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# REV. DR. MINDY DOUGLAS

**Rev. Dr. Mindy Douglas had her heart set on studying biology followed by a career as a geneticist when she entered college. But, as she says, “God did a little God thing,” and she was called into ministry.**

She switched gears, and went straight to Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Va., following college. “It became clear that this is what God was calling me to do in a full time way: to teach, to preach, to care for other people, to be a part of this a community that grows and supports one another as we journey in our faith together,” Douglas says.

Douglas is Pastor and Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church in Durham, N.C., a downtown congregation that is deeply connected to the community it serves. The congregation recently hosted an exhibit that tells the story of racism and segregation in Durham, inviting members to better understand the city’s issues and work towards ending racism.

The church actively supports hunger relief ministries, affordable housing initiatives, employment readiness training, and restorative justice work. Community, she says, is crucial to her ministry and in her church — both when church members reach out into their city as well as the ways church members connect and support each other.

**“My calling to ministry is in the parish,” she says. “The parish is where you are with families and people from every age. You are with them from the celebration of birth to the sadness of death and you are in these life moments throughout their lives. Even during this pandemic, we are walking together, as best we are able, learning to hold each other close in different ways. I am grateful for the ways my seminary education fostered creativity, imagination and love in me to serve very differently in 2020.”**

## **For more information**

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