



# REV. DAVID HASKELL BENNETT

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Dear Members of Albany Presbytery,

It is with a great sense of joy and anticipation that I come before you as the search team's nominee to serve as your next Stated Clerk. I have had the pleasure of working with many of you in my past service in the presbytery and I look forward to meeting new faces while serving the presbytery in a new way.

The path of God's calling has consistently taken me places I did not expect. In seminary I bargained with God that I would never serve as a pastor. As a pastor I never imagined myself serving a presbytery. As a presbytery leader, I never imagined I would feel the call of God to serve as a Stated Clerk.

Before making my way to Albany Presbytery in 2003, I spent 10 years in the Boston area attending college, working in a nursing home, and then attending seminary. I spent my earliest years growing up in Montclair, New Jersey. In other words, I am a product of the Northeast and haven't left for any significant period of time. I have always enjoyed being outdoors, especially hiking in the Adirondack Mountains. Two years ago, I joined the ranks of the Adirondack 46ers! I also love cooking and tackling all sorts of home improvement projects.

For 13 years I served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Ballston Spa. My wife Kara and I arrived with our 9-month-old daughter Emilie and a couple years later, Ethan arrived. Emilie is currently a senior at Burnt Hills Ballston Lake High School and Ethan is a sophomore. The college decision process has been quite an exercise in patience as we have only been able to visit two of the 6 colleges Emilie has been accepted to.

Ever since leaving the Boston area, Kara has kept her hand in work as a Biostatistician, focusing primarily on international HIV clinical trials. In 2014, I joined in her venture serving as the Chief Financial Officer for the corporation we formed for her consulting work.

In 2016 a call to serve in a newly formed position in Northern NY Presbytery entitled "Resource Presbyter" was extended to me and I have been working part time in that capacity ever since. The purpose of the position is to come alongside and support the work of the presbytery, mostly the Commission on Ministry and the Coordinating Council. In 2017 I led the entire presbytery through a shared visioning process that helped identify key features for our presbytery to function effectively in supporting the mission of our 35 churches.

The Stated Clerk role is much more defined and focused than that of a Resource Presbyter. I look forward to the new challenges this will bring, but also to using some of the gifts I have yet to exercise fully. It will be challenging, but I believe I can balance the two in such a way that works to the benefit of both presbyteries.

Sincerely Yours in Faith,