

The Reverend Dr. Floretta L. Barbee-Watkins (Dr. Flo) serves as the Synod Executive and Stated Clerk for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, bringing a blend of wisdom, warmth, and wit to every table (and pulpit) she graces. Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Flo is a proud graduate of Mercer University (BA, Communications) and Johnson C. Smith Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center, where she specialized in Homiletics and Christian Education. Driven by a passion for learning—and perhaps a little love for collecting degrees—she earned her Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership in 2020.

Dr. Flo's ministry journey has been marked by breaking barriers and building bridges. She served for 18 years at Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church ("The Avenue"), and in 2013 became the first African American clergywoman Moderator of the Presbytery of Charlotte. She's brought her gifts to the classroom as an adjunct professor of Homiletics at Ecumenical Theological Seminary (Detroit, MI), and to the wider church as Interim Presbytery Executive in Detroit and Lead Presbyter for Vision and Collaboration in the Presbytery of the James. A retired US Air National Guard Deputy-Wing Chaplain (with 20 years of service), Dr. Flo proudly holds the distinction of being the first African American woman chaplain in the Air National Guard. Her leadership style is rooted in integrity, innovation, and imagination—qualities that have made her a sought-after mentor, motivator, and change agent across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Dr. Flo is a passionate advocate for women and the LGBTQIA+ community, renowned for her ability to facilitate tough conversations with grace and a side of humor. She says her life's work is to "touch, move, and inspire others so they can touch, move, and inspire others"—and anyone who's met her can attest she does just that.

She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated (41 years and counting), devoted spouse to Montressa Barbee-Watkins, loving mother of an adult daughter, and—her favorite title yet—grandmother to three beautiful grandchildren, who are, in her own words, "the light of my life."

"If you're looking for Dr. Flo, you'll find her at the intersection of faith and justice, probably armed with a strong cup of coffee, a ready laugh, and a keen sense that the Holy Spirit is up to something good."