Bio - Rev. Andrew Hostetter

Andrew was born and raised in Lancaster county PA in a loving and faithful Mennonite family. He was raised to know and love the Lord from a young age, and grew up LOVING church. His parents and home church helped ignite a passion for Christ and the Church in his life. In his high school years, he began to feel a call to ministry and he began to serve and care for the younger youth in his youth group.

He went to college at Eastern University where he studied youth ministry and the Bible. While there he had two introductions that changed the course of his life. He met and started dating the love of his life Sarah in his senior year, and he got introduced to Wayne Presbyterian Church where he ultimately began to work in youth ministry after college. Before long he and Sarah got married, and she ended up working alongside him at church, where they both co-led the youth, college, and young adult ministries there for over a decade.

Midway through their time at Wayne, both Sarah and Andrew discerned God calling them to seminary to become pastors. They both enrolled at Palmer Seminary, and spent several lovely years studying there and growing in their pastoral abilities, while continuing to work at Wayne Presbyterian. It was during his time there he felt confirmation that God was calling him to be a pastor in the PCUSA denomination, and he began to think that God may have other plans for him other than only youth ministry. It was also during this time that Andrew and Sarah got involved in God's Precious Children, an education non-profit that operates in Liberia and helps thousands of poor kids go to school and graduate each year. They both continue to be involved in the work of helping to educate children in Liberia, and are both serving on the board of the organization and have traveled to Liberia several times for mission work.

While Andrew was finishing up ordination requirements in 2019, he and Sarah received the joyous news that they were expecting their first child. Sunday was born in April of 2020, and changed their lives in many wonderful ways. She totally captured her parents' hearts. 2.5 years later Andrew, Sarah and Sunday were blessed to have Preston join the family, and their little family of four could not be more grateful to God for bringing them all together.

After several months of researching churches and ministry positions, and many prayers and conversations with Sarah and others, Andrew accepted his first call to Centre Presbyterian Church in Loysville PA, which is a small rural church in Carlisle's Presbytery. Andrew began his ministry there in August 2020. The three years he spent there as their pastor were good and challenging, and he learned a lot from them and with them.

After Preston was born, Andrew and Sarah began to feel God was drawing their time in Loysville to a close, and Andrew began another search process. It had more twists and turns

than expected, but eventually ended with God opening a door for him to work as a Supportive Living Chaplain at Willow Valley Communities. Even though this was not what he thought at first was God's plan for him when he began his search process, he and Sarah discerned God calling him to accept this position. So in faith they moved their family back to Andrew's hometown and he began his ministry there in October 2023.

Since that time, Andrew has been grateful for this ministry work, and is grateful for the many ways God revealed his larger plan for their move back to Lancaster. Andrew has enjoyed using his gifts in new ways, and has found it rewarding to do his work of caring for his residents in difficult crossroads of life. Andrew and Sarah are also particularly grateful to be living very close to Andrew's family, for it has been such a blessing to have them in their kid's lives. God also brought them to Highland Presbyterian Church, a community that felt like home very quickly to their whole family. Over time Sarah ended up accepting a ministry position there, which has now expanded to oversee the children, youth and family ministry at our church. Andrew has found great enjoyment in encouraging and supporting the amazing ministry Sarah is doing there. It is a delight for them to see Sunday and Preston thriving in this community and seeing the church as a second family and home for them.

Through this journey of discernment and trust in God's faithfulness, God has reminded them again and again how faithful the LORD is to them. God provided for their family in countless ways, brought about many blessings that were unforeseen, and reminded them God's plan is more beautiful than they can perceive. Both Sarah and Andrew are grateful for the ways God is using them in service to God and others, and for how God has shepherded and cared for them through their journey of faith.

Andrew Hostetter's Statement of Faith

I believe God is love.

The Parent, Son and Spirit are love embodied: the 3 persons of God in 1 being.

In love, the Parent created as an outpouring of love. Because of this, all of creation is good. God made humans to be bearers of God's image. We were made for self-giving relationship with each other and God, and made to be caretakers of God's good world.

In love, God gave us freedom, because love cannot be forced. We chose to turn from God's love and care, serving other "gods" and foolishly striving to protect ourselves at all costs. Sin has totally tainted our entire being, made us incapable of any true good on our own, and left us in a state of separation from God and each other.

In love, God reaches out to us. Through Scripture, the unique and authoritative word of God, and through God's relationship to Israel we see God reaching out to redeem humanity.

In love, God became one of us. God entered humanity in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In Jesus dwells the fullness of God and the fullness of humanity. He models for us what abundant life looks like: love of God, neighbor and self. He chose the life of an outsider to show God's favor for the oppressed and downcast. He showed compassion to sinners, healed the sick, communed with the rejected, and loved without qualification. He is God with us.

In love, Christ died for us. Knowing we were helpless to overcome sin, Christ showed the depths of God's love through His death on the cross. He willingly took the punishment from our sins, forever removing the barriers between God and humanity. He did so as an act of grace. We receive salvation solely as a gift of love from Christ.

In love, Christ rose again. His resurrection defeated sin, death and the forces of evil. His new life was the first-fruits of the new life God prepared for us, and a taste of the perfect world quickly approaching where sin, death, injustice and pain have disappeared.

In love, Christ ascended to heaven where He serves as our high priest, and has prepared a place for us at His banquet table where one day God's children will all be celebrating together.

In love Christ sent us the Spirit. The Spirit of God dwells within us. The Spirit is our consoler, reminding us we are God's beloved. The Spirit is our sanctifier, making us ever more like Christ. The Spirit is our unifier, making us one body. The Spirit is our illuminator, making Scripture come alive to us and imparting the grace of God through the Sacraments. The Spirit is our empowerer who gives all believers spiritual gifts and calls us to ministry.

In love, God gave us the Church. The Church is the family of God, made one through Christ in the Spirit. In the Church we are marked as God's children in Baptism, and in Baptism we are cleansed of our sin through dying with Christ and then given new life as we rise again with Him. In the Church, the bread and wine we consume of Communion serve as another sign and seal of Christ's grace for us through His death. Through the Church we hear the Word proclaimed, and experience God in prayer, worship, and mutual service. Through the Church we practice the love we receive in Christ, and embody the good news to the world. Through the Church we proclaim and enact the Kingdom of God to the world, showing his love and mercy to all people, until Christ returns to reign in power and God's home is forever here with us on earth.

Our God always was, is and always will be love.