is to deepen our relationships with God, with self and with others; to be equipped for the work of building God's kingdom, and to serve the world in ways that did not seem possible, finding God powerfully at work.

Comments from References

Pastor Kearney has had a number of successful ministries but is still seeking a challenge. She has a gift of spiritual leadership, conflict resolution skills, and is approachable. She listens to people's concerns and has the heart to look into every issue for a good outcome. She fully understands the situation at PCNB; i.e., it needing to continue church ministry without a pastor for 9 months. She would not find the work daunting but would see how to faithfully move forward. She is a future looking person; she sees the big picture.

Since the conclusion of her past Interim position, she has been in demand for pulpit supply. She keeps herself energized by helping people grow in their faith. She is perfect for ministry in an urban multi-cultural setting. Her mission work which she started in Kenya has expanded to 8 churches all of which are now having joint worship over Skype in the US.

Pastor Roberta's Statement of Faith

My faith is rooted in a relationship with Jesus Christ and God's living word in scripture. Scripture is the story of God's love-filled pursuit of a relationship with us, God's generosity toward us, God's blessing of us to be co-creators working for reconciliation and loving stewardship of all creation.

I believe Jesus came, and is among us, to further God's purpose of radical hospitality and inclusion. Inspired and enlivened by God's Spirit, scripture *reads us*, revealing just as Jesus did, ways our relationship with God and one another is either growing or being depleted. Because scripture is relational, calling me to listen, I constantly hear something fresh and new. At times, what I hear calls me to lay aside former views, to go deeper and bigger in embracing God's ministry of wholeness. I believe God reshapes and expands our

thoughts and knowledge through every field of human inquiry, to give us an even richer appreciation of God's triune relationship.

God's love relationship with us reveals how undependable we can be, and yet God still sends us out to be the church in the world. I believe the purpose of the church is based in Jesus' life and in Jesus' words in John 20:21 "Peace, be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Breathing on us his disciples, Jesus fills us with the Holy Spirit and sends us out. With Paul, I believe" ... that God who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil 1: 6) and that the grace of God is sufficient for every endeavor of the church through all its strengths and weaknesses (2Cor 12:9). I believe the church, by faithfully responding to its mission of being sent by God, is to take on new shape and form as we encounter God at work in the world.

From the days of Abraham and Sarah onward, whenever God wanted to teach people something he took them on a journey away from what was familiar and known. The journey to God's heart involves discovering aspects of ourselves and our world which need to be left behind in order to walk into a new life in Christ. I believe prayer, in its many forms, is vital to the journey of faith. In prayer, be it active or still, silent or spoken, alone or with others, we are intentionally listening to God, being attentive to God's purposes. In prayer, God through the Holy Spirit is near us, praying in us, moving among us, bringing sufficient grace and wisdom for courageous living.

I believe the life of faith is one of celebration as well as sorrow, remembering as well as anticipation. In baptism and the Lord's Supper, God invites every reality- past, present and future to be present. Sacraments are a gift to feed us in body, mind, and spirit, as we pay attention to God touching the feelings, thoughts and attitudes within us. The sacraments give expression to the promise that we belong fully and completely to God, who claims us, redeems us, nurtures us and sends us.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Our Mission Statement

Celebrate - Provide a variety of experiences for people to rejoice and give thanks to God.

Serve - Create opportunities to freely give to others of our time and talents because God freely gave to us through Jesus Christ.

Grow - Offer ourselves for spiritual, organizational and numerical growth.



Vision Statement

We are a warm multicultural family of faith called by God to celebrate, serve, and grow through Jesus Christ.

A Brief Note from Session

With much prayer, reflection and deliberations, we sensed God's call to renewal and a need for emotional and spiritual connection. We are joyful in the outcome of our discernment – having Pastor Kearney become our “transitional” pastor.

The overarching purpose of this transitional ministry is to help our congregation unite around a long-term, sustainable vision for future ministry. Like the people in Nehemiah's time, we will serve faithfully with our pastor, committing ourselves to the common good and looking for great things from our great God!

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, Heb. 10:23-24.

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Special Thanks



To all members of the PCNB family, past and present, for continuing to support our Church.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

To God Be the Glory!