

CANDIDATE SEEKING A CALL (CSC)

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Presbytery Greater Atlanta Candidacy Date July 2009

Home Congregation Ormewood Park

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 type="checkbox"/> Associate Pastor (Youth)	<input 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 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 checked="" 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
Georgia Perimeter College	Decatur, GA	Reading/Writing Tutor	01/09 – present	Part-Time
Ormewood Park Presbyterian	Atlanta, GA	Pastoral Intern	06/09 – 08/09	Full-Time
Interfaith Children's Movement	Atlanta, GA	Seminary Intern	09/08 – 12/08	Part-Time
Columbia Seminary	Decatur, GA	Biblical Greek Teaching Assistant	06/08 – 08/08	Full-Time
Oakhurst Presbyterian Church	Decatur, GA	After-School Tutoring Program Coordinator	09/07 – 05/08	Part-Time
Allen County Community Corrections	Fort Wayne, IN	GED Prep/ESL Facilitator	05/05 – 05/07	Full-Time

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

<u>Communication (Written/Oral)</u>	<u>Evangelism</u>
<u>Community Service and Leadership</u>	<u>Pastoral Care</u>
<u>Corporate Worship/Sacraments</u>	<u>Preaching</u>
<u>Cultural Proficiency/Cross-Cultural Collaboration</u>	<u>Small Membership Church Ministry</u>
<u>Curriculum Building</u>	<u>Teaching</u>

5. FORMAL EDUCATION (List most recent first)

Institution	City/State	Major	Dates	Degree
Columbia Theological Seminary	Decatur, GA	Religion	07/07 – 05/10	M.Div.
Wabash College	Crawfordsville, IN	English/Religion	08/01 – 05/05	B.A.
University of Aberdeen	Aberdeen, Scotland	English/Religion	09/03 – 12/03	Semester Abroad

6. SEMINARY HONORS/SCHOLARSHIPS/LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

Honor Scholarship, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, 2007 – 2010
Breakfast Server, N.A.A. Meeting Chauffeur, Literacy Tutor, and House Duty Volunteer, Open Door Community, Atlanta, GA, 2007 – 2008
Overnight Host and Lead Volunteer, Hagar's House, Decatur, GA, 2007 – 2009
National Board Member, That All May Freely Serve, Rochester, NY, 2008 – present
Community Resident, DOOR Atlanta Capitol View Dwell House, Atlanta, GA, 2009 – 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:

Since my wife is completing her M.Div. studies at Columbia Seminary, I would prefer to work no more than two or three hours outside of Atlanta.

8. BRIEFLY INTRODUCE YOURSELF:

I was born on June 2, 1983, in Columbia City, IN, a small town outside of the bustling metropolis of Fort Wayne, IN, which is the 72nd 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 alongside international students. Wabash provides many study abroad opportunities. A student would have to work hard to *avoid* leaving the country during his four years at the school. While at Wabash, I had the opportunity to spend a week in Ecuador, a 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. However, during the nine months I was gone, the organization I worked for saw four different people assume and then leave that position. When I started, 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. I am proud to say that during the two years I served in this position, thirty-six students received a G.E.D. diploma; this was the result of their hard work and not mine, but I would like to think my consistent presence, at the very least, had something to do with their success. Moreover, 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.

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. The community put a lot of trust in me when they gave me this responsibility. I appreciated that, and I also appreciated the consistent reward of hearing the mens’ stories, hearing about other people and their struggles with addiction, and simply entering into the holy ground of that 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 both a member and an intern, I have seen the struggles and joys of this smaller congregation from a number of perspectives.

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 am newly-married. My wife and I were married on August 29, 2009, at Ormewood Park in Atlanta. We are currently living with four other people in an intentional Christian community in southwest Atlanta, where we helped start a local G.E.D. prep ministry. Two months ago, we adopted a kitten, who had been born in another backyard in our neighborhood; we are pleased to see our family continue to grow.

In my spare time, I enjoy creative writing, reading a good book, watching college football and basketball, and attending concerts (especially when they’re free). 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 entering the profession I am entering.

