

# CANDIDATE SEEKING A CALL (CSC)

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Presbytery Greater Atlanta Candidacy Date 07 / 15 / 2009

Home Congregation Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church

## 1. TYPES OF POSITIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associate Pastor (Christian Education)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastor (Tent Maker/Part-time)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associate Pastor (Youth)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastor (Yoked/Multiple)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associate Pastor (Other)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-Pastor	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastor (Solo)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated Pastor	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pastor (Head of Staff)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mission Pastor	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastor (New Church Development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Campus Minister	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastor (Redevelopment)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chaplain	

## 2. TYPES OF COMMUNITIES & CHURCH SIZES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under 100 members
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Village	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inner City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 101-250- members
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> College	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 251-400 members
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small City	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401-650 members
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban	<input type="checkbox"/> Retirement	<input type="checkbox"/> 651-1000 members
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1001-1500 members
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1501 +

## 3. RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE (List most recent first)

Church/Agency	City/State	Position	Dates	Part/Full Time
Grady Memorial Hospital	Atlanta, GA	Chaplain Resident	Aug 2010 – Aug 2011	Full
Georgia Perimeter College	Decatur, GA	Reading/Writing Tutor	Jan 2009 – Aug 2010	Part
Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church	Atlanta, GA	Pastoral Intern	Jun 2009 – Aug 2009	Full
Interfaith Children's Movement	Atlanta, GA	Seminary Intern	Sep 2008 – Dec 2008	Part
Columbia Theological Seminary	Decatur, GA	Biblical Greek Teaching Assistant	Jun 2008 – Aug 2008	Full
Oakhurst Presbyterian Church	Decatur, GA	After-School Tutoring Program Coordinator	Sep 2007 – May 2008	Part
Allen County Community Corrections	Fort Wayne, IN	GED Prep and ESL Program Coordinator	May 2005 – May 2007	Full

## 4. LIST THE 10 PRIMARY SKILL CHOICES FROM THE PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM:

<u>Communication (Written/Oral)</u>	<u>Evangelism</u>
<u>Community Ministries</u>	<u>Leadership of Staff/Volunteers</u>
<u>Conflict Management/Mediation Skills</u>	<u>Pastoral Care</u>
<u>Curriculum Building</u>	<u>Preaching</u>
<u>Development of New Educational Experiences</u>	<u>Teaching</u>

## 5. FORMAL EDUCATION (List most recent first)

Institution	City/State	Major	Dates	Degree
Columbia Seminary	Decatur, GA	Christian Ministry	July 2007 – May 2010	M.Div.

Wabash College	Crawfordsville, IN	English/Religion	Aug 2001 – May 2005	B.A.
University of Aberdeen	Aberdeen, Scotland, UK	English/Religion	Sep 2003 – Dec 2003	Semester Abroad

**6. SEMINARY HONORS/SCHOLARSHIPS/LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:**

Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade Sunday School Teacher, Grace Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, IN, 2005 – 2006  
Junior/Senior High Sunday School Teacher, Grace Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, IN, 2006 – 2007  
Honor Scholarship, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, 2007 – 2010  
Breakfast Server, Chauffeur, Lead Volunteer, and Literacy Tutor, Open Door Community, Atlanta, GA, 2007 – 2008  
Overnight Host and Lead Volunteer, Hagar's House Shelter for Women and Children, Decatur, GA, 2007 – 2009  
National Board Member, That All May Freely Serve, Rochester, NY, 2008 – present  
Educational Consultant/G.E.D. Facilitator, Covenant Ministries/Capitol View United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA, 2009 – present  
Adult Sunday School Teacher, Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA, 2009 – present

**7. GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS:**

I would prefer to work in Georgia, at least somewhat near Atlanta, as my wife is completing M.Div. studies at Columbia.

**8. BRIEFLY INTRODUCE YOURSELF:** Search committees need to know something of the aspects of ministry you enjoy, the gifts/skills/experiences that you bring to your ministry, and your hopes for your future ministry. Please use only the space below.

I was born on June 2, 1983, in Columbia City, IN, a small town outside of the bustling metropolis of Fort Wayne, IN—the 72<sup>nd</sup> largest city in the country.

I attended Wabash College, a small, liberal arts college in west-central Indiana, where I majored in English, minored in religion, was an active leader in my fraternity, edited a campus publication, and worked with and lived alongside international students. While at Wabash, I had the opportunity to spend a week in Ecuador as part of an internship, another week along the U.S. border studying the cultural and political impact of NAFTA, and a semester in Scotland. During my time at Wabash, I also became a Christian. I came to college as the last person in the world one would expect to be religious—much less a Christian—but by the middle of my sophomore year, God had found me and I was in. I noted above that one of my personal skills is ‘evangelism’ because I myself am a product of evangelism.

After graduating from Wabash in 2005, I moved to Fort Wayne, where I became a G.E.D. Prep and English as a Second Language facilitator for adult ex-offenders on home detention. I am proud of both my work and my students’ work during that time. I interned at this home detention center during the summer between my junior and senior years of college. The position I eventually took was started during that summer, but during the nine months I was gone, the organization I worked for saw four different people assume and then leave that position. When I returned to the agency in May 2005, the G.E.D. program had seen one student receive a G.E.D. diploma, and the E.S.L. program was an unorganized mess. However, I am proud to say that during the two years I served in this position, thirty-six students received a G.E.D. diploma; and even though I had no previous training in E.S.L. instruction, I was able to completely overhaul the E.S.L. program and design a working curriculum. My students achieved favorable results on standardized tests, and tended to have positive things to say about their teacher, as well. The facts of the matter compel me to say that my students’ success was a result of their hard work, not mine, but I helped create an atmosphere that facilitated their success, and my work in doing that has become a model for my ministry.

When I came to Columbia Seminary in the summer of 2007, I continued to be active in community ministries. I have worked for Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church, the Interfaith Children’s Movement, and Georgia Perimeter College. I have also been a very active volunteer with Hagar’s House (a transitional shelter), the Open Door Community (a homeless ministry), and That All May Freely Serve (an LGBT advocacy organization). One of my most rewarding volunteer positions has been with the Open Door Community, where I served as an N.A. and A.A. Meeting Chauffeur, escorting formerly homeless men to Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. I appreciated the consistent reward of hearing the men’s stories, hearing about their struggles with addiction and their triumphs, and simply entering into the holy ground of their meeting space. Since the summer of 2008, I have been a member of Ormewood Park in Atlanta, where I also served as an intern. Ormewood Park is a 50-member congregation in southeast Atlanta; I have been blessed to be welcomed as a member of the community there, and because of my experience as a member, intern, and Sunday School teacher, I have seen the struggles and joys of this smaller congregation from a number of perspectives. Currently, I am leading the Sunday School class through the Book of Confessions, as we work toward a good answer to the question, “What’s a Presbyterian, anyway?”

Before and during seminary, I have enjoyed the opportunity to preach and lead worship in a number of congregational settings, and I consider worship planning to be one of the most fun aspects of ministry. I also enjoy pastoral care and counseling. Since August, I have been working as a chaplain resident at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, providing pastoral service to patients, family, and staff in five units across the hospital. Grady is a challenging, difficult, and rewarding place to work; I have appreciated the privilege my patients and families have given me of allowing me to enter their tender spaces, to be present with them and care for them.

My wife and I were married on August 29, 2009, at Ormewood Park, and we still consider ourselves newlyweds. We are currently living in married student housing on the campus of Columbia Seminary, while she completes M.Div. studies. My wife is a skilled worship leader and teacher, who is great with kids, and I am constantly learning new things from her.

In my spare time, I enjoy creative writing, reading a good book, watching college football and basketball, and spending time with family. I am fortunate enough to also enjoy ministry, which is why so much of my spare time has been devoted to the work of ministry, and why I am blessed by God to be taking on this calling.