

Grace and peace, members and friends of Massanutten Presbyterian Church—

What a joy it is to introduce myself to you! I am Reverend Lynne Taylor Clements, and there are all sorts of things I could tell you about myself—degrees earned, places served, responsibilities held—but those aren't necessarily the things that will help you get to know me. Plus, you can see all of that on the bulletin board your amazing PNC has created in the narthex!

I love the sound of a congregation singing. I love a table that always has room for one more person. I love good questions, beautiful words, long walks, trees, the beach, British mysteries, sports, bright colors, and perhaps a little sparkle. I'm curious about the story someone has to tell. And I have discovered that some of the holiest moments of ministry happen when we aren't particularly looking for them.

Faith has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up in Yorktown, Virginia, in a family where faith was something we practiced and lived. I loved all things church—choir, youth club, VBS, and covered-dish suppers (can I get an Amen?). I played in the marching band, acted in school musicals, and made friends I still treasure today.

After graduating from James Madison University, I came to Orange, Virginia, to teach high school. I moved on a Saturday, and the next morning walked down the street to the Presbyterian church. The man handing out bulletins was named Lynn Clements. We married three years later, raised our daughters in that congregation, and watched our family's life become woven into the life of the church.

It was there, while serving as an elder, that God surprised me with a call to ministry. I was asked to preach during our pastor's sabbatical and stepped into the pulpit not knowing the experience would change the direction of my life. That call eventually led me to Union Presbyterian Seminary and ordained ministry.

For the past twelve years, I have served Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, where I grew into being a pastor. I have learned that I am most at home where people are gathering, asking questions, discovering their gifts, caring for one another, working together, and wondering what God might be up to next.

And wonderfully, that question led me to you.

I was drawn to the love you have for this church and the life you share here: your commitment to collaborative ministry, your delight in thoughtful and creative worship, and your desire to keep dreaming and imagining what God might be calling you to become. I was especially drawn to your hope of deepening connections with the community and finding new ways to know, love, and serve your neighbors.

All of that resonated deeply with me. I can imagine bringing my own gifts and curiosity here while learning from yours. And it made me wonder—with increasing excitement and joy—what God might do if we were called to ministry together.

When I'm not at church, you might find me with Mr. Lynn, our three adult daughters and three grandchildren, walking, painting with watercolors, watching a soccer match, reading a book set in a castle, or planning a trip with friends.

There is so much more for us to learn about each other and, by God's grace, we might! Mostly, I want you to know this: I am beyond delighted to be the candidate for your co-pastor. I have experienced the movement of the Holy Spirit throughout this process, and I trust that God is at work, doing infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

With joy and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynne". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Lynne" in the closing line of the letter.