

ABOUT ME - Rev. Dr. Holly J. Dillon

My family roots are in Illinois, in farm country where the cycle of planting and harvest formed the rhythm of our lives. As an only child, I lived with my mother and grandmother and learned to garden, to play the piano, to climb a tree, to can and freeze the garden harvest, and so much more.

I still find joy in watching things grow, being in nature, being silent. My appreciation for silence comes from my Quaker roots, where a significant portion of every worship service was spent in silence, listening for the “still, small Voice of God” to speak.



Following a 5-year ministry as a co-pastor in a Quaker church, I devoted time to my children and tried some different career paths, selling newspaper advertising and entertaining as a professional clown.

Over time, I began to feel a nudge back to ministry, which led me to respond to an ad in a local newspaper for a Christian educator at a PC(USA) church. The rest is history, as they say! For the next two decades, I fulfilled my calling by serving in three churches in Indiana and Colorado as a Certified Christian educator. The PC(USA) not only nurtured my gifts in Christian education but also became my spiritual home.

One of the highlights of my life was receiving my D. Ed. Min. degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in 2012. My project focused on neuroscientific research on learning and memory in the context of worship. In 2014, Fortress Press published my work in a book entitled, *“Sticky Learning: How Neuroscience Supports Teaching That’s Remembered.”* I’d love to talk with you about how to create worship experiences that may have a longer lasting, more transformative impact for worshipers!

In 2013, I transferred my ordination from the Quaker church to the PC(USA). In 2015, I moved to Florida, where I served as an Associate Pastor and, most recently, as a mid-council leader.

I am a certified labyrinth facilitator and one of my core spiritual practices is walking a labyrinth. I love to fish! I enjoy exploring Florida with my husband, visiting wineries, swimming with the manatees, and watching sunsets on the Gulf.

I have three adult children and one granddaughter. Two of my children live in Colorado and the oldest lives in my home in Jacksonville Beach with his wife and Adalyn Rose (Addy), who is 2 ½ months old.

I am humbled and honored to be called to serve the Presbytery of Tampa Bay as the General Presbyter. I welcome the opportunity to visit with congregations, sessions, and pastors and to support the vital ministry already taking place across the presbytery. We are the presbytery together!