

Faith statement
Rev. John A. Muse

I believe in God who is love and who loves us unconditionally. Far from being an impersonal force, unconcerned about our joys and sorrows, God created us to be in relationship and to enjoy God's presence forever. God revealed God's self to us in history, by covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and then later through the witness of Moses, the law, and the prophets. Despite God's revelation to us, we turned our backs on God with acts of rebellion and self-centeredness. Our sin separates us from God's will and desire for our lives. Yet God yearned still to be in a relationship with us, and so, God sent his son into the world, not to condemn it but to save us from our sins and to show us his love.

In the historic person of Jesus of Nazareth, I believe that we encounter Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus is the Word made flesh and the good news of great joy for all people. In his public life and ministry, Jesus stressed love of neighbor, forgiveness of sins, the support of the widow, the orphan and the least of these. Jesus preached and taught the Kingdom of God which is present among us now when the church is gathered and will come to fruition in God's time.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the third person of the Trinity, not separate from the Father and Son but one. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, the one who illuminates our understanding of the sacred and equips us with spiritual gifts.

I believe in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit and our authoritative guide in matters of faith and practice.

I believe in the church, the body of Christ which is called to follow Jesus as faithful disciples and to work for justice and goodness.

I believe in and emphasize in my own ministry, the sacraments of Baptism, and Lord's Supper as means of grace and growth in the Christian life.

Lastly, I am convinced our labor in the Lord's name is never in vain and nothing can separate from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Come Lord Jesus, Amen.

Committee on Ministry Action Supplemental Information for Action # 6

6-S. That the Reverend John A. Muse, currently a member of Charlotte Presbytery, be examined for membership into Providence Presbytery. He has been called to serve as pastor of Clover Presbyterian Church, Clover, SC, effective date May 30, 2021. **(Pages G: 38 - 39 Biographical Sketch & Faith Statement)**

Terms of Call:	Salary & Housing	\$65,000
	Deferred Comp (403B)	\$5,000
	SECA	\$5,355
	Board Pensions	\$25,900
	Professional Expenses	\$1,360
	Continuing Education	<u>\$1,000</u>
	Total	\$103,615

- 4 Weeks of vacation (including 4 Sundays)
- 2 Weeks of study leave (including 2 Sundays)

That the Commission to install Reverend John Muse as pastor for Clover Presbyterian Church, Clover, SC be approved in consultation with the Committee on Ministry. The date of installation is to be determined.

Committee on Ministry Action Supplemental Information for Action # 8

The following items need to be corrected in the 2021 Salary Compensation & Benefits Packages:

<u>Minister</u>	<u>Health & Insurance & Annuities</u>	
Setzer, N.	BOP Dues \$25,900	Not \$27,888
Horne, M.	BOP Dues \$22,200	Not \$22,500

Biographical Sketch of Rev. John A. Muse

I am a native of Baltimore, Maryland, the youngest of six children in a family of eight. I was baptized and raised Roman Catholic but from an early age, was influenced by the Reformed tradition, having been sent by my parents to the best pre-school in Baltimore-- the Govans Presbyterian Church. In that preschool program, I can remember the Mr. Rodger's- like simplicity in explaining the gospel and telling the biblical stories. That same church would later provide nurture to me as a candidate for ministry, as her pastor Jack Sharp, provided guidance and direction in the call process.

It was through the strong Biblical preaching, teaching, and ministry of the Presbyterian Church, that I made my first public profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Even though ours was a Roman Catholic household, the Presbyterian connection was a welcomed and an active part of our lives. For example, two of my older brothers graduated from Presbyterian Colleges and my physician father, worked at a Presbyterian hospital.

During my college years, at Mount Saint Mary's University in Maryland, I joined the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church. That church and her pastor further nurtured me by providing preaching opportunities and opportunities where I could watch a session at work and interact with leadership. Because I was a convert, Baltimore Presbytery wanted to ensure that I was immersed in Reformed theology and polity. It was their recommendation that I attend Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, to pursue my M.Div.

At Union, I met my wife, Beth, who was also studying for ministry. After graduation in 1993, we served the Mclean and Rourk Presbyterian churches in Ellerbe, North Carolina as a clergy couple.

In 1999, Grace Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, SC, (Providence Presbytery) called me as their pastor. I remained at Grace for close to five years before choosing to enter Intentional Interim Ministry. I have been an interim pastor for 16 years now and have just completed my tenth interim charge.

I look forward to serving the Clover Presbyterian Church as an installed pastor. While I have enjoyed my wilderness wanderings and the constant change of venues that interim ministry brings, I miss the deeper tithes that are forged with installed service. Moreover, Clover is a church and a community familiar to me. I have known each of their pastors and interim pastors dating back to Bill Neely, I even know some families in the congregation. After much conversation and discernment, both Clover and I feel that we can engage in productive and fruitful ministry together. We look forward to what God has in store.

On a personal note, the Muses have two grown children. Evan our son, is employed at the Lancaster News and our daughter Kate is a recent graduate from Coker University in Hartsville. She is presently interning as a graphic arts and designer at a local business.

My hobbies are reading, bike riding, walking civil war battlefields and listening to Dr. Walter Edgar's Journal on South Carolina Public Radio!

I look forward to my re-entry to the Presbytery of Providence and to many years of service.

Glory to God.
John A. Muse