



Reverend Floretta L. Barbee-Watkins

The Reverend Floretta L. Barbee-Watkins was born to the late Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Flossie E. Watkins in Atlanta, GA. She graduated from Walker High School and then matriculated to Mercer University in Macon GA where she earned a BA degree in Communications. In 1993, she graduated from Johnson C. Smith Seminary of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary with an emphasis in Homiletics and Christian Education. After Seminary she was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament and immediately began her vocational service to the church as Presbytery Staff of Campus Ministry at South Carolina State University and Claflin College. It was there that Reverend Watkins developed her approach to ministry as a “down to earth” minister serving with imagination, energy and humor.

After serving the campuses in Orangeburg SC, she received a call to

serve Pleasant Ridge of Lancaster SC and Hermon Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, SC. Under her leadership, Hermon was able to erect a new worship facility right under 7000 square feet, consisting of a Sanctuary, classrooms and a fellowship hall. Reverend Barbee-Watkins was chosen to lead Hermon because of her dynamic preaching abilities as well as her abilities to understand generational characteristics and their impact on the church.

In 1997, Reverend Floretta Barbee-Watkins was commissioned to the rank of 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force National Guard as the first African American female Chaplain. She served as support to airmen and soldiers in the various situations including the floods of North Carolina in Kingston NC as well as deployment to Elmendorf, AFB in Alaska, and Osan, South Korea. In June 2017 she retired from the 145th Air National Guard with 20 years of service to our nation.

In 2002 Reverend Barbee-Watkins began her service at well-known Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church. Known for its interracial make-up, Reverend Barbee-Watkins opened the doors for more inclusion and acceptance of all of God's children. With a strong emphasis on leadership development, Reverend Barbee-Watkins concentrates her efforts on a decentralized ministry style so that she can pour her energy into equipping lay leadership for ministry.

As the church transitions to new opportunities for service Reverend Barbee-Watkins continues to enhance her leadership skills, both formally and informally. Rev. Barbee-Watkins completed the Certificate of Executive Leadership with McCormick Theological Seminary and is currently a Doctoral Candidate for a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D) in Organizational Leadership. Her work will be around Clergy women and role congruity: The lived experiences of Female Clergy in the PCUSA. She plans to defend her dissertation and graduate this Summer.

Reverend Barbee-Watkins continues to serve the church with heart and soul. She has served on the Presbytery Council and served and chair of the Mission and Justice Committee of Council. She also proudly served

as the first African American Clergy woman Moderator of the Presbytery of Charlotte in 2013. Reverend Barbee-Watkins was nominated to serve on the Presbytery Mission Agency's Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns, for the class of 2018. She serves as a member of the Presbytery Mission Agency Board.

Reverend Barbee-Watkins is the owner of **FlowMotion Coaching** a performance coaching company which focuses on the total person, mind, body and heart. As a certified coach in Social and Emotional Intelligence, she hopes to help professionals, entrepreneurs and leaders transform and synergize the FLOW of mind body and heart, so that they can live purposeful and powerful lives.