

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

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| Detailed Info for PIF #: 100015398.2 | |
| Professional ID: | 100015398 |
| Name: | Sarah Catherine Walker Cleaveland |
| Phone: | (510) 502-5317 |
| Alternate Phone: | |
| Fax: | |
| E-Mail: | direction.swc@gmail.com |
| Address: | 2935 Greenleaf Ave Wilmette, IL 60091 |
| Actively Seeking?: | Yes, Actively Seeking |
| Ecclesiastical Status: | PC(USA) Candidate |
| Membership Presbytery: | GENESEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY |
| Ordination Date: | |
| Candidacy Date: | 05/23/2006 |
| Formal Education: | <p>PhD Course Work & Comprehensive Exams, 2008-2014 Graduate Theological Union Area of Study: Christian Spirituality</p> <p>Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction, May 2011 San Francisco Theological Seminary</p> <p>Master of Theology, May 2008 Princeton Theological Seminary Area of Study: Systematic Theology</p> <p>Master of Divinity, May 2007 Columbia Theological Seminary</p> <p>Bachelor of Arts, May 2002 Phi Beta Kappa, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> <i>Hobart and William Smith Colleges</i> Major: <i>Religious Studies</i> Minor: <i>International Development</i></p> |

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| Continuing Education: | <p>Mid-America Preaching Workshop, April 2014 Drury University, Springfield, MO</p> <p>Big Tent Christianity, February 2011 The Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, AZ</p> <p>Company of New Pastors, 2006-2010 Presbyterian Church (USA)</p> <p>Mainline Emergent/s Continuing Education Event, January 2007 Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA</p> <p>Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), Summer 2006 Heartland Hospice, Atlanta, GA</p> <p>Christian Spiritual Formation Certificate Classes, January & June 2005 "Immersion Experience: An Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life" "The Word Became Flesh: Spiritual Explorations in Art" Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA</p> <p>"Spirituality and the Two-Halves of Life," July 2005 Course by Ronald Rolheiser at Boston College</p> <p>Sabbath: God's Counter-Cultural Invitation to Rest, August 2005 Ghost Ranch Conference Center, Abiquiu, NM</p> <p>Discerning the Signs of the Time, August 2005 Ghost Ranch Conference Center, Abiquiu, NM</p> | |
| Employment Type: | Open to both | |
| Minimum Effective Salary: | \$30,000 / Year | |
| Position Types and Experience Level | <p>Solo Pastor</p> <p>Associate Pastor (Christian Education)</p> <p>Associate Pastor (Other)</p> <p>Pastor (church planter, new church development, new worshipping community)</p> <p>Pastor (Transformation/Redevelopment)</p> <p>Pastor Interim</p> <p>Pastor (for a designated term)</p> <p>Pastor (Other Temporary i.e. Supply, Student)</p> <p>Pastor, yoked/parish</p> <p>Co- Pastor</p> <p>Chaplain</p> <p>Pastoral Counselor</p> <p>College/Seminary Faculty</p> <p>General Presbyter/Executive Presbyter/Presbytery Leader</p> <p>Synod Executive</p> | <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> <p>First Ordained Call</p> |

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| | Mid-Council Program Staff Christian Educator (non-certified) Bivocational/Tentmaker Seminary Staff | First Ordained Call 0 to 2 Years First Ordained Call First Ordained Call |
| Geographic Choices: | Illinois Wisconsin Geographically Limited to miles of | |
| Languages: | English | |
| Leadership Competencies: | Compassionate Hopeful Preaching and Worship Leadership Spiritual Maturity Lifelong Learner Teacher Communicator Task Manager Motivator Self Differentiation | |
| Training / Certification: | (Not Specified) | |
| Other Training: | | |
| Clergy Couple? | False | |
| Past Experience: | | |

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Spiritual Director (2009—Present)

- Speak monthly with individuals to identify the presence of the holy in their lives
- Plan & lead small group direction that introduces participants to spiritual practices & the process of contemplative listening while also providing spiritual direction

San Francisco Theological Seminary (San Anselmo, CA)

- Lead Teacher, “Contemplative Listening” (Fall 2010)
- Designed syllabus
- Supervised Teaching Assistants
- Lectured
- Led a small group
- Managed online course materials

Teaching Assistant, “Centering Prayer” (Spring 2010) & “Lectio Divina” (Fall 2009)

- Lectured
- Led small groups

Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley, CA)

Area Assistant, 2009—2011

- Created monthly meeting agendas
- Recorded and distributed meeting minutes
- Facilitated email communication between area members
- Created, updated, and maintained area documents in online educational software (Moodle)
- Assembled and publicized events of interest

Forum for Theological Exploration (Formerly the Fund for Theological Education) (Atlanta, GA)

Mentor Pastor, 2011-2012

- Guided a small group through the process of designing and implementing individual ministry projects
- Facilitated regular conference calls
- Mentored seminary students

Macrina Episcopal Community (Tiburon, CA)

Co-Liturgy Leader, Summer 2008

(30 members, suburban)

- Wrote liturgy and sermons for weekly services
- Led weekly worship services and preached regularly
- Created and implemented experiential worship opportunities
- Provided a pastoral presence for worshipping community

First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls (Honeoye Falls, NY)

Director of Education and Programs, 2002-2004

(400 members, small town)

- Oversaw weekly Christian Education Program for 100+ children, youth, and adults
- Supervised and supported over 40 volunteers
- Designed and led weekly Senior High Youth Group
- Facilitated retreats for youth and adults
- Designed and launched a Winter Vacation Bible School for young elementary school children
- Wrote and published resources for faith development and spiritual formation
- Developed and led intergenerational events for fellowship and faith formation

Ghost Ranch Conference Center (Abiquiu, NM)

Co-Director of Children’s Activities Program, 2003

- Trained, supervised, and supported counselors
- Led weekly parents’ orientation meetings
- Led weekly staff meetings
- Supervised daily activities for all ages
- Handled discipline issues for all ages

Other Services:

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Winnetka Presbyterian Church (Winnetka, IL)
Group Spiritual Direction Leader, Fall 2013
(400 members, suburban)

- Taught and facilitated the process of contemplative listening
- Designed and led interactive prayer experiences
- Facilitated and modeled group spiritual direction

First Presbyterian Church (Honeoye Falls, 2010)
Retreat Leader, May 2010

- Invited to design and lead a weekend retreat for 20+ women of all ages
- Wrote and presented three presentations on the Holy Spirit
- Taught and facilitated the practice of traditional spiritual disciplines
- Created and offered opportunities for experiential spiritual formation through art, nature and writing

Asbury United Methodist Church (Livermore, CA)
Christian Education Teacher, 2009-2011

(400 members, small town/suburban)

- Designed and led an adult education course on *lectio divina*
- Prepared and taught 2nd & 3rd grade Sunday School
- Prepared and led an adult education course on Lent

Bordentown Presbyterian Church (Bordentown, NJ)
Christian Education Teacher, 2007-2008

(200 members, small town/suburban)

- Prepared and led weekly adult education classes on Christian doctrine and topical issues

Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, GA)

Chair of Outreach Committee, 2005-2007

- Organized and led monthly meetings
- Coordinated student volunteers at two different night shelters
- Represented Outreach concerns on student government by lobbying for funds and support
- Designed and implemented various outreach efforts on campus to raise awareness and money for various issues and agencies
- Volunteered regularly at three different shelters

North Decatur Presbyterian Church (Decatur, GA)

Pastoral Intern, 2005-2006

(400 members, suburban)

- Planned and led adult education opportunities
- Provided pastoral care to homebound members and hospital patients
- Preached
- Wrote and led liturgy for Sunday worship
- Participated in the general ministry of the church.

Published Works

"Lessons and the Arts," *Lectionary Homiletics* (August 2012)

"In God's Wake," *Young Preachers Compilation* (Shookfool Books: 2012)

"Failures of Imagination," *Renew 52: 50+ Ideas to Revitalize Your Congregation from Leaders Under 50* (Luther Seminary, 2012)

"Leaders Guides" *re:form* (Sparkhouse Publications: 2012)

"Creation on the Cross: Resources for Action and Reflection" @ *This Point: Theological Investigations in Church and*

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Culture, (Columbia Theological Seminary: Fall 2007)

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

This past fall I facilitated group spiritual direction for a small group of women in our church. We began our weekly meetings with 20-30 minutes of experiential prayer practices, and then spent the final hour practicing group direction. Over the course of the seven weeks, each participant shared twice while the rest of the group practiced contemplative listening and responding.

At first the process was hesitant as participants learned to bracket their own connections to the stories and listen instead for God's movement. As time went on, however, the process became more ingrained and natural. I always feel fulfilled when I am able to listen well in the context of direction, but in this particular instance, it was the comments from the participants that led me to believe the group was a success. All three women shared that the process of being listened to in such an intentional fashion was new and liberating. All three heard things in their own stories that they hadn't noticed before. Even more, all three said that they enjoyed the act of listening as much as being listened to—that they found it changed how they listened to other people in their lives and that it was positively impacting their relationships. For me, a ministry that gives people new insights and positively affects the way they interact with the world is a success.

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

I believe God is calling me to a place where my gifts and strengths meet the needs of the community. While I know my own strengths and gifts, I also know that there are many settings in which they can be adapted and utilized, and I am open to any of those possibilities. I believe the right call is the one that will feel right and exciting to me, will feel like a good fit to the calling community, and will be supported by the church at large.

That said, I can imagine a call as an associate pastor whose areas of responsibility are centered around spiritual growth and formation, pastoral care, and adult education. I can imagine this being a new position for a community that is secure in its identity and mission, but looking to go a little deeper and hoping that a focus on spiritual growth will both enrich their communal life as well as meet the needs of those in the wider community.

I can also imagine a call as a solo pastor for a small church that is in need of pastoral care or facing a time of transition. This might be a church struggling to find the money for a full-time pastor, discerning whether or not to keep their doors open, or struggling to claim their own identity and be more than a Sunday morning tradition.

Whatever the call, and wherever the place, I trust that both I and the calling community will feel God's presence when the call is right.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

I am an introvert and a quiet person. While this has many benefits for ministry (I'm a great listener, I value cooperative leadership and the input of others, I'm able to exude a sense of calm in the midst of stressful situations), it is not without its challenges, and one of my areas of growth is pushing myself to be a more visible and vocal leader. I prefer to lead from the back and encourage others to speak, but I have learned that there are situations when it is beneficial to be visible and vocal.

For the past ten years, I have been full-time student; this has allowed me the luxury of plenty of solitude and time with books, which I enjoy, but it has also taught me how to speak up, how to assume roles of authority, and how to lead in a manner I find comfortable. As a graduate student, it is hard to succeed if you are unwilling to participate in class discussions, it is impossible to teach classes if you cannot project yourself as a figure of authority, and it is exhausting to move between the roles of teacher and student if you cannot find a way to embody both realities within yourself.

In ministry and in school, I have learned how to be a quiet leader, and I've come to appreciate the gifts that such leadership offers, but I have also learned to push myself beyond my natural inclinations when the situation calls for it—to stand up front and lecture or preach—to be a visible and vocal leader. Even so, this remains an area of growth for me.

Describe a time when you have led change.

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I am not someone who is afraid of change. In the eight years we have been married, Adam and I have moved seven times: for school, for jobs, for economic reasons. This past spring, I withdrew from a PhD program in Christian Spirituality despite being 2/3 of the way through. It's not that I like change for the sake of change (moving in particular is a change I could live without), but I have found that God's call often involves unexpected twists and turns that require us to be flexible and willing to change. Despite having sworn that I would never be someone who would quit a PhD program, I recently found myself faced with the realization that God was calling me somewhere else, and to follow that call, I needed to change.

As challenging as individual change can be, change is often harder when more people are involved. Communal change is difficult, and it often causes people to metaphorically draw battle lines and retreat to defensive positions. While there are times when communal change needs to be compelled, my preference is to inspire change rather than lead or force it. I don't believe communities need to wait until they are unanimous in order to make changes, but I do believe that when movement for change comes from within (rather than from the leader or pastor), it is far more likely to succeed and be beneficial.

Optional Links:

<http://www.sarahwalkercleveland.com>

Statement of Faith:

In the beginning, God created. Out of nothing, through the power of voice, God spoke into being all that we see and more that we cannot. God formed us: dust from dust, rib from rib. God breathed and we lived. And God declared it good. In time, though, we fell away. We forgot and we turned our backs on God and on one another. But God did not forget. God called and promised and loved us. God liberated us and led us through the Red Sea. God provided for us in the wilderness and made a covenant with us in the desert. God came down and God dwelled with us. Time and time again, we forget and turn away. Yet God remains faithful and continues still to call us back.

Out of the depths of love, God sent God's only son to live among us: God of God, light of light, fully human and the fullness of humanity, fully divine and forever redefining divinity. Healing the sick, taking notice of the forgotten, teaching new understandings, Jesus transformed the way we understand what it means to be human and what it means to know God. And, out of the breadth of his love, Jesus endured death on the cross. Refusing to cater to the powers and principalities of his time, Jesus sacrificed himself for us – justifying our relationship with our Creator, bridging the gaps and tearing down the walls between us and God. The only one who was in a position to judge us redeemed us. Having died, God raised him, opening us all to the possibility of new life with God.

From the beginning, God has been present in our midst and beyond our boundaries. Blowing freely, the Spirit challenges and guides us. Rousing faith within us, God the Spirit connects us to God the Creator and God the Christ, allowing us to be in relationship with the Triune God. Through the waters of Baptism, the Spirit claims us as beloved children of God. At the table, the Spirit feeds and sustains us, re-presenting Christ in our midst. Convicting us of the Scriptures, the Spirit pushes us to justice and liberation. Urging each of us individually, and all of us collectively, the Spirit calls us to be who God created us to be: free and beloved children of God. The Spirit binds us to one another and to God, in and through the Church. But the Spirit also pushes our edges. Refusing to be captive to the Church, the Spirit flows where it will, inspiring faith in many ways and in many places.

As beloved children of God, we are called: to pursue God with faithfulness and devotion, to partner with the Spirit in the work of justice and liberation, to bring God's kingdom to fruition here on earth. We are called to live as Christ in community with all people. We are called to be the Church, followers of our Lord and Savior, in every place and in every time, remembering that God has promised to be with us always, to the end of the age.

References:

| | | |
|-----|----------|--|
| # 1 | Name | Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge |
| | Relation | CPM liaison & friend |
| | Phone | 585-392-1448 |
| | Address | 9 Alder Beach Road Hilton New York 14468 |

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| | E-Mail | strawheels@aol.com |
| # 2 | Name | Rev. Dr. Val Fowler |
| | Relation | Former boss |
| | Phone | 585-624-2160 |
| | Address | 27 N. Main St, Honeoye Falls, NY 1471 |
| | E-Mail | pastorval@juno.com |
| # 3 | Name | Rev. Scott Clark |
| | Relation | Colleague & friend |
| | Phone | 415-451-2833 |
| | Address | 105 Seminary Rd, San Anselmo CA, 94960 |
| | E-Mail | sclark@sfts.edu |
| # 4 | Name | Dr. Elizabeth Liebert |
| | Relation | Professor and Supervisor |
| | Phone | 415-451-2880 |
| | Address | 105 Seminary Rd, San Anselmo CA, 94960 |
| | E-Mail | eliebert@sfts.edu |
| # 5 | Name | Rev. David Lower |
| | Relation | Friend |
| | Phone | 847-899-5652 |
| | Address | 1255 Willow Road, Winnetka, IL 60093 |
| | E-Mail | david@winnpres.org |
| # 6 | Name | Rev. Dr. Kim Risedorph |
| | Relation | Friend |
| | Phone | (925) 447-1950 |
| | Address | 4743 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 |
| | E-Mail | krisedorph@aol.com |

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.

This PIF was last updated at 6/8/2014 10:04:52 PM. In accord with Book of Order the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of GENESEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY has granted Sarah Catherine Walker Cleaveland permission for him/her to submit a Personal Information Form for circulation.

This PIF is in the Church Leadership Connection database