

Professional Information Form

The Reverend Kris Crawford
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Ecclesiastical Status: Presbyterian Church (USA)
Teaching Elder

Membership Presbytery: Presbytery of the Arkansas
Ordination Date: April 2, 1995: Mission Presbytery

Formal Education

Master of Divinity Bachelor of Science	Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Austin, Texas Lubbock, Texas
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Continuing Education

Transitional Ministry Education II, Synod of Mid-America and Lincoln Trails	2011
Christian Leadership, Centenary College, Adam Hamilton, Shreveport, LA	2011
Lutheran Theological Conference; Marcus Borg, Galveston, Texas	2011
Transitional Ministry Education I, Synods of Mid-America and Lincoln Trails	2010
Congregational Leadership in <i>Anxious</i> Times, Peter Steinke, Dallas, Texas	2010
Clergy Consultation Classes on Family Systems Theory, Little Rock, Arkansas	2002 - 2009
Clergy Consultation Classes on Family Systems Theory, Victoria, Texas	1997 - 2001
Spiritual Counseling Facilitator Certification, Bereavement Academy, Dallas, Texas	2008
Hatha Yoga Teacher Certification, pending.	2008
Meditation Classes, Barefoot Studio, Little Rock	2007
Spiritual Direction, Jane Wolfe, Little Rock, Arkansas <i>Spring</i>	2007
Spiritual Direction, Jane Wolfe, Little Rock, Arkansas <i>Fall</i>	2006
Dealing with Church Bullies: A Systems Approach, Mickie Crimone	2006
New Church Development, National Conference P.C. (USA)	2005
Healthy Congregations <i>Facilitator</i> Training, Salt Lake City, Utah	2006
Healthy Congregations <i>Advanced</i> Training, Peter Steinke, Louisville, Kentucky	2004
Healthy Congregations Training: A Systems Approach, Peter Steinke	2002
Systems Training for Clergy: The Center for Family Process, Bethesda, Maryland	2002
Growing Through Conflict, Little Rock, Arkansas	2002
A New Christianity for a New World, Bishop John Spong	2002
Always Being Reformed, Shirley Guthrie. Little Rock, Arkansas	2002
Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix, Doug Hester, San Antonio, Texas	1995, 1996

Past Experience

2011 – Present Interim Sr. Pastor/650 Members/City/Full Time	First Presbyterian Church	Fort Smith, Arkansas
2010 – 2011 Interim Pastor/65 Members/Rural/Part Time	First Presbyterian Church	Warren, Arkansas
2004 – 2009 Pastor/ 250 Members/Suburban/Full Time	First Presbyterian Church	Benton, Arkansas
2001 – 2004 Pastor/150 Members/Town/Full Time	First Presbyterian Church	Morrilton, Arkansas
1995 – 2001 Associate Pastor/400 Members/City/Full Time	Grace Presbyterian Church	Victoria, Texas

Wider Church, Denomination, Community

Committee on Ministry Member of Pines Presbytery	2011
Pines School, Workshop Leader on Family Systems Theory	2009
Small Church Conference, Workshop Leader on Systems Theory, Ferncliff	2009
Administrative Commission Des Arc Presbyterian Church	2008
The 218 th General Assembly, Commissioner, San Jose, CA	2008
Small Church Conference, Workshop Leader, Ferncliff Conference Center	2008
Board of Church Advocates for Lyon College, Member	2006 - 2009
General Council of the Presbytery of Arkansas, Member	2006 - 2008
Assertiveness Training for Church Administrators, Workshop Leader	2007
System Theory Consultant: First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas, April 2008, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas, October 2007, First Presbyterian Church, Mena, Arkansas, May 2007, First Presbyterian Church, Mountainburg, Arkansas January 2007, Highland Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas 2006	
The Whole Adult: Arkansas Presbytery Education Event, Workshop Leader	2006
Presbyterian Women Cluster Event, Worship Leader,	2006
Committee of Ministry, Presbytery of Arkansas	2002 - 2006
Board of Directors Saline Co. Safe Haven Women's Shelter, Member	2005 - 2009
Conway County Christian Clinic, Morrilton, AR, Founding President	2003 - 2004
Mission Trip Leader to East Africa, Mission Presbytery	2001
Ministerial Alliance (Victoria, Texas, Conway and Saline Counties, Arkansas)	1995 - 2009

Church Characteristics Desired

With the heart of a pastor, the gratitude of a forgiven sinner, and the joy of a child loved by a gracious God, I want to celebrate and be in communion with people who acknowledge we are broken and flawed, yet forgiven and freed for joyful service and life-giving laughter! I desire a church willing to forgive the speck in another's eye and chip away the log in our own eyes, and seek to grow the Church toward greater spiritual maturity and service. I want to minister to and serve with believers who are open to the transforming grace of God. I want to open my heart to people who seek to grow into a God-realized life looking for the good in others and finding the divine.

Accomplishment in the Present Call

Interim work ignited in me a renewed desire to lead change and be responsive to the anxious climate loose in the world. My extensive training in Bowen family systems theory has prepared me for service in today's church. I feel called to lead and to share what I have learned from both the pain and the abundant joy of my life and my experiences as a pastor.

It has been revealed to me over and over again, that God uses my clarity of call and skill sets, to open church leadership to the fresh opportunities God sets before us. I have been privileged to witness church leadership working tirelessly to engage congregations in thoughtful self-assessment, discernment of God's prompting, and with the encouragement of the Spirit to develop strong, well-defined mission and ministry goals, casting a vision for the future, and courageously holding fast to important truths, yet able to welcome change.

With a calming presence as 1) an associate pastor of a growing church, 2) a solo pastor of a viable church in a small town, 3) a pastor/head of staff of a growing church in a transitioning community, and 4) an interim pastor of a church failing to thrive in an economically depressed community, 5) an interim pastor/ head of staff in a large church with a strong legacy of good stewardship, the Holy Spirit has created in me a deep desire to seek God in all things and to trust my gut!

During my present call, as the Interim Senior Pastor of First, Fort Smith, I was gifted with the opportunity to guide the leaders through discussion about 1) Amendment 10a, 2) the pros and cons around leaving the denomination and 3) related property issues, thus leading them to a decisive conclusion and written statement that leaving PC (U.S.A.) was not in the best interest of the church. I also lead the Session through a staffing rational, implementation of a staff re-structuring plan, through the other side of a painful downsizing process. Towards the end of my interim time I was blessed by the opportunity to provide pastoral care and be a

Accomplishment in the Present Call *continued*

pastoral presence for the congregation as they grieved the sudden death of their former beloved pastor, Layton Mauze, by recalling his life and celebrating the ministry they shared. I was inspired by their expressions of love and appreciation for Layton and the impact he had on their lives. Finally, through the heights, depths and the gladness of it all I learned again God is steadfast and I am resilient.

Leadership Style

My gifts are high energy, a thirst for life, a hunger for joy, and an ability to imagine and vision what could be! I am committed to maturing spiritually and devoted to growing in the Word of God. I am open to the leading of God's Spirit and I appreciate our Reformed tradition. I seek to be transparent, vulnerable, approachable, teachable, warm, strong, and clear as I engage in the task of teaching and preaching, leading and providing pastoral care, and practicing wholesome stewardship in my everyday living. I seek to communicate my thoughts to others openly and with humor and with a desire to listen first and be understood second. As a leader I function as a catalyst for new possibilities and change. I hold myself accountable, and celebrate and give credit to others for their accomplishments. In reliance on God's grace, I live in hope believing God is doing a new thing within me, in the hearts of believers, and in the Church today.

Key Theological Issue

One of the issues for the church today is the need to discern what we are called to die to and what are we called to live for. There are ways of being the church that God is calling us to leave behind as we move forward, but there are also foundational objectives that we must keep so that we don't lose our soul as we proclaim the gospel to a new generation. I don't believe that we, the church –reformed and always reforming, have come to a clear understanding of what this is yet, but we must continue to search for and wrestle with these concepts so that we can be faithful to Jesus Christ, relevant to this generation, and true to our heritage.

Growth or a lack thereof is another major issue for the church today. In the churches that I have served, growth has come through offering a hearty welcome and intentional hospitality and through exhibiting deep concern for mission in the community and around the world. I believe the church is challenged to make more biblically-based, theologically-principled decisions that lead God's people into fresh awareness of God's activity in the world. The church is equally challenged to not cave in to the least mature members of the body who react from fear and have been allowed to hijack the mission and ministry of the Church. This challenge requires the church to deepen its spiritual life and widen the ways we experience the divine while holding on to our commitment to the needs of the world around us.

I believe that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) must continue to initiate and engage in dialogue with religious leaders of the world to allow God to reveal the common and the holy that we share with other world religions. It is important to me that these conversations not be left to extremists at either end of the spectrum as we hold fast to the truth that Jesus Christ is the same today, tomorrow and forever!

References

The Rev. Dr. William W. Branch Jr.

15 Poydras Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72211
(501) 312-9872 Home
(501) 425-3135 His cell
wwbranch@comcast.com

The Rev. Dr. Phil Butin

695 Calvin Street
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703
(479) 442-4411 (church)
pbutin@fupcfay.org

Relationship

Senior Pastor, Grace Presbyterian, Victoria, Texas

Former General Presbyter Arkansas Presbytery,
Honorably Retired. Bill was the Senior Pastor when I served
as the Associate Pastor. He was/is my mentor and continues
to be friend in ministry. Bill, and his wife, Liz are like family
and remain important figures in my children's lives.

Co Pastor, First United P.C. Fayetteville

Phil provided me good counsel and helped
me to lead First, Fort Smith in discussions about the passing of
Amendment 10 a.

The Rev. Tom and Mrs. Judy Cutting

2004 Grove Avenue
Richmond, VA 23220
(804) 840-1774 His Cell
(804) 840-9353 Her Cell
tcutting@mindspring.com

The Rev. Dr. Bill Galbraith,

General Presbyter, Arkansas Presbytery
9221 N. Rodney Parham
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Doug Rogers

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Linda Smith

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Senator Doyle Webb

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Benton, Arkansas 72018
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First, Fort Smith is Tom's home church.

Tom served First, Fort Smith as an Interim Pastor in 2002, prior to Bill Galbraith's arrival. In retirement, for a portion of each year, Tom, and his wife, Judy, make Fort Smith their home. During my time at First, Fort Smith I have appreciated their friendship and sought their counsel.

General Presbyter of Arkansas Presbytery

I served with Bill on the Committee on Ministry before he became the G.P. Following him at First, Fort Smith as an Interim has given me even greater appreciation of him and his gifts. He is a colleague and friend in ministry.

President and Owner of Bruce Rogers Company

Doug served as an elder and President of Board of F.P.C. Hobson Preschool during my interim. At his own initiative Doug offered to commend my work at First, Fort Smith to other churches searching for an interim. I value Doug's opinion and give thanks for his willingness to tell others.

Church Administrator, First Presbyterian Church

Over 30 years Linda has worked with two (2) senior pastors, five (5) interim pastors, seven (7) associate pastors, and eight D.C.E. For everyone who has ever expressed a willingness to commend my work to others, I think Linda's recommendation makes me the proudest. She is a remarkable person. I believe serving with her has made me a better pastor.

Chairperson of Pastor Nominating Committee of First Presbyterian Church of Benton, Arkansas

Doyle is a former state senator and served as the late Lt. Governor, Winn Rockefeller's chief-of-staff. He was the Chairman of the call committee at First, Benton. Doyle remains a valued and trusted friend.