

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church calls Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche as Pastor



**Whitney
Wilkinson
Arreche**

*pastor,
scholar,
writer,
teacher.*

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche has been called as Pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church of Bedford, Texas. She will be officially installed as pastor at Emmanuel on a worship service on Sunday, October 29, 2 pm.

Whitney received her Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University in 2003, her Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in 2008, and her Doctor of Theology degree from Duke University in December of 2022. Her dissertation centered around questions of race, theology, money, and language of reconciliation.

Whitney has been an ordained Presbyterian minister for fourteen years, and an ordained ruling elder for twenty-four years. She has served as a solo pastor in rural North Carolina and as a mission associate in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She serves as the chairperson of the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly Committee for Ecumenical and Interfaith Engagement (GACEIR), and on the Faith and Order Convening Table of the National Council of Churches.

Whitney has written for the Christian Century, Political Theology Network, and the Presbyterian Outlook. She was a contributing author to *Liberating Church: A 21st Century Hush Harbor Manifesto*, a book that celebrates the brave Christianity embodied by enslaved Africans in the United States during slavery. She is part of a cohort for the Fellowship for Protestant Ethics, a collaboration of pastors, scholars, and activists. She is a scholar, a writer, a seeker, and a teacher, but mostly, she is a pastor with a heart for deep connection, deep thinking, and deep care of all of God's children. She currently lives in McKinney with her spouse Carlos and their dog, Otter. She finds joy in cooking, painting, barre classes, and drinking entirely too much coffee. She, like Emmanuel, is small but mighty. You can learn more about Whitney at whitneywilkinsonarreche.com.

The quality and variety of Whitney's scholarly work (16 papers and articles since 2016) and her nationwide reputation in the larger church are very impressive. Her activities include ecumenical and social justice work and leadership in PCUSA General Assembly and World Council of Churches. Although her experience, publications, and reputation might seem appropriate for a divinity school professor, Whitney tells us that while she visited Emmanuel as a congregant, she sensed a strong call to parish ministry. She has made that abundantly clear in her words, attitudes, and actions. Whitney has shown us that she is joy-filled and hopeful, inclusive and welcoming. She practices self-care and at the same time works well with boards and committees. Her gifts as a writer and poet pair well with her empathy to make her a powerful preacher and story-teller. As you may have noticed (because she attends so many church events), Whitney has a knack for being present and creating meaningful and thoughtful conversation. And she genuinely loves ministering in this way. We look forward to Whitney's guidance and leadership, as we listen to how God is calling Emmanuel Presbyterian Church of Bedford, Texas.

