

My Name is Alexander Barnes and I was born in Cleveland Heights, OH on April 4, 1984. I have an older sister, Katherine—now 31 years old and living in Boston—and a twin sister Caroline, who is living with her husband in Paris, France. My parents Geoffrey & Maryann both still live in Cleveland Heights. I grew up in a very loving household and attended Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, OH with some regularity. I was confirmed when I was in eighth grade and was involved in youth group, but would not have described myself as particularly faithful or religious at that point in my life. I was also heavily involved with Boy Scouts and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. I attended Denison University and graduated with a BA in Economics on May, 2006. At the end of my time at Denison, around Holy Week that year, I experienced a fairly intense transformation on my outlook on life and meaning and would describe this as a true ‘call’ experience. I was not sure exactly what to make of this at the time, but it only made sense by following the teachings of Christ and when I got back home after college I became much more involved at Fairmount PC and became a trustee and a member of the Outreach Mission Council. While I was back in Cleveland Heights after college, I worked as a machinist at a small machine shop for a year and worked as an Assistant Editor at a small publishing company that specialized in general desk reference volumes and specified reference sets targeted at middle school and high school aged children. After processing my initial experience, it made sense that I would continue my journey at seminary and began school at Columbia Theological Seminary in September of 2009. On April of 2010, I was hired as Youth Director at Fairview Presbyterian Church. While at Fairview, one highlight was being able to organize and lead a mission trip with Solid Rock Missions in San Juan, Dominican Republic in 2011—the first international mission trip the church had participated in. I graduated from Seminary in May 2012 and have recently accepted a call at Milton Presbyterian Church, and if God so wills I will begin serving as Pastor there on December 6.