

Short Bio of Justin Miller

I was born and raised in Norfolk, VA, growing up in a small family of a single mother. My mother's love and support has shaped me immensely in who I am today and who I'd like to be. I became more involved in the church in middle school, learning to play music in the worship band. From then, I always had a desire to attend Bible College and work in ministry of some sort. As a first generation college student, it's fair to say I had no idea what I was doing when I applied to college. The only school I applied to was Johnson University because during a summer camp, they had a team present who offered a free T-shirt if I applied. I'm glad that God was at work, because I went to Johnson and mad some of my closest friends. From there, I went on to Emmanuel Christian Seminary to pursue a Master of Divinity; something that wasn't on my radar until a few months before graduating from college. Again, God was at work in my naivety.

During college and seminary I was able to experience a number of ministry opportunities which broadened my worldview and idea of what ministry could be. I also met my now wife, who has been my biggest supporter in pursuit of where God is calling me (and now us). After seminary, I took a job in a church (Restoration movement) at the beginning of Covid, and it was difficult. I empathize with so many friends and acquaintances of mine who left the ministry during this time. It was isolating, depressing, and there was no sense of belonging at the church I was in. After many helpful conversations with a mentor who happens to be a minister of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA and an opportunity at First Presbyterian Church Bristol, I was able to set my sights on ordination in the PCUSA. I have grown so much over the last couple of years during this process, and felt incredibly nurtured by my current congregation. I hope throughout my future in ministry, I can foster a sense of belonging and community wherever God calls me, because I know what it feels like to be in a place that feels isolating and draining.

In my free time, I enjoy learning about new things. I also enjoy reading, watching soccer, and running. I do my best to be disciplined and create healthy, yet sustainable, habits for my own spiritual, mental, and physical health.