

## Haley Ingram's Statement of Call

I believe God is a Creator who is ever-creating. As a member of God's household, I believe, God is my solid foundation. God is within me, surrounding me, and working through our world. The gifts God has instilled in me to serve a purpose, actively trusting Jesus's call by listening and responding in faithful action, allowing the Holy Spirit to surround me in all situations, transforming possibilities of my future. Growing up in the Presbyterian church, I have a solid foundation in reform traditions. Through high school, I was given many opportunities to broaden my world image through mission trips and leadership roles. This is where I found a love of rebuilding, rebuilding peoples' houses, and assisting them in rebuilding their lives. The image of a house is one way I picture my faith journey. While it is essential to have a solid foundation, the walls, blueprint, and the home itself is ever-changing. I continue to rebuild my faith house. Through college, I found the creativity of re-imagining what our cities could look like to benefit all citizens, hoping to pull people in from our communities' periphery. After so many experiences of helping people rebuild their lives after the devastation. I wanted to continue this work, leading me to become a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV). This was a one-year commitment through the P.C. (U.S.A.). I thought a mission trip that lasted a year would be incredible! In college, I went from rebuilding houses to wanting to rebuild cities by making them more accommodating to all their citizens and assisting cities in making long-term strategic plans that would benefit everyone, including people on the periphery of the community. This desire led me to choose a double major in Political Science and Public Administration to be educated and equipped to fulfill this goal. When I graduated, I knew I wanted to go to New Orleans to continue the work of rebuilding peoples' homes and lives.

However, my Beloved Creator had other ideas. I was placed in a church as their mission coordinator for one year, which allowed me to exercise my skills while being challenged in new ways. That year challenged me, causing me to think twice about moving on to the next thing or staying to complete a second YAV year. I was offered the choice of a second YAV year in New York City working at the United Nations or to remain in New Orleans working in a community garden and developing a new worshipping community to meet in the garden as part of the 1,001 New Worshipping Communities Initiative of the PC (U.S.A.) I decided to stay in New Orleans with a curious mind and a service heart. Intrigued by the possibilities, my curiosity got the best of me, and I spent the next year loving people that lived on the margins of that community and helping them develop into a caring, worshipping congregation. Each new challenge had to be met with creativity and resourcefulness. During that experience of developing a community, a church, I realized that my home community was right; I have a calling in the church. Suddenly, the hoops I had to conquer before being able to do that did not seem so daunting, knowing that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as well as my congregation, family, and community of disciples would be walking with me.

It took me some time to realize that my house has a large addition where grief work has taken up space. Grief is one of the things that every person in the world has in common, even though we all journey through it in vastly different and unique ways. I believe grief takes up a part of our faith house, sometimes like reminders hanging on the walls, or sometimes becoming the over-sized extra room that we rarely enter because we are too overwhelmed by it. Grief is a constant in our lives and continues to inform it as well. For this season, as a Chaplain, I want to journey with people as they face the death of themselves or their loved ones, making moments and reminding it is another part of our journey. Through my seminary career, my 2-year church placement, and one-year Chaplain residency, and now working as a Hospice Chaplain have taught me so much and continue to prepare me for my next season. I feel more conviction to work in parish ministry, serving congregations through the numerous, ongoing transitions they experience. I want to continue walking with people through their life's journey, noting and noticing the beauty with which God has blessed us.