

“Bayside Presbyterian Church is a covenant community of Christ’s people seeking to know and do the will of God.”

-From BPC Mission Statement

Introducing: Rev. Jennifer McDevitt, M.Div., Nominee for Associate Pastor:

BPC Associate Pastor Nominating Committee introduces Rev. Jennifer Marie McDevitt, M.Div., as its nominee for Associate Pastor at Bayside Presbyterian Church.

A letter from Rev. McDevitt:

Dear Bayside Presbyterian Church,

I cannot wait to get to know each and every one of you! Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is a wonderful group of people, and they assure me they are very representative of the congregation -- so I already know you all are wonderful, too. Your committee displayed trust in the Spirit, warm hospitality, care for one another, and genuine love for the church. I am honored to be their candidate to serve as one of your pastors. It will be a privilege to share in your lives in the years to come.

Who am I? Above all else, I am a child of God. I am one who knows the life-giving, life-saving grace of God made known to us in Jesus Christ. I worship and serve a God who calls us out of the world to be a community of disciples and who sends us into the world to share the good news of the Gospel in word and deed. Reading William Sloane Coffin recently, I was reminded that “I believe” is perhaps best translated as “I give my heart.” I am one who, however imperfectly, gives my heart to God.

I am a pastor. I will delight in getting to know you -- in hearing your stories and learning what brings you joy, what dreams you have, and what keeps you up at night. I will treasure your stories and your willingness to share them with me. I will be there to celebrate with you in good times, comfort you in sad times, and sit with you in uncertain times. I will pray with you and for you. I will engage your questions and search for answers with you. I will appreciate our commonalities and rejoice in our diversity. I am a preacher. I am a student of the Bible and I thrive on the challenge of interpreting scripture in engaging ways. The task of preparing and proclaiming a sermon is both fulfilling and terrifying, and I wouldn’t have it any other way.

I am a daughter, a sister, and an aunt. The majority of my family lives in Livonia, Michigan, the town in which I was born and raised. My parents still live in the house of my childhood. I have one younger brother, a sister-in-law, two nieces, and a nephew. I am lucky enough to live with the world’s best dog, Reilly, who will enjoy exploring his new backyard and going for walks on the beach.

My prayer for us as a church is that we will grow in faith together, caring deeply for one another and caring deeply for the world, as well. My initial interest in Bayside came from your clear commitment to being the body of Christ both inside the church and outside of it, too. I look forward to joining you as we work together, witnessing to the good news we know in Jesus Christ.



Grace and peace,
Jenny McDevitt

Bio

Born and raised in southeastern Michigan, Jenny grew up in the Catholic Church. She began attending a Presbyterian church in college and spent her college summers working at Makemie Woods, all of which helped her find a denominational home within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Jenny earned her Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union Presbyterian Seminary) in 2009. In her final year of study, she was awarded both the Sallie Shepherd Perkins Fellowship for Graduate Study and the Louise Larrick Award for Preaching and Pastoral Leadership. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and creative writing from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

Jenny most recently served two years as Minister in Residence at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. This position, most easily compared to an Associate Pastor position, is funded by the Eli Lilly Foundation's Transition into Ministry program. The program identifies seminary graduates who are unusually gifted for ministry and places them in large, thriving congregations under the mentorship of established pastors in order to prepare them to lead the church into the future. Residents take on key roles in all areas of ministry, attend national conferences, and develop networks and practices to sustain them throughout their careers. In Ann Arbor, Jenny served in the areas of preaching and worship, pastoral care, congregational life, new members,

adult education, local mission, spiritual development, and stewardship. As a seminary intern, she served First Presbyterian Church in Richmond and volunteered with the chaplain's office at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk. Before seminary, Jenny worked as the Program Director at Makemie Woods Camp and Conference Center. She also has experience coaching field hockey and teaching outdoor and adventure education.



A pastor dedicated to maintaining a high level of scholarship in service to the church, Jenny has published essays and reviews in the journal *Interpretation* and presented papers at national conferences for biblical studies. She has delivered keynote addresses at Presbyterian conferences and serves on planning committees for the denomination.

On a personal note, she enjoys running and biking. She is a voracious reader who admits to owning too many books (if there is such a thing) and has a weakness for ice cream, "horrible reality TV," and dogs. Though she has long been a loyal University of Michigan fan, she confesses that she won't miss northern winter temperatures. "I'm eager to return to the land of sun, southern accents, and sweet tea," she said.

Associate Pastor Major Responsibilities

- Assist the pastor weekly with worship services.
- Preach a minimum of one Sunday per month.
- Pastoral care with special focus to the poor, sick, troubled, and the dying.
- Pray for and with the congregation.
- Study and teach scripture to members and groups of the church.
- Encourage and equip both the church leadership and the congregation for developing evangelism in our local community.
- Welcome and encourage visitors, newcomers and new members to build relationships through participation in church programs.
- Administer the sacraments of Baptism and Communion.
- Officiate at weddings and funerals, to include premarital and grief counseling.
- Disciple and assist members of the session, staff, and church leadership to successfully fulfill their ministerial and leadership calling.
- Participate in governing responsibilities, including the session, presbytery, etc., in accordance with the Book of Order
- Participate in leadership and decision making within the church, to include staff meetings and when requested by the pastor, functioning as head of staff.
- Assist session ministries as coordinated with the pastor.

*Jenny McDevitt is a **gifted disciple** who makes a wonderful impression on everyone she meets and...she **brings the scripture alive** in engaging ways through her preaching and teaching. As a student, I remember with joy her **strong organizational talent** and commitment to service. In the church, she is a wise and creative leader...(who) relates effortlessly and...personably with everyone she engages.*

Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount
President, Union Presbyterian Seminary

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*Jenny McDevitt...has special gifts and **passion for the art of biblical interpretation**, evidenced in her engaging and creative preaching and teaching ministry. Her relational and leadership skills are every bit as impressive—you will find that her **gracious, capable, inquisitive presence** enhances the interaction of any group of which she is a part.*

Rev. Dr. Frances Taylor Gench
Professor of Biblical Interpretation
Union Presbyterian Seminary

*I've not worked with a writer quite as **gifted**. Her **preaching and teaching** skills are solid, and she draws the listener in with her warmth and humor...I see her extend, from the depth of her being, a kind of pastoral authority, personal humility, and spiritual presence...*

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor.

*Jenny is a **scholar** and a pastor, a strong teacher, a good listener, and an **artist with words and imagery**. She is intelligent and engaging, and her sermons and prayers proclaim the gospel in ways that are accessible and thoughtful. Jenny is mature beyond her years while simultaneously being full of energy and wit! Her sensitivity and pastoral instincts are remarkable, and she relates well to people of all ages. I have valued Jenny as a colleague. She has great insights and can deftly balance the competing needs of the parish.*

Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair
Pastor and Head of Staff, First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor

*Jenny consistently impressed me with her **strong leadership** tempered by **sensitivity and humor**...she forged strong relationships with church members of all ages.*

Linda Rex, Elder
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor



PASTORAL CALL



The Bayside Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) of Virginia Beach, Virginia, belonging to the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia (PIN 150/190) being well satisfied with your qualifications for ministry and confident that we have been led to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose service will be profitable to the spiritual interests of our church and fruitful for the Kingdom of our Lord, earnestly and solemnly calls you,

Jennifer McDevitt

To undertake the office of **Associate Pastor** of this congregation, effective October 1, 2011, promising you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, encouragement and allegiance in the Lord.

That you may be free to devote yourself full-time to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament among us, we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you the following:

1. Cash Salary of \$50,000 annually, of which 40% is designated for housing, utilities, furnishings, and appurtenances.
2. A salary supplement equal to 50% of Social Security Self-employment tax.
3. Paid vacation of 4 weeks.
4. Reimbursement of Professional Expenses for Automobile Expenses, books, and other Professional Expenses of up to \$3200 when substantiated to the Church Treasurer or person designated by the Session.
5. Annual study leave with pay of 2 weeks (with accumulation of up to three years).
6. Continuing Education Allowance of up to \$1500 with accumulation of up to three years allowed.
7. Sabbatical Leave in accordance with established Presbytery policy.
8. Sabbath Policy in accordance with established Presbytery policy.
9. Parental Leave in accordance with established Presbytery policy.
10. Holiday and Sick Leave in accordance with established Presbytery policy.
11. Moving Expenses to the field up to \$5000.
12. Regular payment in advance to the board responsible for benefits a sum equal to that requisite percent of your salary which may be fixed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including both pension and medical coverage, or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly, during the time of your being and continuing in the associate pastoral relationship set forth in this call to this church.
13. Promise and obligate ourselves to annually review these Terms of Call and the Covenant with an evaluation of the mutual achievement of mission goals by associate pastor and session as to their adequacy with serious consideration given to the current adjusted median family income.

The APNC is grateful to God for blessing BPC with a gifted associate pastor and hopeful that the entire congregation will agree.