

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pastor Nominating Committee joyfully introduces

The REV. DR. MICHAEL YORK

as our candidate to become

Central Presbyterian Church's

next Senior Pastor.



LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Members of Central Presbyterian Church,

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is overjoyed to nominate The Rev. Dr. Michael York to be the next Senior Pastor of our beloved church. After reviewing more than 80 candidates, the Holy Spirit led us to Michael. The PNC unanimously agreed that Michael is the pastor God has chosen for Central.

Michael quickly demonstrated his strong love for the Lord, and we can see this in all areas of his life. As we got to know Michael and experienced his genuine and engaging personality, we found that he is energized by sharing God's word from the pulpit, teaching in small groups, and going out into the community to connect people to Christ. We feel that his enthusiasm and joy for being a disciple of Christ is not only infectious but inspiring. After our time with Michael, we all agreed that the Holy Spirit was there with us. With Michael's education, work experience, and strengths, we are confident that he is the candidate that best fits where Central is in its ministry today, and who we believe will lead us to where God wants us to be in the future!

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we believe that Michael's ministry will build on the solid foundation and history of Central. We believe Michael's collaborative and inclusive leadership style, and his love for being a servant leader, will allow the church to continue to prosper. We believe that Michael is the right shepherd to guide us in this next chapter in Central's extraordinary history of service to God, witness to His son Jesus Christ, and servant leadership to the Anderson community.

We look forward to you getting to know Michael and his family in the coming months. It has been an honor to serve as your PNC for the past 19 months. Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement throughout the process. We appreciate the trust you have placed in us and your faith in God to guide us.

In Christ,

Your Pastor Nominating Committee

Tom Hinchman Ann Jaskwhich Chris Luplow Sidney Mize

Carrie Pannell Bill Reno Blythe Smith Elliott Southard

Graycen Watson



THE REV. DR. MICHAEL YORK

The Rev. Dr. Michael York grew up in Jefferson, GA. He attended Presbyterian College and went on to work for two years as a high school chorus and drama teacher. During this time, Michael worked part-time as a youth leader when he felt the Holy Spirit call him to the ministry. Michael received his Master of Divinity and his Doctorate of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary in the area of Gospel, Culture, and the Transformation of the Church.

After attending seminary, he was called to be the Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries at Alpharetta Presbyterian Church in Alpharetta, GA. Michael has served as a solo Pastor in Clover, SC, and is currently serving as an Executive Pastor for First Presbyterian Church in Vero Beach, FL. Michael is actively involved in local and global missions and community outreach programs in his community. He is a true servant leader.

Michael met his wife, Erin, while living in Alpharetta. Michael and Erin have four children – Vera (10), Hattie (8), Birdie (4), and Beau (3). Erin is a middle school ELA teacher. When Michael and Erin are not chasing children, you can find them reading a book, riding bikes, out for a walk, or cheering on the Georgia Bulldogs to a National Championship.



STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE REV. DR. MICHAEL YORK

I believe in one triune God, whom I am called to glorify and enjoy forever.

I believe in God, who created the entire world—from the nature around me to the people I love, and even the people I struggle to love. I believe I belong to God through grace, the “free gift” God gives me. Through the waters of Baptism, God has called me into relationship and marked me as his own. Just as God called the mothers and fathers of Israel, and called Israel into relationship, God calls me. Like Israel, I know that I fall short of the calling God has on my life because I am a sinner, but God reacts to me with justice and mercy.

I believe Jesus Christ was God-with-us. Jesus experienced the joys and pains of being fully human, yet he was without sin. He loved, rejoiced, and wept with those around him. Jesus overcame the quagmire of sin because he was also fully God. I believe that Jesus suffered death on a cross for my sins, and I believe that he overcame death giving us eternal life. God has continually called God’s people into covenant relationship, but we have done everything in our power to break that covenant. In the Eucharist we are reminded that Christ did everything in his power to promise us a new covenant—a new way to be in relationship with God.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who empowers me to serve Christ and others in all that I do, and moves through me to give me strength to live out my calling. The Spirit moves in and through God’s people to call the Church to be witnesses and partners for God’s work in the world. By the Spirit, the Church is able to hear

the Word of God proclaimed in Scripture, gains courage to live out the Word of God, and answer the call to be God's presence in a not-near-perfect world.

I believe that God was, is, and will always be. There is nothing we can do that will make God go away, nor is there anything we can do that will make God turn away from us. The triune God frees us and calls us into relationship. In gratitude may we glorify God and enjoy God forever.



EDUCATION & WORK EXPERIENCE

Education

Columbia Theological Seminary, 2021

Doctorate of Ministry - Gospel, Culture, and the Transformation of the Church

Columbia Theological Seminary, 2006

Master of Divinity

Presbyterian College, 2001

Bachelor of Science, Music Education

Ministry Experience

First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach, Vero Beach, FL, 2015 – Present

Associate/Executive Pastor

Oakdale Presbyterian Church, Clover, SC, 2010 - 2015

Solo Pastor

Alpharetta Presbyterian Church, Alpharetta, GA, 2006 - 2010

Associate Pastor for Youth and Families



COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Naomi's House Organizing Committee

Interfaith facility for unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness. Naomi's house is operated by Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council.

Tykes and Teens Board Member

Tykes and Teens provides services for infant mental health and mental health services for teens.

Healthy Families Board Member

Healthy Families provides services for at-risk families and helps teach parenting skills.

Dodgertown Community Partnership Committee Member

Help organize support for Dodgertown Elementary School (Title 1)

United Way Covid-19 Cares Act Fund Committee Member

Worked with local community leaders to spend Cares Act Funds

Post Chapel Committee Member

Oversee the Post Chapel at Indian River Medical Center

Licensed Foster Care Home

Michael and Erin housed seven children ages 6 months through 18 years over a five-year period.

Central Florida Presbytery

Committee on Preparation for 6 years.

REFLECTIONS FROM COLLEAGUES

“He knows and loves God. He’s the ‘real deal,’ fully committed to serve God. Everything is an outgrowth of that. He wants to be all God called him to be.”

*The Rev. Dr. Jeri Perkins,
Mentor and Former Dean of
Religious Life at Presbyterian
College*

Michael lives, walks and breathes his faith every day. His ministry and faith are evident in how he pastors his congregation, serves his community and in his family life.

*Ms. Perrin Tribble,
Director of Church Relations
Presbyterian College*

“Michael is very approachable and able to meet people where they are. He has done an outstanding job in Florida by applying his experiences from past roles to his current call. He is ready for his next call.”

*The Rev. Dr. Mark Verdery,
Former General Presbyter and
Stated Clerk*

“Michael is able to relate to all age groups in the church and can bring everyone together in a way that strengthens the church. While he is clearly well-versed in theology, he excels in the way he connects personally with all members of the congregation.”

*Ms. Pat Veasey,
Member of Oakdale Presbyterian*



"Michael is very genuine and happy with who he is. He believes that building a community is more than just the Sunday service. He is a good preacher and genuinely likes people. He is a good find!"

*The Rev. Dr. Sam Rutland,
Member of First Presbyterian
Vero Beach, FL*

TOP TEN THINGS ABOUT THE YORK FAMILY

1. Michael and Erin were married on June 12, 2010.
2. We love to be outside, riding bikes, playing in the dirt, soaking up the sunshine!
3. We love to eat. Erin does all the baking and Michael does all the cooking. (Michael has perfected Gluten-free Buttermilk biscuits to accommodate his and Hattie's Celiac disease.)
4. We have two dogs and a cat. Bee, the cat, is 16. Piper is 12, and Baxter is 11 months.
5. We may be overly enthusiastic about the Georgia Bulldogs. Woof, Woof, Woof!



Vera



Hattie



Birdie



Beau

6. We have more books than toys, so you may find us reading in a hammock, on the couch, or in the pastor's study.
7. Half of us are always on time, the other half are chasing butterflies, rainbows, or children!
8. Friday nights are for pizza and a movie, and Saturdays are for gluten-free buttermilk pancakes and an extra pot of coffee.
9. We believe that we are blessed to be a blessing to others.
- 10. We strive to serve God so that we can Glorify God and enjoy God forever.**

LETTER FROM THE REV. DR. MICHAEL YORK

Dear Members and Friends of Central Presbyterian Church,

Several months ago, when I sat across my computer screen from your Pastor Nominating Committee, I was immediately moved by their grace and love for one another. From the initial conversation through today, they have extended that grace and love to my family and me. It is refreshing for me as a pastor to hear the love the PNC has for Christ and the community of faithful gathered at Central Presbyterian Church. They shared with me about Dr. Bailey's warm and steadfast leadership and their desire to continue to build on the foundation you all laid in his 23-year pastorate.

In my first visit to Anderson, I was able to see the beautiful facility that houses worship, fellowship, mission, discipleship, and so many other activities of the church. I got a sense of the faithful work of the staff and the members who keep the church humming along in a pandemic and beyond. I am excited to be with you starting May 1st as we work together to re-engage members into the church-community, extend Christ's hospitality to those seeking a church home, and share the grace and mercy of Christ to those in need in the broader community.

Please keep my family and me in your prayers as we make this transition. Know that we will keep you in our prayers as we prepare to serve Christ together.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Michael