

To: Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

Dear Fellow Elders,

For those that were at the September 2018 Presbytery at Lake Forest Church, you would have heard Brent Campbell, the African American Staff member for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship that shared his story. Below is a letter to all of us from Brent willing to make himself available to any of you that would love to continue to grow your congregation in missional advancement toward Racial Reconciliation.



Please reach out to him directly if he can assist you in anyway. Brent is also a Millennial that daily works with the “next generation” and filled with resources to assist as well in helping your churches grow in reaching the next generation. He’s been an invaluable resource to us at Lake Forest.

In the Journey with you,

Rev. Mitch White
Executive Pastor Lake Forest Church

Hello Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic,

My name is Brent Campbell. You may remember me from the most recent presbytery gathering we had in the Fall. I had the opportunity to be interviewed by Aron Gibson and interact with you briefly around race and biblical reconciliation. I’m currently the Campus Staff worker with InterVarsity at UNC Charlotte and wanted to offer myself as a resource to you, your leadership, or your church around the topic of racial reconciliation and discipleship among millennials. In 2014 I was on CNN for a small time after extending forgiveness to a group of White men who threatened to kill me because of my race. For many, even in my own family, my response was a shock. I grew up with a deep hatred for White people and, before meeting Jesus, was ruled by my resentment and bitterness towards them. A little less than a year after my conversion God had transformed my heart and had begun leading me into ministry around reconciliation. CNN was the encounter that was publicized but my own personal life has also been marked by a journey of racial reconciliation and all the sacrifices required to make it happen. I’ve also done a lot of work with millennials and have experienced fruit among that group as it pertains to discipleship. Beside my own personal testimony and experience with what racial reconciliation looks like and the practical theology that shapes my understanding, I also have experience with helping to create racially reconciled communities. When I got to UNCC, the InterVarsity campus ministry there was 99% White. Now, InterVarsity at UNC Charlotte is the most diverse student organization at UNC Charlotte (that’s out of all organizations, not just religiously affiliated ones). I’d love to help continue the conversations that were happening at presbytery around reconciliation or generational ministry in any ways that seem like they’d be helpful. I have recently been convicted that I have not been a very good steward over all of the different experiences God has given me in these areas and I’m in a process of repenting for that.

If you think there's any way that having a minority perspective around reconciliation and getting more concrete application on how reconciliation and discipleship among millennials could happen in your community, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I'd love to share what that could like in more detail. On a more informal note I love the EPC, and Lake Forest in particular, and have been welcomed as family and not just a ministry partner. There's not a super politically correct way to say what I say next so please forgive my candor if it's out line: I want to say clearly that if you find yourself in need of troubleshooting issues or asking sensitive questions around race but don't have a "Black Guy" to ask without all of the layers of complexity and offense and cultural sensitivity that often make such questions difficult or uncomfortable....I'll be your "Black Guy". It's not a burden for me, it's actually a joy.

I hope to hear from you soon,

Brent Campbell

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InterVarsity Campus Minister at UNC-Charlotte