

**Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky  
Called Meeting  
August 21, 2024  
Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church  
AGENDA**

**Moderator: Teaching Elder Christine Coy Fohr**

**Vice-moderator: Ruling Elder Alicia Bloos**

**Stated Clerk: Teaching Elder Jerry Van Marter**

**Recording Clerk: Teaching Elder Andrew Hartmans**

4:30 p.m. **Registration**

5:00 p.m. **Gathering All Together** – Moderator Christine Coy Fohr

- Opening prayer
- Welcome to first time Ruling Elders and Guests
- Welcome and seating of any Corresponding Members
- Welcome from Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church
- Declaration of a quorum and approval of the docket.

5:05 p.m. **Personnel Committee report** – Betty Muse, chair

- Update on Interim General Presbyter search

5:10 p.m. **Commission on Ministry report** – Marissa Galvan-Valle, chair --  
Examination of candidate Ashia Stoess for ordination.

- **FOR ACTION:** Approve Ashia Stoess for ordination so that she may be installed as Associate Pastor at Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church. (COM has already approved Ashia's call, terms of call and transfer from Coastlands Presbytery in New Jersey).

6:00 p.m. **Closing prayer and Adjournment**

*Next stated meetings: Monday, September 16, 2024 at Okolona*

*Saturday, November 16, 2024 at LaGrange*

*Saturday, February 22, 2025 at Louisville Seminary*

**A Liturgy for the Examination of a Candidate for Ordination  
To the Ministry of Word and Sacrament  
August 21, 2024 - The Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky**

Call to Order – Moderator

Opening Prayer – Moderator

Opening Litany – Marissa Galvan-Valle, Commission on Ministry (COM)

Marissa, COM:

Merciful God, through the mouth of your beloved child,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, you said to us,  
'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;  
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest.'

Presbyters:

We respond to your divine command, O Lord, and  
beseech you to richly bestow the Holy Spirit on  
our candidate this evening,  
and on all of us who are called to your ministry, that  
we, with a great multitude, may be your evangelists,  
true and steadfast. So may your name be hallowed,  
your kingdom come, and your will be done. Amen.

Hymn: TBA

Examination of the Candidate for Ordination

Ashia Stoess

Ashia, to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, so that she may be installed as  
Associate Pastor at Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church

The Commission on Ministry presents the candidate.

The candidate gives a word of greeting, reads a scripture lesson, and preaches a sermon.

The COM representative asks the candidate to share a brief word of her faith journey, and hopes for serving in the  
ordered ministry of a teaching elder.

The Presbytery examines the candidate, excuses her from the meeting room, and acts on the recommendation of the  
COM to ordain the candidate.

The candidate is escorted back into the room, and the Moderator announces the Presbytery's action, with appropriate remarks.

If the examination has been sustained, the Presbytery approves plans for the candidate's ordination and takes action as appropriate on the candidate's terms of call.

Ascription of Praise – Moderator

## TEMPORARY ASSOCIATE PASTOR AGREEMENT

Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky

The Session of the  Pewee Valley  Presbyterian Church (USA) of  Pewee Valley , KY, being satisfied with the qualifications of  Ashia Stoess  and believing that this ministry will be to the Glory of God and the spiritual benefit of the body of Christ requests the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky to appoint  Ashia Stoess  as temporary pastor from  (date of ordination)  to  (one year from date of ordination)  for  40  hours per week.

(Note: Pastoral relationships of less than 20 hours/week are not eligible for participation in the medical, pensions, or death and disability plans of the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church USA).

This agreement may be terminated by either party with  14  days written notice to the other party and to the Presbytery. Duties of the temporary pastor include, but are not limited to:

1.  Family Ministry
2.  Community Engagement
3.  Preaching and Pastoral Care
4.  Administration of the Sacraments

**\*\*See full Job Description attached**

On behalf of the Session, we promise to support and encourage \_\_\_\_\_ in the performance of his/her duties by remuneration in regular payments as follows based on a yearly compensation:

(Note: If the Temporary Pastor is employed part-time, compensation will be determined by MKP minimums for called and installed Pastors and adjusted in relationship to the percentage of full-time.)

44,000.00  Salary  
 2,000.00  Housing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Deferred Compensation (if any)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other salary (if any)  
 3,519.00  SECA Offset (7.65% of Salary + Housing)

Accountable reimbursement plans:

Auto Allowance (reimbursed at current IRS rates/mile): \$  670.00

Continuing Education: \$  500.00

**Additional Benefits (These are all Mid-Kentucky Presbytery Minimums) – These *minimums* apply for part-time calls. As with full-time, installed calls, this is paid time away from the congregation.**

These additional benefits are based on a year-long call and may be prorated for shorter calls (e.g.: 2 weeks vacation for a six-month agreement).

- 4 weeks vacation (inclusive of 4 Sundays) per year
- 2 weeks continuing education (inclusive of 2 Sundays) per year
- 13 weeks (at least 91 consecutive days) parental leave per presbytery parental leave policy (If parental leave would be a financial strain on the congregation, the session should contact the presbytery to discuss financial support.)

Please note that this worksheet is not an exhaustive list of compensation options but does detail Mid-Kentucky Presbytery's minimums. Other popular options include Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts, 403(b) Non-profit Retirement Savings Accounts, Dental Insurance, etc.

**Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

All temporary pastoral relationships in excess of 20 hours/week or more are eligible for participation in the pastor's participation or the menu plans of the Board of Pensions. Please contact the Board of Pensions for more detail and for online employer modeling of individual costs for the menu options. [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org)

Temporary Associate Pastor is being provided pastor's participation benefits, including 4 weeks of Vacation and 2 weeks of Study Leave..

Temporary Associate Pastor is being provided the following menu based benefits:

- Medical
  - Self
  - Self + Spouse
  - Self + Family
  - Self + Spouse + Family
- Pension
- Death and Disability

Temporary Associate Pastor's employer is contributing annually \$\_\_\_\_\_ to a Retirement Savings Plan (403b) administered through the Board of Pensions or another qualified plan administrator.

Temporary Associate Pastor is not being offered any benefits through the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Any additional compensation or benefits (please list, if any):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following individuals below have received and accepted this agreement for service as temporary pastor of **\_\_ Pewee Valley \_\_** Presbyterian Church (USA) of **\_\_ Pewee Valley \_\_**, KY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk of Session)      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Commission on Ministry)      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Temporary pastor)      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(This agreement must be reviewed at least every twelve months and submitted to the MKP-COM for renewal.)  
Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Louisville, KY 40205, [office@midkentuckypresbytery.org](mailto:office@midkentuckypresbytery.org)  
(Rev. December 14, 2023)

# **Associate Pastor of Family Ministry and Community Engagement**

Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church

## **Job Summary**

The Associate Pastor of Family Ministry and Community Engagement organizes and supports the daily operations of ministry at Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church (PVPC). In addition to regular preaching and the administration of the Sacraments during times of worship, these operations include promoting spiritual exploration for all ages, exploring the mission and social responsibility of the church, and developing and training ministry teams as needed. Reporting to and working closely with the Pastor, the Associate Pastor of Family Ministry and Community Engagement is responsible for engagement with the community, partners, members and other interested parties to ensure the mission of PVPC is represented to the campus community and to the community-at-large.

## **Pastoral Responsibilities**

Pastoral Responsibilities

- Regular preaching when the congregation gathers for worship.
- The regular administration of the Sacraments when Communion is celebrated and Baptisms are requested.
- Pastoral Care of all members and participants of PVPC

## **Family Ministry Responsibilities**

- Ensure and promote the involvement and engagement of younger members and families into the life and ministry of the church
- Develop and lead classes/sessions for all ages based on topics/ interests and theological appropriateness rather than age, with the Pastor
- Coordinate with ministry teams to ensure that opportunities for youth and families to engage are being provided (i.e. participate in worship, fellowship, mission/ volunteering, retreats, Christian education)
- Personally and pastorally cultivate and maintain relationships with families of PVPC through one-on-one time, group activities, and ministry events
- Create an avenue to promote family faith formation through the use of social media and newsletters for congregation and Child Development Center (CDC) families
- Cultivate a pastoral presence at the CDC for families, as well as staff
- Participate in worship regularly (i.e. liturgist, sacred space, music, prayer, preach)

## **Community Engagement Responsibilities**

- Develop and organize a process of engagement with the community.
- Identify possible community partners
- Work to connect the church with ethically appropriate and value sharing partners
- Attend community events (in-person or online) as a PVPC representative
- Coordinate events with members and community as needed
- Increase visibility and understanding of PVPC Mission and Vision through use of various media outlets
- Create marketing and messaging materials and work to keep website and social media sites up to date

# Ashia Stoess

2329 Montgomery Street  
Louisville, Kentucky 40212  
[ashiastoess@gmail.com](mailto:ashiastoess@gmail.com)  
(732) 604 - 7244

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PEWEE VALLEY, KY – 2017-PRESENT

Implement strategic initiatives to garner connections with our childcare ministry and the local community while also maintaining creative opportunities for families of all ages to participate in Christian Formation and lifelong discipleship.

SUICIDE AND OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 2021-2022

Coordinate and facilitate fatality reviews at the county level across the state of Indiana with community stake holders to identify gaps in systems of care in order to minimize suicide and overdose deaths in the state of Indiana. This position required working with various state entities to gather records, organize information to present timeline of life space on deceased individuals to community liaisons from medical, educational, social services, law enforcement and recovery organizations and aid in the creation of systemic goals to address identified gaps.

CHAPLAIN (CPE INTERN), UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE HOSPITAL; LOUISVILLE, KY – SUMMER 2017

Provide spiritual and emotional care to patients and family members during times of difficulty and trauma.

STUDENT PASTOR (INTERN), CHURCH OF THE PROMISE; LOUISVILLE, KY – 2016-2017

Lead worship, lead book studies/groups, preach, serve on Design Team, work at the missional restaurant that is a part of the church, aid with administrative and organizational work, plan and implement discipleship dinners and attend community meetings.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, HOFFMAN'S ICE CREAM; POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ – 2005-2015

Management of four busy year-round locations and over 100 staff members. Hire, train and schedule employees, tend to administrative tasks, keep inventory, track sales, stock and track safes and tills, market products and develop new products and sales initiatives.

## EDUCATION

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY — Master of Divinity, 2018

Kean University, Union, NJ — Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, 2013

Ocean County Community College, Toms River, NJ — Associate in Arts, 2011

## SKILLS

- Organization and implementation of tasks.
- Leadership and empowerment.
- Visionary and developer of holistic systems.



## Statement of Faith

*I believe* that God is the what and how of life, connecting and compelling us forward toward reconciliation with God's self, with all of humanity, and with all of creation.

*I believe* that Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God in human form showing us the reality of God among us and how it is that we should live as God's people.

*I believe* that the Holy Spirit is what stirs and nudges us, the feeling deep within our being of connection to all of creation and to God guiding us and pursuing us.

*I believe* that scripture is an accumulation of stories, histories, and experiences of God's people as they tried to understand who God is more deeply and who they are as God's people. Scripture is a gift for the church to be used in teaching, comforting and challenging us to seek justice and reconciliation for all of creation.

*I believe* that the Lord's Supper is a sacrament and ritual in which we remember the covenant we have in God through Jesus Christ. When we take part in the Lord's Supper we remember that through Christ we are God's people and are renewed to live out that reality.

*I believe* that Baptism is a covenant from God to an individual that cannot be broken and that it is also a commitment to and from a community of believers. In the act of Baptism we acknowledge that an individual is loved by God and welcomed into the body of Christ, which allows that person to experience a newness of life and embrace their membership of God's family.

*I believe* that the nature and mission of the church is to be the body of Christ in the world, showing God's love to all people and working toward the reconciliation of the world. The church is called to love God and love our neighbor and to seek justice for the oppressed and the marginalized.

*I believe* that sin is the result of a broken connection with God that exists on both a personal and corporate level and is experienced in a diverse number of ways.

*I believe* that grace is a freely offered gift from God through Jesus Christ that offers us the opportunity every day to choose life and love over death and hate.

## Spiritual Journey Ashia Stoess

My earliest memories of my knowledge of “God”, yes I am putting that one in quotes, are a bit odd to me now. They were for some reason grounded a bit in fear and ritual around prayer (I will spare you the details of my adolescent mind). I’m sure no one ever explicitly taught these ideas about God to me during my many years in Sunday School, yet somehow I acquired this understanding from somewhere. I never questioned the way I thought about God at 11 or 12 (maybe younger) until I was much older, probably during Seminary.

While those may be my earliest memories of my own knowledge of God in retrospect, my furthest reaching and best experiences of the presence of God came through my church. I was baptized in a PC(USA) congregation as an infant, and was truly loved and nurtured through the community at Brick Presbyterian Church. I attended church with my mother, grandparents, and siblings and have been active in the church for as long as I can remember. My memories of belonging to the church go back much further than my memories of God and these memories are of love, acceptance, and care.

It wasn’t until my early twenties that I really began to wrestle with my faith. While very active in my congregation, I was one of the only, if not the only 20 something ever present, so when I stumbled upon a young group of Christians on my college campus who loved Jesus, I joined right in. This led to a season of many nights at churches and two services at two different congregations on Sundays. I eventually came to realize, that the “younger” church I was attending with college friends shared a lot of beliefs about God and people that did not align with my personal experiences. It was at this point in my life that I started to truly begin to discern the relationship between my understanding of God and my experience of the world for myself.

I believe it was this crux in my life that lead me to begin asking questions, as well as, my experiences of being a devoted church kid that lead me to begin the ordination process and attend Seminary. Seminary was, as I’m sure many of you reading this can relate, a whirlwind. I found myself simultaneously falling more and more in love with God and Scripture from an academic perspective and less and less able to feel connected to my faith in any real spiritual way. Thankfully, I have come to a point in my life where I have balanced this out and find myself deeply connected with God holistically.

I’ve had the good fortune since graduating seminary to serve a congregation in Mid-KY Presbytery that feels a lot like the church I grew up in. It’s a place where I have continued to grow in my faith alongside wonderful people and it’s a place that has continued to stretch me in the many roles I have had in the last 6.5 years. Experiences that both draw me nearer and nearer to God and call me to *stay* on this journey. As I embark upon this next step of transferring my membership to Mid-KY Presbytery and pursue the final steps of ordination I am looking forward to opportunities that will continue to expand my understanding of God and my interpretation and connection to the Spirit. I am eager to continue to seek understanding and meaning in my personal experiences and alongside a congregation as we seek the kin-dom of God together. And I am excited about the transformations that will continue to take place on my spiritual journey in the years ahead.

Responses to the Five Questions  
Ashia Stoess

1. **What events or persons have significantly affected your ministry?**

The congregation at Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church (PVPC) has had the most significant impact on my ministry in recent years. Serving PVPC, a white, affluent, educated, traditional congregation has forced me to consider what place, if any, a church like this has in the future, considering the rapidly changing culture around us that has “no time or need” for church. It has challenged me to explore the ways in which a *Sunday Church* can recommit and reengage with their community without an agenda of getting butts in the pews or money in the plate. It has taught me that creating cultural transformation in a church is less about the outcomes, the tangible things we can see (a community wide fall festival, members showing up to a mental health fair, a “prayground” in a tiny sanctuary with real live children and families in it) and more about the subtle moments that are often more difficult to identify (spiritual growth, leaders feeling empowered, abundance mindsets being formed, acts of vulnerability and risk grounded in trust of God being taken.) These “events” and “people” have prepared and encouraged me for the inevitable road ahead that many of us in ministry find a lot of uncertainty in.

2. **What theological beliefs have emerged as critical to your practice of ministry?**

A theological belief that is critical to my practice of ministry is the incarnation of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In this world, if we claim Jesus as our Lord and Savior then it is imperative that we live like Jesus lived trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide us. We ourselves need to be incarnational, which to me, means getting out of our sanctuaries and engaging with the communities we claim to be a part of. It also means that when we are in those sanctuaries (or other personal worshipful experiences) we are open to the work of the Holy Spirit on our lives and when we are out in the world we are seeking the Holy Spirit to guide our living.

3. **What experiences have challenged or affirmed your faith?**

The experience that simultaneously challenges and affirms my faith is the experience of striving to live the abundant life that God intends for all of creation, the struggle to have that for myself and to co-create and collaborate with the Spirit, by whatever means I have, for abundant life for others. Those of us who put our trust in God sign up for a life lived in tension, in the tension of what is and what we know can (will) be. I’ve often thought it would be easier to be ignorant, to not “know” God, and it might in fact make for an “easier” life, but I highly doubt it would be an abundant one. I trust, that despite my (our) present reality that God is actively working in the world to bring about the kin-dom. I trust that from the inception of the this planet or whatever there was before, there was and continues to be an energy that connects all things and that that energy, source, God continues to pull us toward each other despite all that exists in this world that forces us apart. As a human, a Christian, seminary trained individual, and a person who serves a congregation, I am always trying to make sense of and find meaning

in experiences, whether it be my personal experiences, the experiences of the local church, the experiences of The Church, or the experience of being human in 2024.

4. **What is your view of the sacraments in light of your practice of ministry?**

In light of my current practice of ministry being in a congregational setting, I view the sacraments as Holy Acts practiced by the church to build up the body of Christ. It's quite beautiful that in the practice of both communion and baptism we come together in the present and are invited to look back and remember (i.e. God's covenant with us, Jesus' words, our own baptisms) and also look forward with hope (i.e. for how we will participate in God's promises, live out Jesus' command to love one another, for how we will raise and nurture the future church). I appreciate that the practice of communal present, past, and future reflection that is experienced through the sacraments nourishes the individual body and the body corporate for the life of ministry.

5. **What is your view of the government of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) in light of your practice of ministry?**

I view the government of the PC(USA) as a gift to the church. I am of the mind that there is more freedom than constraint in structure. I find that the government structure of the PC(USA), with its elected officials and members being both teaching and ruling elders, lives into our belief in the sainthood of all believers. I also, though we joke and lament them, appreciate committees which when utilized to their full potential and appropriately supported can serve as an avenue for innovation and allows for the work of the church to be accomplished by the people. When it comes to the local church, I find the structure and order of governing to be just as important as at other levels of the denomination, however, there is room for growth in empowering members of the congregation to take leadership when it comes to the work of the church.



# Exams Transcript

Ashia Stoess (224601)

2329 Montgomery St

Louisville, KY 40212

Phone: 732-604-7244

Email: ashia.huelsenbeck@my.lpts.edu

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Presbytery: Coastlands

Seminary: Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Louisville)

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## Bible Content

Feb. 1, 2019                      79% / S

## Bible Exegesis

Oct. 27, 2018                      S

## Church Polity

Oct. 25, 2018                      S

## Theology

April 25, 2019                      S

## Worship & Sacraments

Jan. 24, 2019                      S