



Hello! My name is Amy Remaklus! I am a third-year student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia taking classes to obtain my dual degree – Master of Divinity and Master of Practical Theology. I have been a member of Ottawa Presbyterian Church in the Maumee Valley Presbytery since 2012.

Prior to moving to Georgia in 2018, I was a very involved member at OPC as a worship leader, organizer for several kids' groups (Pint-Sized Presbies, Kids' Club, Kids' Worship during regular worship, nursery worker), adult Sunday school teacher, regular attendee at Kirkmont Family Camp and avid supporter of children's camps (my children participated several years prior to our move to Georgia), and part of the Presbyterian Women's group. In 2018, after much encouragement from Rev. Patrick Harley and Rev. David Montgomery, as well as support from the congregation at OPC and Maumee Valley Presbytery (who officiated my status as an inquirer in the presbytery in 2018), my family and I (husband and four daughters) made the big move from Maumee Valley Presbytery to Decatur, Georgia, where I was admitted full-time as a seminary student.

Now that we have been in Georgia for a few years, we are even more immersed in our life as a family of mission in Clarkston, where I (and inadvertently, my family) work with immigrant and refugee children, youth, young adults, and their families. In Clarkston ("the most diverse square mile in the United States"), I have been the Children's Ministry coordinator at Shalom International Ministry since November 2019.

As you might guess, my initial seminary education and role in Clarkston have greatly changed since the COVID pandemic started last year. As a result of COVID, I have been completing online courses and coordinating COVID relief efforts for our Children's Ministry families. On average, I dedicate 15 hours a week to collecting, sorting, and distributing groceries to 15 families; visiting families on their doorsteps; and engaging children in virtual and distant learning opportunities. When the weather is nice, we have been able to meet outside for various games, hiking, prayer, birthday celebrations, and ice cream parties. However, we have not been able to worship in person since March 2020. We look forward to resuming in-person worship in the fall of this year!

This summer, I am completing a portion of my seminary education in Ottawa, Ohio and the Maumee Valley Presbytery! I'm excited to come back "home" to Ohio and spend time with those who helped prepare me for the seminary work I am doing in Georgia and the ministry work I will be doing for the rest of my life. My ministry work started in Ohio, and it is because of COVID that I now have the opportunity to come back and say "thank you" to this wonderful presbytery (and earn credit at the same time!). This portion of my seminary education is my clinical pastoral education (CPE). It is in this role that Rev. Matt Meinke has agreed to serve as my supervisor and coordinate my efforts to provide pastoral care in the presbytery. We hope that my enthusiasm for life, compassionate love for others, experience with children and pastoral care visits, previous experience as a nurse, and seminary education will be of assistance to pastors and congregations in the Maumee Valley Presbytery from June through August 2021.

After my planned graduation in May 2022, I hope to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament so that I may serve in a new worshiping community related to camp and conference ministry for children, youth, young adults, and their families in Clarkston, Georgia. I feel called to be in ministry on the margins, and I feel called to that capacity in Clarkston.

Thank you for your support in this ordination process in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)! May God bless you!