

9 Questions for Summer Intern Sidney Nuñez (of varying degrees of importance)

By Amy S. Zimbelman

Sidney Nuñez is Preaching, Painting, and Peacemaking in an internship this summer. She's supported by her home congregation of East Holbrook in Cheraw, Pastor Brian Hanneken, and Pastor Amy Zimbelman of Mountain States Mennonite Conference. She's having holy conversations with church and nonprofit leaders, guest preaching, sharing some of her art (like she did at RAWtools event in late June and will do at MSMC Assembly in late July), exploring her sense of call to ministry, and more.



I recently sat down with Sidney and was able to ask some hard-hitting questions.

1. Dogs or cats?

Dog for sure.

Obviously we're off to a good start here with the correct answer to that question.

2. Most used emoji?

Probably the rolling on the floor laughing emoji.

3. So who exactly are you?

I am Sidney Nuñez. I have brown hair and brown eyes which you can't see because I'm squinting them laughing all the time—usually I have the loudest laugh in the room. I'm a mom, wife, business

owner, artist, and professional dreamer. My business is interior design—I redo kitchens, bathrooms, etc. I also paint indoor and outdoor murals. Basically, I make peoples' houses pretty.

4. Most people hate public speaking. What makes you different, in that you want to preach this summer?

When I began to register this "quiet call" it was so faint the only thing I could figure out was that I was supposed to *share* something. What that was exactly? No clue. Then as I listened more, I realized that I was supposed to be sharing God's word. Then I was asked if I would give the message at our church. What do you say when you feel God's presence in a question? I don't like public speaking, or standing while people are sitting, or even writing for that matter, but "Yes!" was my answer. I know He goes before me, and through this faith, I found confidence. Then when I was asked again, I delivered my second message to the congregation. Shortly after that, my husband and I had a conversation with our pastor, Brian and his wife Twila. He asked if I would prayerfully consider a future in ministry; I thought God's call suddenly got louder.

With the conference minister as my advocate, I will have more opportunities to develop and practice my preaching skills as I get to know the 17 churches in our conference.



Photos of Sidney from the Gun Violence Roundtable at BMC June 25—27

5. What makes you interested in peacemaking?

Under Pastor Amy's leadership, I will have access to a variety of leaders who are doing God's work in Colorado and New Mexico and I'm eager to become a part of that positive impact. As a young woman of equal parts Caucasian and African American origins, 2020 was a truly eye-opening year for me. I grew more knowledgeable about the struggle and oppression of some of my ancestors and the privilege of others.

Another reason for my personal growth of recent years is my wonderful spouse. Having a husband who is here as an immigrant from Mexico has shown me a perspective that I would have otherwise been blind to. I now know loving others who are different from us changes us for the better and helps us grow in compassion. I know that I have a story that some may need to hear, but now I am curious—who out there has a story that I need to hear? Whose voice hasn't been heard? I've realized recently that I want to hear from those who are weak, downcast, mistreated, or poor. I want to support and build up those who are oppressed, without peace, needing hope, or seeking a savior. What I want to learn most is: how can I best serve them?



Join us for a painting workshop with professional artist and ministerial intern **Sidney Nuñez**. You'll start with a paintbrush, a canvas, and paint, and she'll guide you in connecting your spiritual life to the work of your hands. You'll leave with your very own masterpiece. No artistic experience necessary. If Bob Ross were considering going into ministry, he would give workshops like this one.

If you are interested in this activity, you will sign up during the Assembly Registration process - *there is a \$5 supply fee*. Any interested Youth and Delegates will need to sign up for the Friday evening session; all other adults can sign up for the Saturday afternoon session. There is limited capacity, so sign up today!

Additional Items			
Description	Price per site/room	# of sites/rooms	
Full Meal Plan - Adult (3 meals Sat, Sun breakfast)	\$74.00	0	Enter # of adults for this meal type
Full Meal Plan - Children ages 3-12 (3 meals Sat, Sun breakfast)	\$37.00	0	Enter # of children for this meal type
Partial Weekend Meal Plan - Adult (Sat lunch, Sat dinner, Sun breakfast)	\$60.00	0	Enter # of adults for this meal type
Partial Weekend Meal Plan - Children ages 3-12 (Sat lunch, Sat dinner, Sun breakfast)	\$30.00	0	Enter # of children for this meal type
Saturday Only Meal Plan - Adult (Sat lunch & dinner)	\$46.00	0	Enter # of adults for this meal type
Saturday Only Meal Plan - Children ages 3-12 (Sat lunch & dinner)	\$23.00	0	Enter # of children for this meal type
How many children eating with you, ages 0-2?	\$0.00	0	
Friday 7:30PM Art Workshop	\$5.00	0	
Saturday 1PM Art Workshop	\$5.00	1	

Payment Method* Credit Card or Paypal

0
1
2
3

6. On a scale of 1 to favorite thing ever, how much do you like painting?

Painting—which involves using our hands while using the creative parts of our brain—is a passion of mine. We all have experiences of falling victim to things like loneliness, anxiety, bitterness, depression, anger issues, and negative thought patterns; taking our thoughts and energy and committing them to a task like painting changes those thought patterns and de-stresses the body. But in addition to fighting against the darkneses in our minds, art can also connect us with community. This summer I hope to use my artistic gifts to strengthen both individuals and the community as a whole.

My favorite way of doing this is by hosting painting events/classes. I look forward to the challenge of putting biblical material in conversation with a canvas while leaving space for each individual's own creativity to flow. I've seen how painting together can strengthen relationships, and I'm excited to bring this to the conference.

7. I ask all the pastors this question, and since you're considering pastoral ministry, I think it's time to ask you:

Would you rather have a tail that wags when you're happy, or hair all over your body, even your face?

Tail for sure. Hair all over your body seems itchy, for one. Also I have an ant allergy—that would get tricky with hair all over—they could get lost. When I get bit by an ant I get loopy, and too many bites could be bad. Every time I get un-humble I remember that God can take me out with an ant.

Okay that question took an interesting turn.

8. If you were a wrestler what would be your entrance theme song?

Kanye West's *Selah*

(Cue the music, especially the "Hallelujah" part. I think it can be applied to internship entrances, not just wrestlers.)

9. Anything else?

Pastor Amy and I are collaborating on an artistic project involving wildflowers to share at Assembly this summer that you won't want to miss.

Also, I put "praising my savior all the day long" at the end of pretty much everything. Not sure if that's relevant to this.

There you have it. Feel free to donate to Sidney's internship by clicking [here](#) and specifying "Intern Fund" in the special instructions field. If you donate \$40 or more before August 31, 2021, Sidney will send you a free print of her artwork! And be on the lookout for a loud laugh coupled with the genuine, engaging, faith-filled presence of Sidney Nuñez around the conference this summer, as she praises her savior all the day long.