

James Todd Speed, D.Min.

Highlights

- ❖ Thirty years of seasoned experience as a Parish Pastor, Servant Leader, and Biblical Preacher
- ❖ Faithful shepherd of congregations, nonprofit institutions, and people through seasons of transition, growth, and change
- ❖ Weekly planning, preparation and leadership of congregational worship
- ❖ Consistent oversight and leadership in strategic planning, grant-making, budget preparation, volunteer recruitment and training, fundraising, personnel management, property management, event planning, and program development
- ❖ Purposeful, collaborative partnership with staff colleagues, elected elders and board members, honoring gifts and talents of individuals, developing leadership abilities, encouraging physical, mental and spiritual wellness, and inspiring passionate service
- ❖ Steadfast encourager of greater inclusiveness, compassion, innovation and adaptation

Employment

- ❖ Pastor/Head of Staff, Decatur Presbyterian Church, Decatur, GA, 2007 – present
 - Called to lead an historic congregation through a sustained season of growth, vitality, and transition, with particular attention to the needs of the broader community and the development of membership and ministries
- ❖ Pastor/Head of Staff, First Presbyterian Church, York, SC, 1997 – 2007
 - Called to lead a conflicted congregation into a new way of being - healthy, growth-oriented, debt-free, and outward-focused
- ❖ Associate Pastor, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC, 1993-1997
 - Called to spur a season of growth in youth ministries, community missions, and adult education
- ❖ Youth Pastor, part time, First Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA, 1992-1993
- ❖ Youth Pastor and Intern, part time, Newnan Presbyterian Church, Newnan, GA, 1990 - 1992
- ❖ Certified Public Accountant with Ernst and Young, Atlanta, Georgia 1987-1990
- ❖ Loaned Executive to United Way of Atlanta, Fall 1988; Senior Loaned Executive, Middle Market A, Fall 1989

Community Leadership

- ❖ Superintendent's Interfaith Advisory Council, City Schools of Decatur, 2023-
- ❖ President, Decatur Rotary Club, 2021-2022; Board Member, 2011-2013, 2020-2023
- ❖ International Trailblazer Award for outstanding community service - Spiritual, JABY INC, July 2021
- ❖ President of Board, Memorial Drive Ministries, 2018-2021, helped initiate a non-profit organization to ensure a sustainable and vital campus community for 6 worshiping communities and 14 nonprofits near Clarkston, Georgia, one of the most internationally diverse communities in the world
- ❖ Advisory Board member, Global Village Project, Decatur, GA, provide guidance for school of 45 refugee young women whose education has been interrupted by warfare and/or displacement, 2014 – present
- ❖ Advisor, "A Home for Everyone DeKalb", collaborative effort to address homelessness, 2018-present
- ❖ Convenor of Decatur area clergy to address community concerns and opportunities, 2018 - 2021
- ❖ Better Together Advisory Board, City of Decatur, 2018 – 2020
- ❖ Convenor of Decatur community partners to address needs of hospitality and security, 2016 - 2018
- ❖ Location and Table Host for Decatur Dinners, conversations on race and diversity, August 2018
- ❖ Board Member, Decatur Education Foundation, 2010-2014
- ❖ Decatur 101, City of Decatur course for local citizens/volunteers, Spring 2008

- ❖ Former Chair, York School District 1 Bond Referendum Committee, led successful effort to pass a school bond referendum that led to the construction of a new, state-of-the-art high school facility
- ❖ Former Chair, Community Dialogue for Change on behalf of Youth of York School District 1, partnered with Study Circles to facilitate courageous conversations for a racially diverse community
- ❖ Former Board Member, York Rotary Club
- ❖ Former Board Member, Western York County United Way
- ❖ Former President of the Board, A Child's Haven, Greenville, South Carolina, helped initiate a non-profit agency with a visionary founder to provide care and transportation for preschool children with open cases of abuse and neglect; A Child's Haven is nearing its 25th anniversary
- ❖ Former Board Member, Presbyterian Home of South Carolina
- ❖ Presbyterian College Celtic Cross Church Leadership Program, served as a mentor for groups of college students who were exploring ministry as a vocation, 1995 - 2007

Educational Institution Leadership

- ❖ Implementation Task Force for The Becoming Project, Columbia Theological Seminary (CTS), participating in the work of transformation so that the seminary may become a faithful, equitable, and just community where all may flourish, 2021-2022
- ❖ Board of Trustees, Columbia Theological Seminary, 2012-2022, Audit Committee Chair, Governance and Nominations Committee, Student Services Committee
- ❖ Pastoral Intern Supervisor for thirty-three CTS students, 2007 to present, provided supervision and mentoring with a focus on key learning goals and discernment of call
- ❖ Other CTS service: Sexual Misconduct Response Team, 2016; Search team, Professor of Theology, 2013-2014; Search Team for President, 2008-2009; Former President, Alumni Council

Leadership in Presbyteries (Regional Collaborations of Congregations)

- ❖ Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
 - Operations Council, oversight of finance, investments, property, and technology, 2021 - present
 - Task Force on Mission & Sustainability, 2024; Financial Sustainability Task Force, 2020-2021
 - Other: Visioning Project for Memorial Drive "Ruth Community", 2017-2018; Strategic Planning Administrative Committee; Personnel Committee; Commissioner for 220th PC(USA) General Assembly, 2012; First Call Mentor Program
- ❖ Providence Presbytery - Moderator of Task Force on the Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church; Moderator of Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center Division; Capital Campaign/Strategic Advisory Committee

Highlights of Contextual Education

- ❖ Participated in learning and/or immersion experiences on five continents.
- ❖ Led or co-led twenty six short term mission trips since 1993 – national and international, urban and rural
- ❖ Led Spiritual Pilgrimage for members of Decatur Presbyterian Church (DPC) to Scotland, June 2018
- ❖ "Confessing Jesus in a World of Disparities", two week seminar, South Africa, June 2015
- ❖ Led Spiritual Pilgrimage for members of DPC congregation to Israel, February 2014
- ❖ "Journey of Faith" Spiritual Pilgrimage for pastors to Israel, Co-leader, 2009; participant, 2008

Formal Education

- ❖ Columbia Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry, 2003 - 2007
 - Focus on Nurturing Effective Lay Leadership
- ❖ Columbia Theological Seminary, Masters of Divinity (with honors), 1990 – 1993
- ❖ Rhodes College, B.A. in Economics and Business Administration (with honors), 1983 - 1987

Family and Hobbies

- ❖ Married since 1989 to Melanie Doxey Speed, formerly of Marietta, Georgia
- ❖ Four Sons: Hall and John - Atlanta, GA; Mac - Nashville, TN, Luke - New Zealand
- ❖ Adult Soccer League, Reading, Travel, Hiking, Mixed doubles tennis