



CONTACT: Rev. Dr. Richard Floyd
First Presbyterian Church
237 2nd Street NW
Hickory, NC 28601
(828) 322-6343
richard@hickoryfpc.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Presbyterian Church of Hickory Welcomes Rev. Dr. Richard Floyd

HICKORY, NC - First Presbyterian Church of Hickory (FPC Hickory) has called the Rev. Dr. Richard Floyd to be its new Senior Pastor. On Sunday, September 11, the congregation and community are invited to attend the 10:00 am worship service in the sanctuary for Dr. Floyd's first sermon in Hickory. Following the worship service, a special meet and greet is planned in the church fellowship hall to allow time to welcome Dr. Floyd, his wife Emily, and their daughters Anna and Ella to the Hickory community.

Dr. Floyd served at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta for seven years in many roles including Senior Associate Pastor. In addition, he has served other churches in Atlanta and outside Chicago as well as taught at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. He received his M.Div. from Columbia Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. from Emory University, with a focus on theology and creation. His dissertation was published under the title "Down to Earth: Christian Hope and Climate Change." He has edited a series of devotionals with Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann and published several articles in the "Feasting on the Word" series.

"We are so excited to introduce Richard to our congregation and community," said Ty Poston, chair of the FPC search committee. "Richard brings an array of skills that are well-suited to both our community and our church. It was evident from the moment we first met that someone special had been called to Hickory, and he comes to us at a time of great opportunity. FPC looks to embrace dynamic change while respecting our traditions and looking to connect with all generations that makeup our congregation."

"I'm so excited to be a part of a congregation that loves their town," said Dr. Floyd. "First Presbyterian Church has a rich history of 150 years, but they are committed to being a relevant, thoughtful congregation in the 21st century. They understand that faith is a journey and not a destination, and they strive to make room for everyone, no exceptions. I'm looking forward to being a part of their work and connecting with the larger Hickory community."

FPC Hickory, which will celebrate its 150th year in 2023, is a historic church in Downtown Hickory that has been at the center of the city since day one. FPC Hickory fosters diverse, intergenerational connections among people trying to build faith through worship, study, activities, mission, and witness to Jesus Christ. We consistently provide meaningful, uplifting worship at our two Sunday services. We seek not only to continue these ministries but also to extend our reach concentrically in imaginative ways. We enjoy a rich legacy of

leadership from both pastors and members as we seek to follow God's lead. Our church has a history of connecting with all of our members and attracting spiritually hungry people from our community while honoring our traditions. We look forward to engaging Dr. Floyd, who will embrace Hickory FPC's current vision – and open our eyes to a broader one that meets the needs of our community, nation and world.

For more information about Dr. Floyd and FPC Hickory, visit www.hickoryfpc.org, follow us on social media, or call the church office at (828) 322-6343.

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