

Carson Overstreet Ordination This Week

Hear about Carson's journey to ordained ministry, and how you helped make it possible.

I was thirty-four when I began feeling God's call to seminary and ordained ministry. That day is still fresh in my mind. One morning in 2007 Dr. Kort asked me when I was going to seminary.

At first I thought he was kidding me. You see, I had never imagined myself as a pastor. But Dr. Kort saw what God was doing in my life through the nurturing congregation of Sardis. He saw my passion for worship, Scripture, and spiritual disciplines. He said I had the heart of a pastor. He affirmed my leadership in small group ministry and mission experiences in Peru. He saw my family and me being transformed by God's amazing grace. Dr. Kort was imagining where God would lead my family and me in this journey of faith through seminary training.

At Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, GA), God embraced us in our excitements and fears and reminded us – reminded me – why we were called to Columbia. God took me back to the first adult women's Bible study I had attended at age 29. After studying with these amazing women for three years I remember saying, "Lord, I want that. I want faith, hope, and love like that. I want to be an instrument of God like that."

It has been through the ongoing encouragement, financial support, and prayers of Sardis that my studies at Columbia Seminary were possible. My faith has certainly been challenged and stretched through theological education and my lived experiences from internships in supervised ministry. I have been trained and equipped to lead others in discovering the transformative grace, hope, and mission of Jesus Christ. I am humbled and affirmed in my call as I am challenged to put my studies into practice through preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and walking alongside my brothers and sisters in their times of great joy, deep brokenness, and yearning to learn who God is.

I have been called as Associate Pastor of Young Adults (ages 20s–40s) and Outreach at First Presbyterian Church of Tupelo, Mississippi and began serving in ministry there in July. God has placed our family where our gifts intersect the needs of this particular church. It is through the relationships we continue making as we all grow as disciples of Jesus Christ that has made all the difference. Thank you Sardis, for the many ways you have been a part of this journey!

We are thrilled to come back to Sardis Sunday, October 16 for the service of worship and ordination. We are grateful to celebrate this special day with all of you!

God's Best,

Carson & Doug Overstreet

Devon & Ashley

