

BIOGRAPHY

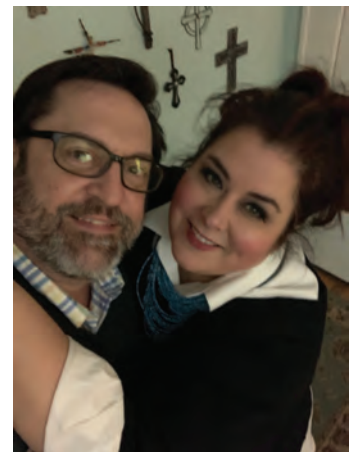
Rev. Anghaarad Teague Dees

My call story begins in the pew...there are no burning bush moments or thunderbolts, no crisis that brought me to my knees, just the simplicity of years sitting in a well-worn pew. Within the pews of First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, Mississippi I learned that I belonged. I was a Child of God claimed in the waters of baptism and I had a place and a family and a calling. I was surrounded by a wonderful company of saints who have helped me on this journey of faith and have shaped my ministry.

I grew up in Tupelo, Mississippi and was raised by my mother and my extended family. (My father died when I was very young.) My family is filled with pastors, teachers, writers and church musicians. Our family get-togethers always include songs, stories, laughter and great food. My happiest days were spent at The Aunt's house in Fawn Grove, Mississippi (I had five maiden great aunts who were my grandfather's sisters) where all the nieces and nephews could run free and there was always good food to eat. I learned much from my aunts including family stories, recipes, gardening and lots of old hymns, but what I learned most was what a life of service looked like, all five of those wonderful women truly served their neighbor and their God. You will learn more about The Aunts, I tell stories about them frequently.

I never missed church growing up attending Mrs. Katy Bryson's Catechism Class, singing in the Presbyteen Choir, serving on the session, and volunteering in the church nursery. I listened to the sermons of Mort McMillan, Pat Clark, Janet Dietrich, Ann Houston Kelly, Bob Walkup and Coy Franklin. As a teenager I served on the Presbytery Youth Council and worked at Camp Hopewell in Oxford, Mississippi. After graduating from Tupelo High School I attended Mississippi University for Women (the W) and earned my Bachelor of Music with honors in 1995. While a student at the W, I was active in EVERYTHING...seriously, I was in dozens of student organizations, served as an Orientation Leader, sang in all of the ensembles, and was Class Cheerleader. I continue to be a Loyal Daughter of the W and am a past-president of the Alumni Association and currently serve on a couple of committees for the Alumni Board.

After graduation, I moved back to Tupelo to serve as an Interim Band Director at Mooreville High School. During this time I was enrolled as an inquirer with St. Andrew's Presbytery and began exploring seminaries. I felt called to attend Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas. Seminary was a wonderful affirmation of my call and I thrived studying and serving in my seminary community. While a student I served on the Student Senate, as Chapel Cantor, Hebrew TA, and campus photographer. I worked at Central Presbyterian Church as a paid soloist, children's choir director and youth director. I completed a 14 month internship at First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson City, MO and consider that one of the best decisions I made in seminary. I learned so much and that time shaped how I selected coursework when I returned to campus for my final year.



BIOGRAPHY

Rev. Anghaarad Teague Dees

I was ordained in 2001 at First Presbyterian in Tupelo, Mississippi I have the distinct honor of being the first cradle roll member to be ordained in my home church. I have served congregations in Mississippi, Texas, Missouri, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida before coming to my current call in Valdosta. Through the years I have been a frequent leader for Montreat Youth Conferences and Triennium as well as a keynote speaker/worship leader for youth retreats or conferences in several presbyteries and synods. In 2016 I had the joy of serving as Worship Leader for the Junior High Jubilee at Mo-Ranch in Texas. I love to be in those thin-places especially with young people.

I currently serve as the moderator of the campus ministry board at Valdosta State University. I enjoy having the opportunity to spend time with college students as they are asking those same questions I remember asking decades ago. For the past six years, I have served the Valdosta Police Department as a volunteer chaplain and have completed over 200 hours of training in Law Enforcement Chaplaincy.

I am married to Zane Dees, a Mississippi boy that I met in Florida. We keep busy with our animal menagerie: cats: Ollie and Bit and dogs: Gypsy and June. Zane is a big outdoorsman and loves to be in the woods or on the water. He is currently working as an Insurance Adjuster which leads to him traveling a lot. In our free time we enjoy movies, live music and traveling. I dabble in art and am always reading 2-4 books at any given time. I love music...it is the hymns of my childhood that soothe my soul. I have continued to use my vocal training by singing with regional opera companies, community choirs and even a bluegrass band.

I grew up on the stage of Tupelo Community Theatre and have performed in numerous productions through the years. No show had a deeper impact on me than "To Kill a Mockingbird." I was the understudy for Scout at age 9 and memorized the entire show. I would stand in our front yard and perform Atticus' speech to the jury to any passerby. I declared then, I wanted to be Atticus when I grew up. In some ways I have achieved that goal...Mort McMillan, who was the pastor at my home church, played Atticus in that production and I have followed in his footsteps into this life of ministry. But I was able to do that because of the first lesson I learned in those well-worn pews of First Tupelo: I belong...I am a child of God loved, claimed in the waters of baptism and I will always be surrounded by the wonderful company of saints who have guided me, prayed for me and made room for me on this journey of faith and have shaped by ministry. Every day I am grateful that I am called this weird and wonderful thing called ministry and look forward to serving the people of Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church.



STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in the Triune God.

I believe in God the Father.

The Creator who spoke creation into being with a word of love and continues to speak that same word of love through the ages.

The Giver of life and the One who is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end and who has the last word

The One God who is three yet one and whom alone we should worship.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of our Lord.

Jesus Christ is the Word become flesh, who "moved into the neighborhood" so that humankind might know God and know God's love for us. Emmanuel...God with us in our pain, in our hunger, in our living, in our suffering and in our joy
Christ healed the sick, ate with sinners, welcomed the outcast and challenged the authority.

Christ came that we might be forgiven of our sins and took on the agony of death on the cross for the brokenness in the world.

After the risen Christ was revealed first to the women and then to the disciples Christ ascended to heaven to be with God the Father and awaits the time when he will come again to bring about the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

The Spirit who:

hovered over the waters of creation,
speaks to prophets,
gave birth to the church,
calls forth women and men to serve the Kingdom
and startles and guides us and continues to transform us.

I believe in the church universal...

Which proclaims the gospel of salvation for all
Provides shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship
Maintains divine worship
Preserves the truth
Promotes social justice.
And exhibits the Kingdom of God to everyone.

The church is the hands, feet, eyes, ears and heart for the Kingdom...we are the ones who declare: "Look, the Kingdom is here!"

I believe in the tenets of the reformation; "Sola Scriptura, Sola Fides, Sola Gracia!"

I believe in one Baptism for the remission of sins and inclusion into the family of God.

I believe in the fellowship of God's people at the Lord's Supper.

I believe that we are to have a good hope for all.

I believe that our greatest comfort is that we belong to God...body and soul.

I believe that the One who spoke all into being continues to sing over creation the eternal song of love.

Glory be to God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, now and always! Amen.

COMMENTS FROM THE PNC

The PNC has screened a lot of Personal Information Forms and Anghaarad's stood out because her answers and experience aligned so well with what QMPC's goal were after our discernment process. Going through the screening process just brought this more into focus. Meeting her in person and watching her interact with the congregation as she led a worship service, I was impressed with her presence and energy. Her talents, energy and leadership will be a great asset for QMPC. I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for QMPC.

Gerald Doyle

I was impressed with Anghaarad beginning with my first reading of her Personal Information Form and even more so when we posed questions more specific to QMPC. Her answers were concise, thought provoking and in some instances made you question "Why aren't we doing this at QMPC." During the review process we all looked at many of Anghaarad's sermons and they were interesting, creative and showed a depth of knowledge and faith that at the end left you with a desire for more rather than relief that it's over. I truly believe that God has been directing us along this long search and that Anghaarad is the person He intends to guide QMPC into the future. I am excited to see what comes next.

David Sease

I knew Anghaarad was perfect for Quaker from almost the very beginning. She checked off every box that our church discerned we needed for Quaker. She showed a love for her family and the traditions she grew up with in the church. Inter-generational is very important to her. Montreat, youth and Christian Education have been key in her life for a long time. She is a classically trained singer who can sing everything from opera to blue grass, our music department is going to love her! Her sermons leave you wanting more. I believe God presented her to our PNC in a package with a bow on top! I am excited about Quaker's future and can't wait for her to get here!

Susie Hubbard

After many months of diligent discernment and prayer, God brought Rev. Anghaarad Teague Dees to QMPC's pastor nominating committee. Through our discernment process, which involved reviewing her Pastor Information Form, receiving answers to written questions, listening to sermons, conducting a Zoom interview and hosting an in-person interview, the message from God seemed clear – Anghaarad is the next pastor being called to serve QMPC. Anghaarad's strengths and experience that will greatly benefit QMPC include: active with youth as an Associate Pastor and a leader at Montreat; strong engagement with the local community – serving as chaplain and providing pastoral care for law enforcement, establishing relationships with local pastors and community groups, including food pantries; developing meaningful intergenerational programs; and bringing creative ideas for enriching worship services. I believe that Anghaarad will be a great asset to QMPC, as she works with our Session and members to not only discern God's call for QMPC as we emerge from the COVID pandemic, but also to become actively engaged in the ministries to which we are being called to serve.

Eric Barringer

COMMENTS FROM THE PNC

“Don’t Settle!” Wise words and a recommendation from one of our candidates, becoming your PNC’s mantra. Knowing that our next Pastor would have some big shoes to fill to follow Pastor Nancy, we all agree that Pastor Anghaarad Dees is the answer to many months of prayer and exactly what God had in store to fulfill His purpose for QMPC.

Allison Moyer

Pronounced: An-hare-ad

After a lengthy discernment, (about 19 months ... aarrgg!!), I truly believe that the Lord decided to introduce Anghaarad to our church and the PNC team to her and now you.

When I first read Anghaarad’s PIF, watched videos of her preaching, I knew that I wanted to go to bat for her. I had that feeling that she should be the one ... I felt that she would definitely be an awesome addition to our QMPC family. I’ve seen firsthand Anghaarad’s passion for the youth and the love she has for the Lord, a love that it is so infectious that you can almost feel the Holy spirit encompassing her. I know that our church will certainly benefit from her shepherding guidance and loving care. She brings a love, compassion, grace and a joyful attitude that overflows into her congregation. I am very excited to be a part of what she, through the guidance of our Lord, and with our help as a congregational family can and will do for our church home as we venture into the next chapter of our church’s history!

Skip Wodke

As I read Anghaarad’s PIF one of the first things that jumped out to me was she is a Montreat person, she can relate to youth. The further I read told me she had a love and a passion for music, so does Quaker. Then as I watched the members of another church reach out to her after her sermon I knew she could relate with all of Quaker. But what really showed me she was the one, was how she talked about community outreach and serving others in our in-person interview. And to me she reflects QMPC’s mission statement “Welcoming all, Serving Christ and Transforming Lives”. Looking forward to watching Anghaarad becoming part of the Quaker Memorial family.

Liz Huband

