

Rev. Kyle Delhagen

Biography

I grew up the son of a minister, so we moved around a few times. However, I consider Pultneyville, New York to be home. It was in Pultneyville that my family--my Mom and Dad and my younger brother and sister and I--found a community that we would come to know as family. Pultneyville is a tiny hamlet of the town of Williamson, and most residents are related to someone else by blood or by marriage. Still, it was not long before I felt that I was a member of the family.

As a young person, I found my spiritual life being influenced by the church family and friends I was always around. My church youth group provided many opportunities to study God's Word, talk about what it means to be a Christian, and also to put our faith into action. Some of the most formational moments in my spiritual development were on service trips during school breaks to Staten Island to work with the homeless, hungry, and those suffering from HIV/AIDS. All of this set me on a very early path to ministry.

Throughout college, I struggled with my call to be a pastor. Having grown up as a pastor's kid, I tried to avoid where I sensed God was pulling me, but when God has a desire for your life, it is hard to ignore! I spent six summers during and after college working at a Church Camp in the Adirondacks, and then two years working in youth ministry before going to seminary at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey. Following graduation from Seminary, I spent a year working as a Resident Chaplain at a Philadelphia Hospital, which taught me a lot about being a pastoral presence in times of grief and trauma.

In the few years following, I turned to teaching at a private Christian school in center city Philadelphia, where I taught tenth and twelfth grade English. During that time, I was a part-time pastor of a small Reformed Church outside of Philadelphia. In that experience, I found myself drawn more and more to full time parish ministry. My life has taken many different directions, but I am sure God has been with me every step of the way, preparing me for this next step.

Family is very important to me. My brother and his family, and my sister all live in Brooklyn, New York, which makes it difficult to see them often. At the same time, we maintain a very close relationship, and we make the effort to see each other as often as possible. The past year has brought a lot of change to my personal life. My wife, Elena, and I were engaged last June, and then married on October 17th, 2015. Soon after that, we became pregnant, and our first child will be born any day now! While we seem to like to do things quickly and all at once, we do look forward to slowing down and enjoying life as a family of three!

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge how Elena has helped me to grow and stretch as a husband, as a pastor, and as a man. Her faith and strength has helped me to more clearly discern God's call on my life, and together with her I found the joys of being a minister to God's people.