

Rev. William (Bill) Long Hudson

Formal Education:

Boston University School of Theology,
Boston MA

- Continuing Theological Education

**Austin Presbyterian Theological
Seminary,** Austin TX

- Master of Divinity

Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, LA

- Bachelor of Science

Training / Certificate:

- Transformational Training
- Stephens Ministry Trainer
- Interim Ministry Training by PCUSA

Pastoral Experience:

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| Pastor Head of Staff | > 10 years |
| Pastor (Transformational) | > 10 years |
| Pastor Interim | > 5 years |
| Pastor (Temporary/Supply) | > 5 years |
| Chaplain | > 2 years |

"I believe God is calling me to Transitional Ministry. I am gifted in helping congregations during times of change and so often conflict, helping them to assess their situation, calming them down and discerning what God is calling them to become. I like to help congregations seek out the spiritual gifts of their members so that they may faithfully minister to their community, valuing its diversity and differences."

Rev. Hudson

References:

"Ability to 'read' other people – intuitive – knows how to respond. He's very experienced. MULTI skilled practitioner. People person." *Rev. Jim Butler, PWR COM*

"Can't say enough about Bill—a gem - we will miss him and HIS WIFE. Without his expertise and guidance 'we' would flounder - he is there for everyone."

Elder IPC

Strengths: "Preaching and leading people / Great ideas for worship / He loves planning worship / loves theology." *Rev. Anderson*

Residence:

North East Ohio / Richfield



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Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

A previous congregation had an anxious system with a long history of factions and fighting; with winners and losers. Due to this, Session meetings were especially contentious, often leading to resignations afterwards. In preparing for the upcoming meeting I decided on a different strategy. Dealing with a difficult discussion where sides were already drawn, I began with how I felt when I first saw the motion. I consciously chose a reflective posture modeling a non fighting position pointing at myself and how I felt. The result was that others in the room even the leading antagonist began to share with “I” messages. Hearing the issues of others for maybe the first time everyone began to move towards compromise and agreement. Finally I was making progress. This changed the behavior of Session and since that night we’ve not had any resignations.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

I am a work in progress. To be a pastor you need to be soft as butter and hard as nails, tender hearted and thick skinned. It is a calling that is difficult to fulfill, yet ordinary women and men in every generation have answered the Call of God, frail and fragile humanity helping each other in God’s work. One must always be learning as one leads the people of God. This requires broad knowledge on many subjects; prayer, Bible study, theology, polity and also sociology, psychology, systems theory, etc. Ministry is all about caring for others. I have throughout my ministry found that I cannot do it alone. We are all in this together. I am still a work in progress. Thank God, Christ is in our midst.

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Statement of Faith

No one comes to God alone. We are surrounded by the faithful of every time and place. The words and the songs of faith have been given to each of us. Their message is proclaimed through us. It is not our own. It belongs to the Great Congregation. My words and deeds may seem faint and stumbling. Their words and deeds are booming and graceful. The revelation that they have given me proclaims a God of love and compassion. Their witness informs and directs my life. I believe because of the saints, and I am honored to be in their number. It is a privilege to serve the Church. The saints have loved and served and by ordination have given me a joyful burden.

I believe in the Creator of all things who in great mystery, delights in the created universe. All life depends upon the One who made heaven and earth. Each breath we take is a gift of life. Yet, humanity has in too many ways neglected to care for the earth that God created in love. We tend to forget our intimate connection with the creation. Each person must begin to protect, cherish and if possible restore the earth. As a creature, I affirm that every living thing is a gift. Each person is loved by Abba God, so I must practice the ways of justice and respect.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, who in his life, teachings, death and resurrection revealed the Creator's love. Salvation is created. I first learned of Jesus through the life and witness of my mother. Her faith informs my life. She told me the stories of Jesus that I so loved to hear. She brought me to the font and to the table. Through the scriptures, Christ calls us to discipleship. Our lives must be informed by his teaching and example. Christ broke down the walls that divide and imprison us. To be his disciple, one must practice profound respect for all people. Racism, sexism, even cultural differences have no place.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who continues to guide and direct the faithful into all truth. This same spirit directed Abram to begin a journey. The spirit has spoken through the faithful of every time and place and God's spirit continues to nudge or compel each of us along a pilgrimage of faith, all are called to service, all are called to a life dedicated to God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. This redemption is the salvation story told by both Hebrew and Christian. This is the story and message we must share with the world. We were created, redeemed and commissioned in love. The signs and symbols of faith have informed my life. I stand in mystery and in joy as I participate in the journey and experience the great drama that the Creator has given us.