



THE REV. A. COILE ESTES

The Reverend A. Coile Estes is a native of Decatur, Georgia, and grew up in Decatur Presbyterian Church. She holds a B.A. degree in political science from the University of Georgia, a Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law, and a Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary. She recently completed a call as Interim Senior Pastor and Head of Staff of Madison Presbyterian Church in Madison, Georgia. She was recently selected to be a 2010 Thompson Scholar at Columbia Seminary, a program to study evangelism.

Upon graduation from Columbia Seminary, Rev. Estes accepted a call as Associate Pastor of First (Scots) Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina. While there, she was one of the founding members of the Shepherd's Center of Charleston, an interfaith educational opportunity for senior adults, and she also served as President of the Charleston Interfaith Crisis Ministry, a ministry for the homeless that includes a night shelter, a soup kitchen, and family, medical and vocational services. When the Senior Pastor of First (Scots) accepted another call, Rev. Estes served as Interim Head of Staff for two years while the Church searched for a new Pastor.

After six years in Charleston, Rev. Estes accepted a call to be Senior Pastor of Morningside Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and served there for nine years. During that time, the church sent mission teams to Honduras, built several Habitat houses, started a church preschool, and began a major renovation of the church physical facilities. She then spent two years as a Chaplain with RTI Donor Services, a tissue donation and recovery organization, followed by two and one-half years as Interim Co-Pastor at Church of the Hills Presbyterian Church in Johns Creek, a suburb in North Atlanta. Rev. Estes has also served as an adjunct professor at Columbia Theological Seminary.

As a member of Greater Atlanta Presbytery, she has served on the Committee on Ministry as well as the Council of Presbytery. She served on the Board of Trustees of Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, South Carolina, chairing the committee on Board Relations and in 2000 served on the search committee for a new president of Thornwell. While in Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery, Rev. Estes chaired both the Evangelism Committee and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. She was a Commissioner to the PCUSA General Assembly from Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery. In addition to her service to the denomination, she is active in the Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club where she has chaired the Membership Committee and the Program Committee. She was the 2005-2006 President of the Club. She is also a member of the Women in Leadership Team of the Commerce Club. A long-time supporter of historic preservation, Rev. Estes has published in that field and spoken at several conferences on preserving historic religious buildings.

Rev. Estes is married to Michael Mears, a criminal defense attorney who created and was Director of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council. A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, he has authored several books in the fields of indigent defense and criminal law. He is a former mayor of Decatur, Georgia. He is now Professor of Law and Associate Dean at John Marshall Law School in Atlanta.