

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Detailed Info for PIF #: 100015174.3	
Professional ID:	100015174
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Address:	2935 Greenleaf Ave Wilmette, IL 60091
Actively Seeking?:	Yes, Actively Seeking
Ecclesiastical Status:	Teaching Elder
Membership Presbytery:	CHICAGO PRESBYTERY
Ordination Date:	11/27/2011
Formal Education:	<i>Master of Divinity & Master of Arts in Youth Ministry</i> May 2008 Princeton Theological Seminary <i>Bachelor of Arts in Theology</i> May 2002 Whitworth University
Continuing Education:	Progressive Youth Ministry (Chicago, 2015 & 2014) NEXT Church National Gathering (Chicago, 2015) Celebration of Biblical Preaching (Luther Seminary, 2014) Six Agency Leadership Initiative Consultation (2013); 1 of 30 PC(USA) pastors invited to attend to meet with denominational leaders & discuss the future of the church and its leadership Emergence Christianity Event with Phyllis Tickle (Memphis, 2013); presenter Open Youth Ministry (Seattle Pacific University, 2012) Children, Youth and a New Kind of Christianity (Washington DC, 2012) Big Tent Christianity (Phoenix, 2011) College Conference at Montreat (Montreat, 2010 and 2011) Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry (Princeton, 2010) Theology After Google (Claremont, 2010); presenter Alt7 Conference (Montreat, 2009); presenter Presbymergent Conference (Pittsburgh, 2007); presenter Mainline Emergent/s (Atlanta, 2007); presenter
Employment Type:	Open to both

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Minimum Effective Salary:	\$40,000 / Year	
Position Types and Experience Level		
	Solo Pastor	No Experience
	Head of Staff (who supervised one teaching elder and other staff)	No Experience
	Associate Pastor (Other)	2 to 5 Years
	Pastor (church planter, new church development, new worshipping community)	No Experience
	Pastor (Transformation/Redevelopment)	No Experience
	Co- Pastor	No Experience
	Evangelist or Mission Pastor	No Experience
	Chaplain	0 to 2 Years
	Media Specialist	2 to 5 Years
	Bivocational/Tentmaker	No Experience
	Campus Ministry	0 to 2 Years
Geographic Choices:	Illinois Wisconsin Geographically Limited to miles of	
Languages:	English	
Leadership Competencies:	Compassionate Hopeful Preaching and Worship Leadership Teacher Public Communicator Technologically Savvy Change Agent Entrepreneurial Risk Taker Collaboration	
Training / Certification:	Clinical Pastoral Education Training	
Other Training:		
Clergy Couple?	False	
Past Experience:		

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Designated Associate Pastor, Winnetka Presbyterian Church; Winnetka, IL; 426 members; suburban; August 2013 – present

Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Ashland; Ashland, OR; 184 members; small town; November 2011 – July 2013

Minister for Youth & Young Adults, Asbury United Methodist Church; Livermore, CA; 486 members; suburban; September 2008 – October 2011

Chaplain, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital; New Brunswick, NJ; 600-bed hospital; urban; May 2007 – August 2007

College Minister Intern, Westminster Foundation, Princeton University; Princeton, NJ; 40 students; university town; September 2005 – May 2006

Director of Youth Ministries, Living Waters Presbyterian Church; Wendell, ID; 143 members; rural; August 2002 – May 2004

Other Services:

Published in Presbyterians Today: "The New Front Door" (about social media and ministry), featured in the 3rd edition of Presbyterians Today "Welcome to the Presbyterian Church" magazine. Also published "The Bible blackout" (about a new form of lectio divina) in the July 2014 edition of Presbyterians Today. I also had an article entitled "Pastoral Transitions in the Age of Social Media" that was published by The Alban Institute, in their magazine, Congregations.

Social Media Boot Camp Presenter; have presented Social Media Boot Camps to pastors in Phoenix (AZ), Portland (OR), Boise (ID), Modesto (CA) and Chicago (IL). This day-long boot camp teaches pastors and others in ministry how best to use social media to further their church's mission and vision; 2011-2014

The Forum for Theological Education; have served in a variety of roles, most recently served as a Pastor Mentor to a small cohort of seminarians as they were in a year long discernment process; 2011-2012

Company of New Pastors; West Coast Cohort; 2008-2010

Keynote Presenter; Presbyterian Communicators Network Midwest Regional Conference; 2008

Workshop Presenter; Presbymergent Always Reforming Conference, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 2007; Mainline Emergent/s Continuing Education Event, Columbia Theological Seminary, 2007; Alt7 Conference, Montreat Conference Center, 2009; Theology After Google, Claremont School of Theology, 2010

Presbymergent; Co-Founder (www.presbymergent.org), 2007-2014

Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

On Ash Wednesday this year, my colleague and I put our robes on, went down to the train stations in Winnetka at 6am and offered commuters "Ashes to Go." This wasn't necessarily an original idea (other churches around the country have done this before), but it was the first time for our church, and one of the first times anyone in our area had offered such a ministry.

I should mention that it was 5 degrees and windy.

Between the three train stations we stopped at, we were able to offer ashes to a dozen people, and we had many interesting conversations with people regarding what we were doing and about our church.

I then went downtown and stood in front of a coffee shop. I was able to offer ashes to another 15-20 people (both inside and outside of the coffee shop). A lot of people came up to thank me for this unique way of allowing them to experience this important ritual on Ash Wednesday.

I viewed the morning as a huge success. This was the first time our church had engaged in this form of creative outreach, and it was well-received by the community. It was an important way in which we were able to actually take church to the people, instead of assuming people will just come to church. Folks who didn't have time to attend a service that day were grateful for our ministry, and I had the opportunity to talk to many people in the community about our church.

Describe the ministry setting to which you believe God is calling you.

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I am a creative pastor who is looking for a community willing to experiment, comfortable with trying new things, and ready to be the church in the world.

While skilled and proficient in traditional ministry tasks and duties, I am most interested in trying new and creative ways to experience God. I am looking for a ministry setting that is willing to experiment and finds creativity as life-giving as I do.

Such experimentation often involves trying new things and a lot of trial and error. When a community is comfortable with both new and creative things, as well as the trial and error process required to find those new things, it will be a place that is open to God's Spirit and new discoveries and possibilities.

The church has a responsibility to care for the members of its community. But a church that only exists for itself is missing out on the hopes and visions that Christ had for the church. The church is called to be the church in the world, that we might work to help bring about God's hopes and dreams for the world. The church is called to fight injustice, bear witness to a message of hope, and embody God's love for the world. I feel called to help a community begin that journey and imagine what that looks like in its context.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

While I am someone who loves meeting new people and am approachable and open, at times my introverted and calm personality can be perceived as disinterested or not engaged. Because of this, I have been working on being aware of how my interactions with people might be perceived, especially of how my body language might be interpreted.

As a pastor who is creative and enjoys outside-the-box ideas and programs, it is sometimes a challenge for me to appreciate more routine tasks of ministry, like administrative tasks. Obviously, no one enjoys or gets life and energy from every task of their calling and career, so the challenge for me is to see those parts of my job as still meaningful parts of ministry, and to try and see where the holy resides in them. Brother Lawrence's *The Practice of the Presence of God* is a helpful book that reminds me to look for the ways in which God is present in all that I do.

While I wouldn't say that I'm conflict-avoidant, I do need to become more comfortable with conflict and not take it personally. Conflict, with a range of intensity, will always be present in ministry (and life in general!). I'm aware that often, the presenting issue is not the real issue, so while I do my best to listen to specific concerns, I always listen for what deeper issue the individual may be wanting to discuss.

Describe a time when you have led change.

When I arrived at my previous call at the First Presbyterian Church of Ashland, they had a small, and somewhat struggling, youth ministry. There were three other progressive mainline churches in town that didn't have any youth ministry programs, but had a small group of youth who attended these churches.

In coordination with the pastors of the three other churches, I developed a plan for creating a youth ministry collective. After many conversations, and a few trial gatherings of our youth together, we created the Ashland Youth Collective.

This was a new model of youth ministry for all four churches, and required a willingness to experiment. Each of the churches had to set aside a common church worry that they might "lose" their youth to the other churches involved. That never happened, but can be a common fear when churches start collaborating with other churches.

Youth group meetings rotated among the churches, and we had to figure out the finances and how to share the financial responsibilities of this new ministry. Because of the Ashland Youth Collective, increased collaboration has occurred between the four churches with their adult ministries and service opportunities. Additionally, youth from the small town community have gotten to know one another better, and there is a greater sense of community and ecumenism between the four worshipping communities.

Optional Links:

AdamWC.com: This is my professional website with more detailed information about my ministry experience, samples of preaching, information about my art and other interests.

Statement of Faith:

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In the beginning, before the dawn of time, the Triune God was creating. Out of love, God created the cosmos, the world and humanity. God declared all of God's creation to be good and thus humanity, created in God's image, was given the opportunity and command to love and care for God's creation. Given the gift of free will, humanity quickly turned from God and sought their own ways. Thus the story of redemption and reconciliation began: humanity would both follow and turn away from God and God would be an ever-present companion, full of compassion, mercy and justice.

As the story continued, it became clear that our world was broken and torn apart by sin. In order to reconcile a broken world to Godself, God took on human flesh and broke into human history in the person of Jesus, who brought salvation and liberation to humanity. Jesus told stories, touched outcasts, challenged assumptions, loved sinners, gave hope, and turned the world upside down. Through Jesus's life, ministry, death and resurrection, humanity was given the gift of salvation and redemption, new life and hope.

God continues to reveal Godself to us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit leads us into truth, renews and sustains us, prays for us, and gives us peace. The Spirit is also a wild and unpredictable wind surpassing the ability of humanity to contain or control. As we wrestle with God's word to us in the Scriptures, the Spirit teaches, guides, and opens up truth. As we gather in community to wrestle with God's word in the Scriptures, and as we acknowledge the Bible consists of human words, we trust that they were inspired by the Holy Spirit and believe them to be the unique witness to Jesus, the Word of God incarnate.

Through the Church, messy and broken people of God are called together to worship and bear witness to the truth and power of the Gospel. The Church's call is to discern where God is at work in the world, and join in that mission. When we partner with God and participate in God's mission, we work toward bringing about the Kingdom of God in the here-and-now, the Kingdom of God on earth, as it is in Heaven. We are nourished for this mission through the two sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; through our Baptism, God claims us as part of the body of Christ and through the Lord's Supper, we are continually strengthened and nourished by the bread of life and the cup of salvation, remembering the life, ministry, death, resurrection and future coming of Jesus the Christ.

We obviously live in a broken world. Yet, as we are actively involved in this world and creation, we continue to look forward to the fully-realized Kingdom of God that we believe, in faith, will come one day – the new earth and the new heaven. But until that day comes, we are called to love God the Creator, to seek to follow the way of Jesus the Redeemer and to be attentive to the movements of the Spirit the Sustainer.

References:

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	Relation	Friend

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Sexual Misconduct Self-Certification Statement:	I certify below that no civil, criminal, ecclesiastical complaint has ever been sustained or is pending against me for sexual misconduct; and I have never resigned or been terminated from a position for reasons related to sexual misconduct.	
	I have read this certification and release form and fully understand that the information obtained may be used to deny my employment or any other type of position from the employing entity. I also agree that I will hold harmless the employing or judicial authority or any other entity from any and all claims, liabilities, and causes of action for the legitimate release of any information related to sexual misconduct.	
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