

Nora is a cradle-UCCer. At the heart of her call is a passion for teaching and helping others live into the call of God on their lives, individually and in community. She has served the local church in several roles along this journey: deacon, youth leader, Sunday School teacher, liturgist, lay preacher, associate pastor and judicatory staff. Nora explored many avenues of lay leadership in the church while pursuing a career first in education and then in college athletics administration, before attending seminary and seeking ordination in Christian ministry. Along the way, she served in wider church ministry on the executive committees of the boards of the Eastern North Carolina Association, Johns River Valley Camp and Blowing Rock Conference Center. There is a great love for outdoor ministry expressed through service for years as a program director at Johns River Valley Camp and through work with the Southern Regional Winter Youth Retreat at Blowing Rock Conference Center. This past summer, she began her relationship with Hartman Center serving as a Big Splash participant and as a chaplain for one of the camp weeks.

One focus of Rev. Foust's ministry in Penn Central Conference is staffing the Committees on Ministry as they work with already authorized ministers as well as those seeking ordination to pursue excellence in that work. Helping to interpret the draft Manual on Ministry working toward more consistent processes across Penn Central Association Committees, Nora brings administrative gifts with an eye toward detail and consistency. Additionally, she has envisioned more relevant boundary training awareness for authorized ministers that invites them to see healthy boundaries as an everyday habit in ministry rather than a 6-hour workshop that has to be attended every 3 years. The topical, two-hour sessions, including one designed especially for retired clergy, occur several times a year so that ministers can choose topics that are relevant to their ministry and keep on the 6-hours every three years cycle. Part of bring relevancy into this training has included the development of trainings for local church leaders as well.

Another area of focus for Nora is leadership development and training. Servant recruitment is only effective if those being recruited are trained for the ministry they are called to in the local church. From the ministry of the sexton and the Sunday School volunteer, all the way across the spectrum of the church to the ministry of the pastor, Rev. Foust seeks to encourage continued practical and spiritual development and growth so that all members of the Church might live fully into being the body of Christ that celebrates the differing gifts of its many members.

Nora is a graduate of Elon University ('98) with a Bachelor of Arts in History. She earned her teaching license and taught high school social studies and worked as an athletic trainer for four years prior to returning to Elon to work as the Assistant Athletics Business Manager and Ticket Manager. Nora also holds a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School ('07). She was ordained at First Reformed UCC in Burlington, NC and served as Associate Pastor there prior to being called into ministry with the Southern Conference in 2012 and then to Penn Central Conference in 2016. She continues to envision her call through a teaching lens and strives to help others seek excellence in their ministry, both lay and clergy.

She lives in Harrisburg with her husband, Mike and their two children, Mckenzie (20) and Joshua (8).

