



Layne E. Smith

Prior Pastoral Experience

Layne has served as the senior pastor at Viewmont Baptist Church in Hickory for over 11 years. Prior to assuming the Viewmont pastorate, he was senior pastor at Rolling Hills Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas for 15 years, and prior to that he was the associate pastor and minister of education at Second Baptist Church in Liberty, Missouri for 3 years.

Education and Ministerial Background

Layne received his Master of Divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1983 and his Doctor of Ministry degree from the same institution in 1989. He was ordained as a minister by the Royal Lane Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas in 1979. Layne received his undergraduate degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and did additional graduate work at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Baylor University before going to Midwestern.

Layne has actively pursued continuing education opportunities, most recently at the Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta in 2009. He has completed two programs with the Center for Congregational Health: Intentional Interim Ministry Training in 2008 and Interim Ministry for Today's Church in 2007. In 2007, he undertook a sabbatical with the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague.

Personal Background

Layne grew up in Kansas and was the son of a pastor. His wife Dianne is from Alabama (and a graduate of the University of Alabama), and they have been married almost 35 years. Layne notes that Dianne is "incredibly supportive and involved in ministry". Her father was also a pastor, and she attended seminary for a few years as well, where she met Layne.

Layne and Dianne have 2 grown daughters. Kristen, a Meredith College graduate, served for three years as a Global Service Corps missionary in Los Angeles for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship working with international women at the University of Southern California. She is married to Tony Vincent, associate pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Seneca, SC. Kristen currently teaches 5th grade in Westminster, SC.

Darcie is a graduate of Wingate University and has a Master of Divinity degree from Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. She also has a Master of Science degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in patient counseling. Her husband, David Jones, is associate pastor at Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC. Darcie works as a hospice chaplain.

Layne and Dianne enjoy spending time together and traveling, particularly in the United Kingdom. Layne confesses to playing golf (rather badly).

An Excerpt from Layne's Intentional Interim Self-Description

"[I believe that] each of us is called to the ministry. As one of my professors used to say in college, 'The ground is extremely level at the foot of the cross'. All disciples of Christ are called to be ministers in Christ's Church. My calling is to call out, encourage and facilitate the ministry of all God's people."