



## Biographical Statement for Rev. Jane Love

My childhood was spent in Burlington, NC and the majority of my adult life has been spent in other parts of the state. My parents both had a lively faith and I was nurtured by their example and involvement with Front Street United Methodist Church. Additionally, in my early faith journey my Uncle Gene's Baptist "hell fire and damnation" scare-them- to- the- cross sermons and toe-tapping gospel music as well as my Aunt Cleo's small Catholic church's liturgical, incense filled, kneeling-bench reverence influenced me deeply.

My high school years were committed to traveling with an interdenominational, inter racial, evangelistic singing group. This group traveled and shared the good news in a variety of settings and places.-- as far away as Haiti and the Grand Cayman Islands as a near as the churches in and around Burlington. Participation in the New Directions required attendance at one's home church when not traveling, regular Bible Study and memorization of Scripture, reading and sharing on apologetic material, and rehearsing. This time taught me to value "contemporary" music/language as a form of outreach, the value of study and sharing with others our questions of faith and a disciplined approach to growing as a disciple.

While I was in college, I experienced a wonderfully imperfect but powerfully loving Christian community. My involvement led me to recognize a call to ministry and to explore the possibilities of what that might mean for me. I attended seminary for the first time believing I would teach at a church affiliated college where faith and fiction (English/Drama major) could be topics of exploration. I left seminary with an academic degree, taught and counseled on college campuses, eventually pursued a MA in English, received and accepted an invitation to teach at Han Nam University in Taejon, South Korea where I worked with and became associated with the Presbyterian Missionaries teaching there. Three plus years later, I returned to the States and after some work in Southern Literature and a return to teaching, I began to be restless, and after prayer and debate and a Holy Shove, God led me to complete an MDiv and to find my way into the life of a teaching elder in small and mid-sized churches where I discovered gifts for helping churches in transition.

I delight in good coffee, good books, and our world so filled with beauty which reflects our Creator that it causes us to praise; I am filled with thanksgiving and joyous in the deep places in my life as I follow Christ, I can't wait to see what happens next.