

The Reverend Robert Wright Lee, IV

Robert 'Rob' Wright Lee, IV



www.roblee4.com

Educational Background

- **Chicago Theological Seminary**
Fall 2020-Present- Ph.D. in Practical Theology and Storytelling
Recipient of the Presidential Fellowship at CTS
This is a distance degree.
- **Duke University Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina**
Fall 2015-May 2017- Master of Theological Studies
Concentrations: Practical Theology and Homiletics
Recipient of 2017 Endowed Scholarship: Alice Azouri Mack Scholarship
Thesis: *"The Corpus Work of William H. Willimon: America's Preacher"*
- **Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina**
Fall 2011-Summer 2015- Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies
Concentrations: Liturgical Studies, Christian Studies
Fall 2012-Summer 2015- Minor in Appalachian Studies
- **Statesville High School, Statesville, North Carolina**
Fall 2008-Spring 2011- Diploma

Ordination and Denominational Affiliations

- Ordained to Christian ministry, First Baptist Church, West Jefferson, North Carolina. April 26th, 2015. FBCWJ is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Church.
- Raised United Methodist, maintains an associate membership with Broad Street United Methodist Church, Statesville, North Carolina.
- Familiar with the following denominations: PCUSA, ELCA, TEC, CBF, UMC, UCC.
- Interfaith commitments with Muslim and Jewish communities.

Professional and Teaching Experience

- Unifour Church
Pastor
Pastor to a congregation of 50 in Newton, North Carolina. Responsibilities include worship, pastoral care, teaching, and staff management.
July 2019-Present
- Appalachian State University
Faculty Lecturer
Responsible for teaching classes in the Communications Department on public speaking, Rhetoric, and communication.
July 2017-May 2019
- Bethany United Church of Christ
Pastor

Part time pastor to a congregation with an average attendance of 40. Bethany UCC is a congregation located in the Midway community in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

April 2017-September 2017

- Edenton Street United Methodist Church
Field Education Intern
Responsible for communications, social media, preaching and worship at Edenton Street Church. ESUMC is a 4,000 member church in the heart of downtown Raleigh, North Carolina. Responsible for implementation of online programming.
Summer 2016
- First Baptist Church, West Jefferson, North Carolina
Assistant Minister
Responsible for preaching, ministry programming, worship and the arts, youth and administration. FBCWJ is a 150+ average attendance downtown mountain church.
February 2013-August 2015
- Nicholson Funeral Home
Part-Time Assistant
Funeral assistant for Nicholson Funeral Home in Statesville, North Carolina
Summer 2011
- Statesville Record and Landmark, Statesville, North Carolina
Religion Columnist
Responsible for a weekly column that appears in the faith section feature and presents theological concepts and opinions to 60,000+ readers each column.
Spring 2011-2019
- Broad Street United Methodist Church, Statesville, North Carolina
Intern
Responsible for worship planning, administrative duties, and pastoral responsibilities under the supervision of the pastor and associate pastor. Broad Street UMC is a 250+ average attendance downtown church.
Fall-Spring 2011

Writing Experience

- Book: *A Sin by Any Other Name*, Penguin Random House, released April 2019.
- Book: *Stained-Glass Millennials*, Smyth & Helwys Publishing, released January 27th 2017
- Raleigh News and Observer, Guest Columnist, 2017
- Unvirtuous Abbey, Guest Commentator, 2017
- The Washington Post, Guest Columnist, 2016
- Ministry Matters, Blogger, 2016-2017
- Devotional Contributor, Common English Bible, fall 2015
- Associated Baptist Press, Commentator
2014-2015
- Huffington Post Religion, Blogger
2013-2017
- Statesville Record and Landmark, Statesville, North Carolina, Religion Columnist
2011-2018

Academic, Professional Accomplishments

- Recipient: Distinguished Honorary Member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars for service to the University and Community, Appalachian State University. November, 2018
- Day 1 Advisory Board Member, 2018-Present
- Guest Appearance: The View, September 11th, 2017
- Guest Appearance: MTV Video Music Awards, August 27th, 2017
- Guest Appearance: NPR's Weekend Edition, 2017
- Forum for Theological Exploration
Christian Leadership Forum
Student Participant: Chicago, Illinois
2014
- Forum for Theological Exploration
Research team, San Francisco California
2014
- Forum for Theological Exploration
Leadership Discernment Conference
Student Participant, Stony Point New York
2013
- Third Place Campus Ministry
Member, Appalachian State University
2011-2015
- Eagle Scout
2011
- Candler School of Theology's Youth Theological Initiative
Summer 2010
- Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation
Summer 2010

Personal Life

- Married to Stephanie Sansoucy Lee a marketing director.
- One miniature poodle named Frank.
- I enjoy cinema, hiking the Blue Ridge Mountains, and a conversation of theology over coffee with friends.

Biographical Sketch

The Reverend Robert Wright Lee, IV is an author, activist, commentator, and preacher. Lee is a native of Statesville, North Carolina and graduate of Duke University Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. He received his Master of Theological Studies in May of 2017 with a focus in practical theology and homiletics His thesis was on the corpus work of Bishop Will Willimon.

Lee completed his undergraduate work in Religious Studies and Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University where he met his wife Stephanie. He is currently pursuing a PhD at Chicago Theological Seminary.

Rob has written extensively for both secular and religious news outlets. Rob's work has appeared in outlets such as NPR's Weekend Edition, Ministry Matters, the Methodist

Federation for Social Action, the Huffigton Post, the Common English Bible: Student Edition, and the Washington Post. He has preached from notable churches such as the Historic Ebenezer Church in Atlanta, the American Cathedral in Paris, Rockefeller Memorial Chapel in Chicago, and Harvard's Memorial Church in Cambridge. He has given lectures at universities across this country such as Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, The University of California at Davis, Arizona State University, and St. Michael's College in Vermont.

Rob is a descendent of Confederate General Robert E. Lee has been engaged as an activist in the field of racial reconciliation. He participated in the 2017 MTV Video Music awards and was on ABC's the View where he spoke about the need to confront white supremacy and white privilege in white churches. Rob has written one book titled "Stained-Glass Millennials" (Smyth and Helwys 2017) his second book "A Sin by Any Other Name" was released in April of 2019 by Penguin Random House, Dr. Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King wrote the foreword.

Rev. Lee is presently serving as pastor of Unifour Church, an open and affirming community of faith in Newton, North Carolina. Rob was baptized and raised United Methodist, at Broad Street United Methodist Church in Statesville, and was ordained in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship at First Baptist Church, West Jefferson. Lee lives in Statesville, North Carolina with his wife Stephanie and his poodle Frank.