

# CANDIDATE SEEKING A CALL (CSC)

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Presbytery Northeast Georgia Candidacy Date 10-23-2009

Home Congregation Toccoa First Presbyterian Church, 105 East Tugalo Street, Toccoa, GA 30577-2357

## 1. TYPES OF POSITIONS

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

## 2. TYPES OF COMMUNITIES & CHURCH SIZES

<u>XX</u> Rural	<u>      </u> Urban	<u>XX</u> Under 100 members
<u>XX</u> Village	<u>      </u> Inner City	<u>XX</u> 101-250- members
<u>XX</u> Town	<u>      </u> College	<u>XX</u> 251-400 members
<u>XX</u> Small City	<u>      </u> Recreation	<u>      </u> 401-650 members
<u>      </u> Suburban	<u>      </u> Retirement	<u>      </u> 651-1000 members
		<u>      </u> 1001-1500 members
		<u>      </u> 1501 +

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

Church/Agency	City/State	Position	Dates	Part/Full Time
<u>Saint Paul &amp; Indiantown PC</u>	<u>Hemingway SC</u>	<u>Supervised Ministry Intern</u>	<u>05-2009 to 08-2009</u>	<u>Full</u>
<u>Rehoboth PC</u>	<u>Tucker GA</u>	<u>Adult Bible Study Leader</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Part</u>
<u>USDA Forest Service</u>	<u>1990-2008</u>	<u>Forest Ranger, Forester, &amp; Entomologist</u>	<u>1990-2008</u>	<u>Full</u>

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

<u>Administrative Leadership</u>	<u>Pastoral Care</u>
<u>Communication (Written and Oral)</u>	<u>Preaching</u>
<u>Corporate Worship and Sacraments</u>	<u>Rural Ministry</u>
<u>Hospital and Emergency Visitation</u>	<u>Spiritual Development</u>
<u>Leadership Development</u>	<u>Teaching</u>

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

Institution	City/State	Major	Dates	Degree
<u>Columbia Theological Seminary</u>	<u>Decatur GA</u>	<u>Masters of Divinity</u>	<u>06-2008 to 05-2011</u>	<u>M. Div</u>
<u>Colorado State University</u>	<u>Fort Collins CO</u>	<u>Forestry Management</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>BS</u>
<u>Colorado State University</u>	<u>Fort Collins CO</u>	<u>Entomology</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>BS</u>

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

- 2010 One of five candidates selected to attend the Central European Alternative context course.
- 2010 One of 24 nationally selected seminary Middlers showing promise for parish ministry to participate in the Pittulloch, Fraser- Parker & Foundations endowments for the 2010 Middle East Travel Seminar
- 2010 Selected to Company of New Pastors PC (USA); designed specifically for seminarians to transition to their first pastoral call and build spiritual practices in candidates.
- 2009-10 Columbia Friendship Circle Scholarship recipient for promising leadership at Seminary.
- 2009-10 Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership scholarship recipient for demonstrated promise in Parish and Rural ministries
- 2009-10 First Presbyterian Church Sheridan, WY cash award for leadership during theological studies.
- 2009-10 St. Paul's & Indiantown Presbyterian Churches scholarship for completing studies abroad.

## **7. GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS:**

I am not limited by geographical boundaries, but rather by the type of ministry I see myself called to. I feel most called and gifted to handle a rural ministry.

## **8. BRIEFLY INTRODUCE YOURSELF:**

I grew up in a rural setting near Littleton, Colorado. I have been married to Lona, my partner and best friend, for over 15 years. We met working in Yellowstone National Park. We have twin 12 year old boys, Nick and Brady. My personal interests include hiking and camping with my family, gardening, bonsai, photography, carpentry, and storytelling.

Prior to Seminary I served almost 20 years with the US Forest Service as Forest Ranger throughout western and southeastern America. Serving in that role, my family and I have lived in rural towns all across the country, sometimes in small towns with fewer than 400 people. Having lived in rural communities, my family and I feel most drawn to serving in these areas.

As a Forest Ranger I not only supervised people, but also mentored, counseled, and served as a father figure for many of my employees. Working for a service-oriented agency, I developed an understanding that leadership is not self-serving. During this time I also served in several churches across the country as an Elder, a Bible study teacher, and a member of various worship, education, fellowship, building, mission, and evangelism committees. In each of these roles, someone asked me to consider leading. I believe that others usually bring genuine calls to light before you see it in yourself. Serving multiple churches in varied locations, I have become more open to theological diversity and I appreciate different approaches to understanding faith issues. My sense of personal calling however remains strong.

During Seminary, I served for a summer as a pastoral intern to two yoked churches in rural South Carolina. This affirmed for me, in a very short time, that I am called into parish ministry within rural or small communities. I found I have a gift to engage people within the congregation and the community. I can provide an empathetic and understanding ease without being gullible. Much of this is born of my ability to listen actively to folks without interrupting them. I found that preaching becomes more natural each time I preach. Visitations however seem a natural extension of my existing gifts. My leadership experience as a public servant in rural areas prepares me for the unique rewards and challenges of serving small congregations.

I have a very open, creative, and conversational pastoral style. I am an outgoing individual. My supervising Pastor for my internship said "Scott has never met a stranger." My sense of humor coupled with a calm presence in crisis allows me to be present for people in many situations. My creativity and energy allows me to see the potential, and find the hope in many situations. I tend to build community in a relational fashion. I am aware however that God precedes us all in any church.

My family is an active part of my whole discernment process. Their support is foundational to any vocation or calling that I pursue. My summer internship helped my wife to realize more what life in a small parish might be like. From our conversations, I believe she also came away with a deep sense that God has opened up this path for us. I take this openness as another affirmation of this calling for all of us. My understanding of vocation is much more holistic as it continues to grow. It incorporates my relationship with my wife, and my relationship with my boys.

Ultimately I believe there can be nothing more important than serving God and serving others, and I look forward to devoting my life to this. I believe that we are to find why God has called us to where we are at. We are called in everything to use our best for God's highest work. Discipleship and real transformation happens when people are nurtured in an environment of grace, community, and mission. I also believe that vocation marries your God given gifts with your values and abilities.