

After a nine-month search, I'm pleased to announce that Christopher Michael Chatelaine-Samsen of Washington, D.C. will be the first-ever Associate Pastor for Mission at Georgetown Presbyterian Church.

In this part-time position, Chris will be responsible for developing, coordinating, and administering our congregation's local and international mission programs and partnerships. He will also work in support of the congregation's mission programs by engaging members as volunteers and developing fundraising campaigns. Additionally, Chris will work closely with me, the Associate Pastor for Education, and Mission Committee in planning programming to benefit the congregation. He will also provide us with regular preaching and worship leadership on Sunday morning and at special worship services.

Chris has a rare combination of gifts: a deep theological understanding that he is able to articulate in accessible terms, a pastoral sensitivity that enables him to connect with youth and adults, and a proven track record in youth ministry and mission-related activities. He is also a thoughtful and grounded person who defines mission as "a theology of God loving the world". He wants to place emphasis on communicating with and educating the congregation about mission, so that together we can deepen our commitment to local and world mission activities, and our connections to each other and our faith.

Chris has served as the Director of Youth Ministries at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, McLean, VA since June 2012. He has also interned at First Presbyterian Church of Red Bank, NJ and worked part-time as Youth Associate for the high school youth group there. Chris has also served at Noroton Presbyterian Church of Darien, CT as a mission associate and interim coordinator of youth programs. He is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and Wesleyan University.

Chris and his wife, Katie, currently reside in the Petworth neighborhood. When not working, you might find them running, cycling, hiking, gardening, or exploring the city. Chris will begin working with us on June 22nd. We are hoping to set his ordination date soon and will let the congregation know as soon as possible about that service.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (Elissa Baly, Susan Bell, Bailey Edwards, Cynthia Farrell Johnson, John Stephenson, Matt Taylor, and Alan Wisdom) for their hard and thoughtful work in the course of this search. They have found an excellent candidate, met their tight deadline, and represented our congregation well. Please congratulate them on a job well done!

Every blessing,

Camille Cook Murray