

DR. W. STEPHEN GOYER
stevegoyer@gmail.com
904-718-7777

WORK HISTORY

FAMILY FOUNDATION FACILITATOR (*part time*) 2021—

Jacksonville, Fl.

Family “process” work in church systems enables me to help family members listen, engage, communicate and commit as Trustees in their philanthropic service.

Values: All teams, boards, committees, and organizations (unwittingly) play out roles learned in their family system of origin energized by the anxious need in every family system to maintain stasis.

INTERIM PASTOR-INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA) 04/2020-07/2021

Birmingham, Ala.

While facing the same political and cultural divisions prevalent in our day, as well as the challenge of Covid, the 1800 member congregation of many Birmingham leaders was in the process of searching for their next pastor. However, many had grown distrustful of the process and resisted going forward. Thanks to previous experience finding reconciliation with churches in conflict, as well as my inclination to connect with members on “both sides”, moderating Session meetings, collaborating with a strong staff, preaching, teaching, servant leadership and most importantly their own strength of character, they regrouped and called their next Pastor. When I left, most of the crisis had abated, congregational trust and commitment to their mission was being restored.

Values: Non anxious presence, active listening, connecting, and relating to all parties, while holding everyone accountable to the values of the organization, and the right process yields more authentic, productive, and healthy organizations.

GOYER CONSULTING LLC

Jacksonville, Fl.

2019-

Providing interpersonal and interfaith consulting, coaching, and counseling for individuals, non-profits, and corporations seeking wellness, spiritual and embodied integration, authentic connection, and personal and relational reconciliation.

Values: Integrated health and wellness; grief and bereavement work; active listening and presence; community building; spiritual practice and discipline; family systems theory; end of life planning; and vocational, personal and corporate reconciliation.

SENIOR PASTOR RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)

Jacksonville, FL.

2005-2019

Riverside is an historically strong, complex, and politically diverse 1200 member mainline church practicing thoughtful and traditional worship with a vital history of interfaith, justice, and reconciliation work in the city of Jacksonville. Riverside Presbyterian Day School, (RPDS) is also an integral part of the organization.

My primary goal was to restore trust, hope, and vision through a long term ministry after a 40 year season of 6-7 year pastorates. Through our struggle to maintain community, strong lay leadership, and embracing our history of diversity in a polarized culture we discovered our mission to be "[A Movement for Reconciliation](#)".

My hope was to inspire each member to be "priests to each other;" to appreciate how much we don't know but think we do; to practice spiritual and relational curiosity, hospitality, and listening; to value the power of worship and community; to learn and practice spirituality; and to understand more faithfully and humbly the mystery of love incarnate through God and each other.

Our favorite color was purple—the combination of "red" (conservative) and "blue" (progressive). Our favorite word, "reconciliation"—as our mission confesses.

Values: Emotional and spiritual maturity; process as important as product; resilience and perseverance; authenticity and integrity; unexpected grace; humility; the power of intentional relationships; mindfulness; being present and active listening; spiritual practice.

SENIOR PASTOR COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)

Atlanta Ga.

1990-2005

My first church as pastor this is where I've grown the most. Covenant is a mainline "niche" church in the affluent Buckhead area in Atlanta membered by mostly professional seekers, often institutionally and spiritually skeptical, yet hungry for intellectual spiritual stimulation, authentic relationships and the experience of unbridled grace. Surrounded by mega churches, Covenant saw its identity in "not" being like them numerically, socially, or administratively, while following their call to be a thoughtful and inclusive congregation.

Covenant taught me the value of truth telling and doubt, of authentic friendship, of forgiveness when I messed up. And, after my first wife died in an automobile accident in 2001, the incredible power of intentional community incarnate in their compassionate care and love for our two daughters and me as we all made our way through grief together toward healing.

Values: Compassion; grief work; spiritual integration and authenticity; community from shared vulnerability; there's no answer to why (the mystery of faith and God); and especially resilience in the face of loss and trauma. Hope, Faith, and Love.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)

Charlotte, NC

1987-1990

Trinity Presbyterian is known for thoughtful and gifted preaching, traditional worship, and the integrity of scholarship. I grew in my faith and practice as a member there which inspired me to attend seminary. Upon graduation I was called back to serve as Associate Pastor. Mentored by

the great “preacher’s preacher,” Dr. H. Louis Patrick, I discovered the value of preaching and worship as communal balm for healing through forgiveness, wonder, and reconciliation.

Values: The meaning of vocation; scholarship; curiosity; truth telling; spoken communication; mystery; ritual; reverence, awe and wonder.

ALEXANDER AND ALEXANDER INSURANCE BROKER

Charlotte, NC

1978-1983

International property and casualty insurance and surety bond company where I was employed as an agent for mostly corporate clients. There I learned the value of integrity and relationships in providing service for my clients, perseverance in building a portfolio, and how important business and economic power is in our culture.

Values: Humility; perseverance and persistence; showing up; active listening; chain of command; hard work; respect for authority.

THE HARTFORD INSURANCE COMPANY

Manchester, NH

1976-1978

My first adult job out of college was with this national property and casualty insurance company. I learned the importance of dressing well, being on time, listening, learning, doing what the boss asks, and, in moving from Charlotte, NC to Manchester, NH, that the north is not like the south.

Values: Your first job is not necessarily your vocation; why two martini lunches are deadly; business is relational and driven as much by emotion as rational data (so is everything really); endurance; the working world can be spiritual too.

EDUCATION

FORMAL:

Union Presbyterian Seminary in Virginia- D.Min.

1983-1987

U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

1971-1976

B.S. Political Science, Industrial Relations

INFORMAL

Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health- Duke University

2019

Association of Death, Education, and Counseling Annual Conference

2019

Atlanta Ga.

Stop at Nothing , Inc. (leadership, management, consulting group-Jacksonville, Fl.)	
Peak performance and personal transformation seminar	2018
High Impact Leadership Seminar II	2016
High Impact Leadership Seminar I	2009
Aspen Institute (AVDF Fellow)	2017
Leadership Atlanta	2002
Mediation Skills Training Institute	
(One week seminar on mediation process presented by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.)	1996
<i>Autodidactic consumption of articles, books, videos, conversations, and experience regarding religious and spiritual wellness, mindfulness, meditation, spiritual practice, community, grief, end of life care, joyfulness, stress, meaning/purpose. Bibliography available upon request.</i>	
<i>Continuous</i>	

RECENT BOARDS SERVED OR SERVING

OneJax (Jacksonville interfaith and justice organization) Chair of the interfaith committee.
Metro YMCA Board of Trustees
St Augustine Presbytery-Trustee, Head of HR, Presbytery Council
Westminster Communities Board Fl (7,000 residents)
Jacksonville Pastoral Counseling Center Board
Riverside Presbyterian Day School Board

PUBLICATIONS

Over 1200 sermons, many lesson plans, several seminars, retreats, and presentations, and a few articles in various publications. *Available upon request.*

REFERENCES

S. Wright Caughman MD-Exec. VP for Health Affairs Emeritus: Retired CEO of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center (WHSC) and Chairman of the Board of Emory Healthcare.
(404-293-0304) wright.caughman@emory.edu

Miller Gorrie-Retired Owner and CEO, Brasfield & Gorrie Construction Co.
54 Country Club Blvd.
Birmingham, Ala. 35213
(205-531-0078) mgorrie@brasfieldgorrie.com

Ms. Emily Ellison

Author and Nonprofit Executive Founder, Atlanta Girls School; Former ED of two major NGO's in Atlanta Ga; Currently serving as Development Director, St. Simons Land Trust. St. Simons Island.
(404)-539-9772; emellison@sslt.org