

Meet Kirby Lawrence Hill



The Rev. Dr. Kirby Lawrence Hill feels deeply honored to be nominated to be the twentieth installed pastor of Abington Presbyterian Church. He delights in his Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) identity, which has come to him by heritage and by choice. He currently serves as Pastor/Head of Staff of Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Kensington, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C., a position he has held since 2005. Prior to his current position, he served as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Resurrection in Conyers, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, and as Associate Pastor of Evergreen Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee. His experience in those congregations has included:

Pastoral care responsibilities

Visioning

Leadership training

Mission interpretation

Stewardship promotion

Teaching

**Leading efforts to renovate or
build new facilities**

He has been enriched in each of these calls and he believes each congregation benefited from his God-given gifts.

Kirby has also been a leader both on presbytery and denominational levels. He currently chairs the Leadership Council for National Capital Presbytery, having previously chaired his current presbytery's Mission Committee. A child advocate at heart, Kirby also served as Moderator of the Presbyterian Child Advocacy Network and chaired the denominational planning team for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s mission focus called the Year of the Child in 2000-2001. The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program published his Bible study resource on the Gospel of Matthew entitled "Whoever Welcomes a Child."

A graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary (formerly Union Theological Seminary) in Richmond, Virginia, Kirby holds a Doctor of Ministry degree (similar to a Master of Divinity degree, but with one additional year of internship and study). He also completed a unit of clinical pastoral education serving as a hospital chaplain. His undergraduate study led to a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

He has continued his education throughout his ministry, taking multiple classes on church leadership, preaching, biblical studies, along with exploration of various social issues.

Kirby met his wife, Nancy Lawrence Hill, on a Presbyterian Peacemaking trip to Israel and the Palestinian areas. They both use 'Lawrence' as part of their married name. So Kirby welcomes going by his first name, or by Rev. Hill, or when being introduced, going by all three names, Kirby Lawrence Hill. He welcomes children or youth to call him Pastor Kirby. Nancy is a college math professor. They have been richly blessed with a daughter, Grace, who is finishing her junior year at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and with a son, Jordan, who is concluding his first year at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Kirby and Nancy would have an empty nest if not for the beloved family dog, Sophie.



Family relationships are a priority and much vacation time is spent with extended family. In other free time, Kirby loves to explore a wide variety of music and dramatic offerings, likes to check out a range of restaurants, and enjoys watching some sports (much more than Nancy does). He plays guitar well enough to lead group singing. International travel has been enriching to him (with the greatest enrichment being finding his wife). He follows theologian Karl Barth's dictum to have the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, Kirby is the younger of two sons of E.J. and Dotsy Hill, who now live in Richmond, Virginia. His father was an aerospace engineer and his mother did some part-time counseling out of their home. The family moved often in his early years, always finding a Presbyterian Church to be their home base. Kirby was baptized as an infant at the First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster, California. He went to elementary and junior high school in Huntsville, Alabama and then graduated from high school in Houston, Texas, two places shaped by the presence of many NASA families. His parents have each served multiple times as ruling elders.

Having had a vibrant church youth group experience in high school, Kirby considered ordained ministry as he began college. While he enjoyed the Baptist college he was attending, he grew in his love for the Presbyterian Church. When he learned his older brother was going to seminary, he initially changed direction to prepare to be a psychologist. It finally dawned on him, however, that God had the capacity to use both of them in similar kinds of service. He loved the academic rigor and meaningful discussions at seminary, with each ministry encounter confirming his sense of God's call to ordained ministry.

Throughout his communication and meetings with Abington's Pastor Nominating Committee, Kirby has felt a deep connection with them and with their descriptions of what skills and experience were needed in the next person to serve as Abington's head pastor. He believes Abington Presbyterian Church is deeply blessed with a gifted and dedicated staff and believes the congregation now has what is needed to grow in its capacity for ministry. Kirby is very excited at the prospect of getting to know and getting to serve a wonderful congregation that is also answering Christ's call in our time.

