



Mary "Molly" Williamson

- M.Div. – Duke Divinity School, 2013
- M.A. Religious Studies – Duke University, 2020
- Completed the Bible content and psychological evaluation portions of PC(USA) ordination before withdrawing when her sponsoring church was dismissed to ECO.

*"Called to help disciples grow spiritually through small group ministries that build community and accountability, studies that promote reading scripture with care and expectation, and programs that encourage the faithful to engage with our communities and our world in Christ-like ways."*

It is with great excitement that the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee introduces our candidate for Associate Pastor for Spiritual Growth and Discipleship, Molly Williamson. She is called, gifted, and experienced in sharing God's Word and helping others to grow in relationship with the triune God through practices of spiritual development and discipleship. Her aim is to "help disciples grow spiritually through small group ministries that build community and accountability, studies that promote reading scripture with care and expectation, and programs that encourage the faithful to engage with our communities and our world in Christ-like ways."

Molly has always wanted to be a teacher. After graduating *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Notre Dame with a double major in English Honors and Spanish and a minor in Theology, she began divinity school at Duke University with the goal of entering academia. She was an inquirer in the ordination process of PC(USA) while earning her M.Div. but ultimately withdrew when her home church was dismissed to ECO. She chose not to pursue ordination in ECO at that time because she was focused on pursuing a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Duke.

While working on her Ph.D, Molly began to sense her call being redirected away from the academy to ministry in the local church. After completing coursework and passing Hebrew, German, and preliminary exams, she left the program in May 2020 having earned a second master's degree.

For the last two years Molly has been an active part of lay ministry at her home church, New Providence Presbyterian Church (ECO) in New Providence, New Jersey. They have been without a staff person devoted to adult ministry, so in addition to leading a small group, she helps manage the women's ministry by coordinating with leaders and teaching in the largest women's Bible study (130–155 women). She leads an adult Sunday School class and initiated and leads a successful "Movie Nights" program to discover and discuss Christian themes in secular and documentary films. She formed a new young women's Bible study group at the beginning of this year. Responding to the effects of the pandemic, Molly was instrumental in migrating these programs to virtual formats, which have been very successful in retaining existing members and attracting new participants.

Molly is excited about the opportunities for ministry here at TGC and would be thrilled to return to Durham to join us in taking our next flourishing steps as a congregation. The committee gives all thanks to God for His faithfulness throughout the search process. In addition to having outstanding qualifications, Molly is personally engaging and delightful to talk to. We hope you will affirm our recommendation in welcoming Molly as we embark on this next exciting season of ministry at Triangle Grace Church.