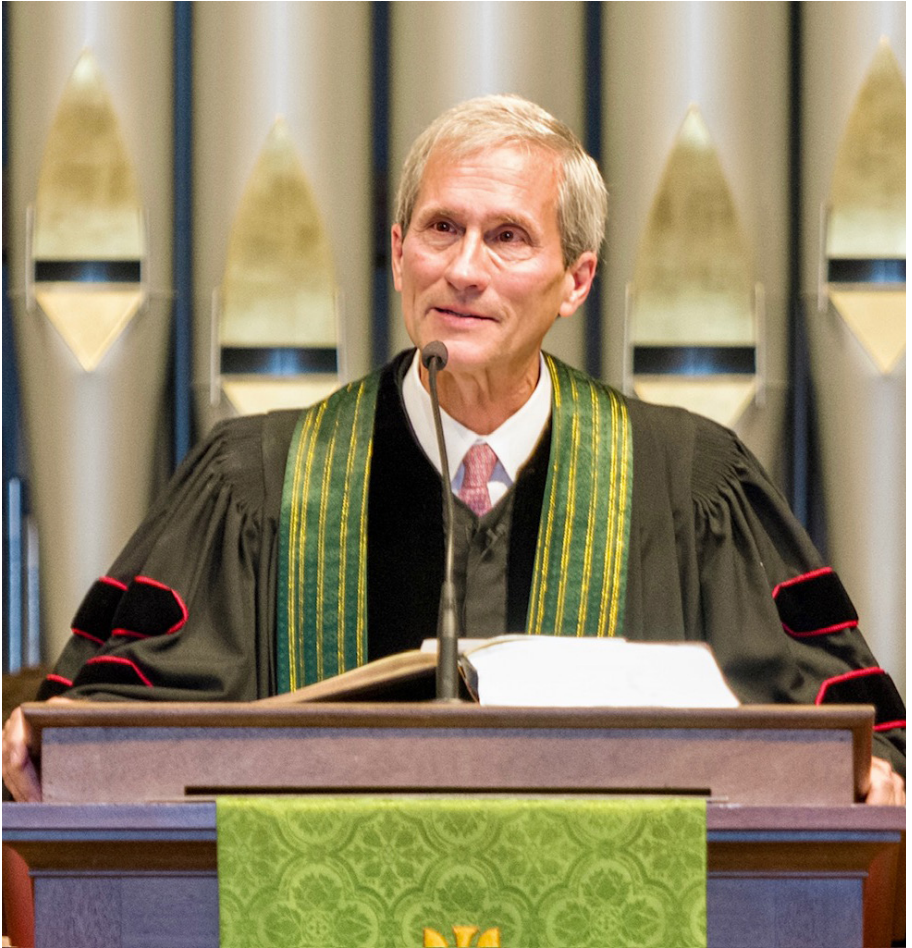


The Session of Bryn Mawr Prebyterian Church
is pleased to present the

Rev. Dr. John M. Willingham

Interim Senior Pastor / Head of Staff



November 2025

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- 1994:** Doctor of Ministry, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL
Church Revitalization
- 1987:** Master of Divinity, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ
Preaching Emphasis
- 1980:** Bachelor of Arts, Davidson College, Davidson, NC
Economics Major

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

- July 2003-August 2023:** Senior Pastor and Head of Staff, Doylestown
Presbyterian Church, Doylestown, PA
- October 1992-June 2003:** Senior Pastor and Head of Staff, Matthews
Presbyterian Church, Matthews, NC
- July 1987-September 1992:** Pastor and Head of Staff, First Presbyterian Church,
Mount Sterling, KY

SERVICE TO THE LARGER CHURCH (PRESBYTERY)

- 2021-2022:** Co-Moderator of Personnel Committee (Philadelphia)
- 2019-2022:** Board of Trustees, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- 2012-2018:** General Assembly Nominating Committee
- 2013-2014:** Moderator, Executive Presbyter Search Committee (Philadelphia)
- 2006-2007:** Moderator, Committee on Mission Oversight (Philadelphia)
- 2002-2003:** Moderator, General Presbyter Search Committee (Charlotte)
- 1999:** Moderator of Presbytery (Charlotte)
- 1997-1998:** Vice-Moderator of COLA for 210th (1998) General Assembly
- 1990-1992:** Moderator, Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Transylvania)

Words from John

I am deeply honored by the invitation of your Session to serve as the Interim Senior Pastor and Head of Staff for the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. I have known of and admired the vibrant ministry and witness of this congregation for years, making it a particular honor to serve during your pastoral transition.

Born in North Carolina, I grew up in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, one of the predecessor denominations of the PC(USA). The son of a pastor and a high school English teacher, their faith and professions shaped me in enduring ways. I loved being a Preacher's Kid and offered my first sermon as a high school senior on Youth Sunday. After graduating from college with a degree in economics, I accepted a job offer from the Bell System, thinking I wanted to climb the corporate ladder. Eighteen months into that work, it became apparent I was in the wrong place vocationally and nurtured by a Presbyterian church near my office, began to feel called to ordained ministry. I arrived at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1983, just a few months after the reunion of our denomination. Even on the hardest days of ministry in the years afterwards, I have never second-guessed that vocational change.

I served three congregations of varying sizes located in three states. In each, I made a priority of strong preaching and worship, education and pastoral care for all ages, active engagement in the community and service to the larger church. I worked diligently to provide a safe space where members could talk about the most challenging issues of the day in a respectful way even when disagreeing with the other. Certainly, that was not always easy, but I believe it to be an essential part of connecting God's living word to an ever-changing world.

For the past 38 years, I have been blessed by the love and wisdom of Lori. She is a native of New York state who worked as a nurse for 42 years in a variety of settings. We have two adult children, Michael, a Senior Manager with Deloitte, and Emsley, a Registered Dietician who is a stay-at-home mom. They have enriched our life beyond measure with their respective spouses, Corey and Bryan, and our four grandchildren, Emma (9), Ben (6), Jaxson (4) and Reese (2). Both families live close by which gives us ample occasion to spoil our descendants!

When I retired in 2023 after 36 years of active ministry it was not my intention to serve as an interim pastor anywhere. Once again, God had different plans as my deep respect for BMPC led me to reconsider and start a conversation with your Interim Pastor Search Committee. The more we talked, the more I sensed a fit between your needs and my gifts.

Thus, I am humbled and thrilled by the clear leading of the Holy Spirit in becoming your Interim Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. I look forward to working alongside you as together we prepare for and then welcome your next installed pastor.





John with his wife, Lori, their children and grandchildren.

Remarks About John

BRYANT ANDERSON, Pastor/Head of Staff,
Palms Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville Beach, FL

“John leads with clarity and grace, his preaching is thoughtful and engaging, and above all, he loves the church and cares deeply for its people. John is a truly exceptional pastor.”

TOM KORT, Transitional Pastor,
Morrisville Presbyterian Church, Morrisville, PA

“I have known John for over thirty years. They don’t come any better. He has a scholar’s mind, a pastor’s heart, and always leads with integrity rooted in his love for Jesus Christ.”

BEVERLY JEWUSIAK, Ruling Elder,
Doylestown Presbyterian Church, Doylestown, PA

“I have had the experience of not only knowing John as a compassionate pastor and eloquent preacher, but as moderator of the Personnel Committee. I came to appreciate John’s supportive, effective leadership style as Head of Staff. He truly lives his faith.”

Interim Pastor Search Committee

Keith Brinks and Sarah Gunther, Co-Chairs
Emily Cieri • Susan Bravo • Bill Bosch • Meg Holdsworth

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