

## **Melissa A. Martin**

When I was little, we had a bulletin board in our kitchen. On the bulletin board, my mom would always pin a Bible verse or a selection of the catechism for family memorization. One of her favorites was the first question and answer of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, “What is the chief end of man?” The answer “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” True to those words we memorized, my parents raised my brother and me to love Jesus and to see our whole life as act of worship, a way to glorify God.

I took this very seriously, and after graduating college and working as a brand ambassador in a high-end women’s clothing store, I eventually decided to use my degrees and pursue my Masters of Divinity and Masters of Arts in Christian Education and Formation at Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS). While I was completing these two degrees, I had the privilege of working for the Women in Ministry Initiative and assisting in the publication of two volumes on World Christianity. These experiences and my internships at Nassau Presbyterian Church and The First Presbyterian Church at Dayton helped me open my eyes to the many different ways we are invited to glorify and enjoy God. These experiences were also key for me as I decided to become a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and pursue ordination.

After graduating from PTS, I did one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education and served as a supply pastor at The First Presbyterian Church at Dayton. At the Dayton church, I fell in love with church leadership. I realized that I not only wanted “to glorify” and “enjoy God,” but I also loved helping others along in this process. Following my time at the Dayton Church, Princeton Theological Seminary hired me to do that very thing as the recruitment associate.

Working as the recruitment associate, I have the great joy of helping others discern where God is calling them next and how they are going to live into their call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. While I love doing this type of work, I look forward to doing this with the local church. I look forward to working with people of all ages and in all life situations as they seek to answer the questions behind that question I memorized from the Westminster Catechism: Who are we? Why are we here? And, what is God up to?