

Presbytery of the Highlands  
Stated Meeting  
Bio and Statement of Vocation – Melanie Williams  
May 10, 2022

Bio:

I grew up in Lake Hopatcong, NJ, and am the only child of my parents, Steve and Cindy. I was raised in the Catholic Church and received all my confirmation, while also attending Pope John High School in Sparta. I went on to attend Mount Saint Mary's University, where I received my Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. I have been married to my husband, Anthony, for almost 9 years and have two stepdaughters, Ashley (26) and Lily (20) and one daughter with my husband, Madison (6). I spent my entire career in the food industry in manufacturing and flavors, reaching the title of Director of R&D and Regulatory. In October 2021 I resigned from my ingredient sales position to focus solely on seminary and ministry. I am in the 3-year paradigm at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and just completed my first year. I am currently the youth director at First Presbyterian of Sparta as well as I am a member of the worship team, intercessory prayer team, and have preached and led worship. When I am not studying or being a mom and wife, I spend my time riding my Peloton, reading, and watching documentaries or spending down time with the family.

Statement of Vocation:

I am currently the volunteer youth director at First Presbyterian of Sparta, and this is where I really acknowledged my call to ministry. I helped build a successful youth group after we lost our previous youth director and managed to keep and grow the youth program through the pandemic. I realized that working with the youth, meant not only ministering and teaching the high schoolers, but also their parents. I hope to become an ordained pastor and I have a strong call to minister to the youth and young families, including young parents. I think this is an area that the church needs to minister to most as they are the future of the church. I also hope to and feel called to focus on pastoral caregiving in my ministry. I know God is in control and I will end up right where I am supposed to be, and I am always open to understanding that my vocation may change as I continue in seminary.