

### **Rev. Bobby Musengwa's Bio for Mission Presbytery**

Rev. Bobby is a passionate leader dedicated to serving God's mission in the world through the church. Ordained by the Presbytery of Milwaukee, Rev. Bobby has pastored three different congregations in Wisconsin, New York, and Florida. He is honored and excited to accept the call to serve as the Transitional General Presbyter at Mission Presbytery.

Teaching is his passion, particularly engaging in Bible studies to share knowledge and foster spiritual growth. Rev. Bobby loves to work with youth, including teaching them computer coding classes to middle school students and coaches high school tennis. Rev. Bobby is also a coach for 1001 New Worshipping Communities, and thus supports new pastors through virtual coaching sessions as they launch new ministries within the PCUSA.

Prayer is at the core of his life, as he actively participates in four prayer groups, three of which he helped establish. His commitment to reading and writing enriches his faith journey and equips him to contribute meaningfully to God's mission in the church.

Rev. Bobby has been an advocate for affordable housing in his community. He is a natural mediator and peacemaker, a skill he has used in many situations in ministry.

Rev. Bobby was born and raised in Pretoria, South Africa, where his faith was nurtured by worshipping in various Christian churches. As a child of migrant workers, Rev. Bobby grew to respect and honor everyone. This upbringing has taught him the beautiful truth that Christians everywhere are part of the Body of Christ, transcending borders and cultures.

His journey brought him to the United States, where he was baptized in the PC(USA), and many years later, was ordained as a Teaching Elder. He has been serving God in congregational ministry of the PCUSA for thirty-one years.

Rev. Bobby cannot wait to meet you, get to know you, and serve alongside you here in God's mission at Mission Presbytery.

#### **Education:**

**Doctor of Ministry**, in progress

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, (2011-09-01 - Current)

**Master of Divinity**

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, 1994

**Master of Arts**

Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union Presbyterian Seminary),  
Richmond, VA, 1992

**Bachelor of Arts**

St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, NC 1990

**Secondary Teaching Diploma**

Transvaal College of Education, Pretoria, South Africa, 1986

**Rev. Bobby Musengwa: Service to the Greater Church**

6/7/2023 - Present

Moderator of Membership Subcommittee

GA Task Force on the Theology and Practice of Ordination

Our Task Force is reviewing the theology and practice of ordination to meet the current needs of the denomination. We will submit a report to the 227th meeting of the General Assembly in 2026.

11/5/2021 - 11/12/2022

Moderator, Coordinating Team - Presbytery of Tampa Bay

I served as Moderator of the Coordinating Team, which makes decisions on behalf of the Presbytery between Presbytery meetings.

11/12/2020 - 11/5/2021

Moderator, Presbytery of Tampa Bay

I was installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay during the pandemic. During my term, I appointed a Racial Equity Task Force to study our Presbytery's mission in light of the Matthew 25 initiative. At the request of the Task Force, I recorded each Task Force member and created videos which were used at the Presbytery workshop on racial equity. The videos were well received and the workshop was well attended. This has culminated into the Task Force becoming a full-fledged standing Committee of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.

8/2/2019 - Present

Moderator, African Presbyterian Leaders Alliance

I am the founding Moderator of the African Presbyterian Alliance in the PC(USA), which was founded in 2019 in Baltimore, Maryland. We train and coach the leaders. I planned and organized the recent Leadership Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary on October 25-27, 2024

11/9/2017 - 11/22/2023

Member of the Commission on Ministry, Presbytery of Tampa Bay

I served on COM for six years. We dealt with very difficult congregational conflicts, some of which I mediated on behalf of COM and the Presbytery.

6/18/2016 - 6/25/2016

Vice Moderator of 222nd GA Social Justice Committee, 222nd General Assembly of the PCUSA

I presided over the committee debate and voting about the Matthew 25 initiative, the Renunciation of the Doctrine of Discovery, and many other hot button issues.

## **Journey of Faith: A Personal Reflection**

### **Rev. Bobby Musengwa**

My journey of faith is a testament of God at work in my life and in the world, despite my reluctance at times.

Growing up in Apartheid South Africa, my journey of faith began in my youth when my parents allowed my brothers and me to attend Sunday School at our neighbors' churches. We attended different churches, exposing us to the beauty and joy of various expressions of Christian faith, ranging from the Presbyterians, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Baptist, and Roman Catholics. I learned to worship and sing God's praises in many languages and many cultures.

As a teen, an invitation to a youth conference changed my life. This experience ignited my passion for faith and connection, leading me to participate in the daily worship services of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) on campus. I felt a sense of welcome and belonging.

My father, a lay pastor, gifted me his sense of humor, which helps in social circles.

My uncle, Professor Maake Masango, a Presbyterian minister, was a great mentor to me. He is a champion for justice and peace.

A rural congregation in Wisconsin encouraged me to get ordained and be their pastor. That's where I answered the call, leading to my ordination in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. I served that church for a total of seven years.

I've pastored Maximo Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, for 20 years. Each position I have held has enriched my journey and expanded my vision for what a loving, inclusive community and impactful ministry can look like. My father's great sense of humor and prayer life have shaped my perspective on faith and leadership.

Now, as I prepare for the possibility of serving as Transitional General Presbyter, I carry with me the rich legacy of those who have guided and encouraged me along the way. My experiences have underscored the importance of trusting and depending on God, as well as nurturing collaborative congregations that uplift every voice and perspective. Together, we can seek to embody the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and advocate for justice and compassion for the least of these in our Presbytery and beyond.

My journey is one of continual growth, exploration and learning. I look forward to working alongside you all as we seek to discern together God's will for our lives and for Mission Presbytery. Together, we will seek to embrace and embody Mission Presbytery's updated mission statement, which says, ***"As Mission Presbytery, we connect diverse leaders and congregations by providing opportunities for worship, learning, and service so that we can flourish through God's grace."***

Next time I ask you, "What has God been up to in your life lately," I pledge to listen intently to your story as you bear witness to God's activity in your life and in our world.

To God be the glory!

**Statement of Faith**  
**Rev. Bobby Musengwa**

I believe in the triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - who is sovereign over all creation and revealed to us through Scripture, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit's work in the world.

I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, fully God and fully human, whose life, death, and resurrection redeemed humanity and calls us to a life of gratitude, grace and full participation in God's mission.

I believe in the Holy Spirit's powerful presence among us, moving freely to inspire justice, kindness, and humble walking with God. The Holy Spirit sustains the church through all generations, shedding more light on God's expansive love for the world and all creation.

I affirm Scripture as God's inspired Word, containing all necessary for faith and life. I commit to diligent study and interpretation that honors both historical context and current relevance.

I trust in God's saving grace and its power to transform us as Christ's disciples. The Church, as Christ's body, is called to be a welcoming, praying, and loving community of believers sharing God's love in the world. I believe the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are visible signs of God's grace.

I believe social justice is essential to Christian discipleship, as we seek to answer the call of the prophet, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"

I affirm my ordination vow to serve God with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. I also affirm and respect all human dignity, for everyone is created in the image of God. I believe in the Reformed Tradition of reformed and always reforming, while remaining rooted in the transformative love of Jesus Christ, our Lord.