

The General Presbyter/Stated Clerk
Search Committee

Recommends

Bronwen Woodson Boswell

For the position of

**General Presbyter/Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Shenandoah**



Education

Master of Divinity, 1986
Princeton Theological Seminary
Bachelor of Arts, 1980
St. Andrews Presbyterian College

Ordination

Ruling Elder, 1975
Teaching Elder, 1987

Employment and Service to the Church

Presbytery of Genesee Valley
Temporary Stated Clerk, 2016-2017
Presbytery of Geneva
Temporary Transitional Leader, 2016-2017
Presbytery of Western New York
Presbyter of Discipleship, Communication and
Transformation, 2012-2015
Presbytery of Western New York Stated Clerk,
2000-2011
Positions as Solo Pastor, Interim Pastor and Interim
Associate Pastor, 1987 – 2011
Parliamentarian at General Assembly Committees and
Plenary Sessions, 2004-2016
President, Association of Stated Clerks, 2010

Continuing Studies

DisGrace, Montreat Conference on Racism, 2016
Struggling to Be Holy, Iona, Scotland, 2015 Presbytery
Leader Formation, 2011-2013
Mid-Council Financial Network, 2011-2013 PCUSA
Polity Conference, 2000- 2015
Interim Pastor Training I (1990), II (1992) and III (2003)

Bronwen Woodson Boswell

In 1619, Englishman Dr. John Woodson arrived on the shores of the settlement of Jamestown in the Virginia colony with his wife and two sons. That was the beginning of a long line of Woodsons in Virginia into which Bronwen Woodson Boswell was born.

Bronwen grew up in Arlington, VA where Clarendon Presbyterian Church was at the center of her life. She was baptized, confirmed and ordained as both a Ruling Elder and Teaching Elder in that congregation. She learned to love the Shenandoah Valley, visiting her grandparents at their farm near Lexington. For several years she attended the Junior High Virginia Music Conference at Massanetta Springs Conference Center.

Bronwen is married to The Rev. Dr. Howard W. Boswell, Jr. who currently serves as pastor of Kenmore Presbyterian Church in Kenmore, NY. Together Bronwen and Howard have four children: Kate (age 28), Ian and Jamie (twins age 24) and Rhett (age 20). They have lived in Salina, KS, Chicago, IL and Buffalo, NY.

Music and theater are among Bronwen's passions outside of the ministry. She enjoys singing and reading and is a fan of the Chicago Cubs, the Buffalo Bills and the Buffalo Sabres. Star Wars is the only movie she has stood in line for more than once.



Describe the position to which God is calling you.

“I believe that God continues to use me as a connector, a bridge builder and a cheerleader for the church. I believe in the connectional nature of the church and have worked at making those connections, which includes my service at General Assembly as parliamentarian. I believe that I can see the “big picture” and help others to see it as well. I see my work as communication, connection and collaboration in the congregation, presbytery and the wider church.”

What are the challenges and opportunities of the PCUSA?

“The church continues to seek how to live as Christ's followers in the world. What we have thought was the way to do that is transforming as we come to grips with how scripture intersects the ever-changing world we live in. The PCUSA is recognizing that the way we have organized ourselves in the past will not sustain us for the future and has to change as we return to the knowledge that the congregation is the basic unit of mission and ministry. We need to understand the communities in which we live and the needs of that community. We then need to connect what Christ teaches us and calls us to do with the gifts and talents we are given to go out and engage in mission wherever God may call us.”

Search Committee:

Bill Klein, Teaching Elder (Lexington Church), Chair
Don Baker, Ruling Elder (Moorefield Church)
Betsy Hay, Ruling Elder (Massanutten Church)
Wray Sherman, Teaching Elder (Hermitage Church)
Maren Sonstegard-Spray, Teaching Elder (1st Winchester Church)
Karen Thatcher, Ruling Elder (Tuscarora Church)

August 26, 2017