

Rev. Barbara A. Renton, Ph.D Bio

Born and raised in the Bronx, not far from the Yankee Stadium, Barbara attended the Bronx H.S. Of Science, graduated with a BA and MA in Musicology from City College of New York, earned a Ph.D. in Musicology from the Graduate Center of NYC and an MDiv. from Princeton (class of 1986). She has pursued two interests all her life: music and church service. In music, she taught classes at CCNY, Brooklyn, Queens and Lehman Colleges while serving as an organist and choir director at Presbyterian and other churches. Finally able to answer a long-standing call to ministry, she served the Elmont and Brentwood churches on Long Island, then First Presbyterian Church of Stamford, CT, then serving as Executive Presbyter of Susquehanna Valley Presbytery. Her service to the PC(USA) has been in governance: Moderator of L.I. Presbytery (the first woman), the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly, also chairing a number of Synod and G.A. Committees. In Baltimore Presbytery she served on one Investigative Commission, was a commissioner to the 2022 General Assembly and is currently finishing a term on the Commission on Reconciliation. She maintains ties with the Ethiopian and Czech Mission Networks of the PC(USA). Barbara has a large family: 3 sons (one a foster son from Romania; one recently deceased; two daughters (one of whom is Rev. Dorothy Boulton, the Associate at Catonsville); six grandsons, two godsons and three great-granddaughters; also an equally large family in the Czech Republic. In retirement, she is grateful to be a member of Catonsville's choir (alto – no solos, please).