Presbytery Statement – Request for Reception
Rebecca A. Brown

I write to request reception into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) after a season of service within the United Methodist Church. This request arises from sustained prayer, theological reflection, and discernment of my call.

My time in the UMC has been a gift, strengthening my pastoral leadership and deepening my understanding of the Church's mission. I am grateful for the ways it has broadened my perspective and sharpened my practice of ministry.

Through this season, however, I have experienced a renewed conviction that my theological identity is most faithfully grounded in the Reformed tradition as expressed in the PC(USA). I find myself particularly shaped by the doctrines of God's sovereignty, the primacy of grace, and covenant theology—convictions articulated in the Book of Confessions and embodied in the church's life.

I affirm the authority of Scripture as witnessed to in the Old and New Testaments and as interpreted through the confessional standards of the church. The theological vision expressed in documents such as the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Confession of 1967 has been especially formative in shaping my understanding of sin, grace, reconciliation, and the Church's calling in the world.

I am also deeply aligned with the polity of the PC(USA), as set forth in the Book of Order. The connectional nature of governance, shared discernment through councils, and ordered ministry reflect my understanding of the Church as a covenant community under the lordship of Christ. I value the mutual accountability and spiritual discernment that characterize presbyterian governance.

Furthermore, I resonate with the PC(USA)'s commitment to being a Matthew 25 church—engaging in congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty—as an expression of the gospel's call to justice, reconciliation, and compassion.
I return not out of dissatisfaction with the UMC, but out of a deepened clarity of call and theological alignment. I do so with gratitude for my experiences and with a sincere desire to serve faithfully within the covenant life and ordered ministry of the PC(USA).

I respectfully request to be received under the care of presbytery and to continue my ministry in this body, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the discernment of the Church.

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2. Personal Testimony
I want to share a bit more deeply about my journey. My time serving in the United Methodist Church was meaningful and formative. It stretched me, grew me, and gave me a broader love for the Church as a whole.

But over time, I began to feel a steady pull back toward the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—not just as a place I had been before, but as the place where my theology and calling truly fit together.

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What has drawn me back is the depth of the Reformed tradition. The emphasis on God's sovereignty reminds me that everything begins with God, not us. The focus on grace centers my faith in what God has done, not what I achieve. And covenant theology shapes how I understand the Church—not just as individuals, but as a people bound together in promise and responsibility.

The confessions of the church, especially those found in the Book of Confessions, have helped give language to what I believe. They remind me that faith is something we hold together across time, not something we invent on our own.

I've also come to deeply value the way the PC(USA) orders its life together—through shared leadership, accountability, and discernment. That structure isn't just administrative; it reflects a belief that the Holy Spirit speaks through the whole body.

I'm incredibly grateful for where I've been. But returning to the PC(USA) feels like coming home—not in a nostalgic way, but in a grounded, faithful way. It's where my understanding of God, the Church, and ministry comes into focus most clearly.

With love, in Christ,

Rebecca A. Brown
