

Autobiography – Ann Melick

I was born and raised in Defiance, Ohio. Our home was lively with my three older brothers, younger sister, and two parents. I was baptized, confirmed and grew up in St. Paul's United Methodist Church and participated in everything I could. At the age of twelve I made a commitment to Christ that changed my life.

I attended Ohio Northern University where I received a BSBA. I met my husband Lyle there in the fall of our freshman year and we were married one week after we graduated. My years at ONU were fun, and I grew in maturity and spiritually. Weekly chapel services at Ohio Northern University were an important part of my faith development as I heard a variety of preachers who tailored their messages for college students.

While working as a church camp counselor one summer during college, I sensed a call to ministry. I didn't know any female pastors at that time and didn't have any idea what to do with a call to ministry, so I stuck with my plan to attend law school. Just a few months later, I was in a bad accident that changed those plans, and I spent much of the next year in physical therapy. I married Lyle in 1982, and in 1986 we started a family. I loved staying home with my four children when they were young, but I'm such an energetic intense person that I needed much more in my life. I usually volunteered for 10-20 hours each week at my churches in Raleigh, NC, and later in Elyria, OH. I loved every part of the ministry that I got involved with: committee work, music ministry, children and teens, teaching adults, church government and finances.

In 2000, my senior pastor asked me to take a position as the Drama Director and Director of Women's Ministries. After much prayer, I accepted the position and began my vocational ministry. A few years later I transitioned into the position of Director of Global Outreach, and I had the privilege of working with missionaries around the world. Cross cultural ministry taught me to approach ministry as a student of culture wherever God has called me to serve.

A few years after that, I was promoted to Director of Ministries, supervising a staff of twelve pastors and their administrative staff. I loved pastoring pastors, serving on a Senior Management Team that collaborated and innovated in ministry, and having the opportunity to impact thousands of people. Some things were missing, though. My church did not allow women to preach or hold the title of pastor. I also felt that I should get theological education if I was leading a staff of professional ministers. I began work on my Masters of Divinity at Ashland Theological Seminary in 2003. In 2008, after much prayer, I left my church to take a part time position at Cleveland Korean Presbyterian Church, and to attend seminary full time. I graduated in 2010. My two years at the Korean church were wonderful. I was the Pastor of English Ministries. My little congregation was primarily youth and adults in their twenties.

Upon graduation with a M.Div., I took my present position at First United Presbyterian Church of Alliance as the Director of Family Ministries. I love working with people of all ages. I chose to pursue ordination in the PCUSA after prayerful consideration and consulting with people I respect. I love our denomination for many reasons: trusting in God's sovereignty, support of women in ministry, priesthood of believers, the system we use to govern ourselves, and the connection with churches around the world. I am excited to see what God has next for me. I am happy serving where I am, and I am open to God's call to go somewhere else.