

Mary Miller Currie

2910 Gessner Houston, TX 77080

Professional Information Form

(detailed information for PIF 100011808.1)

PROFESSIONAL ID 100011808.1

NAME Mary Miller Currie

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ADDRESS 2910 Gessner Houston, TX 77080

ECCLESIASTICAL STATUS PC (USA) Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament

MEMBERSHIP PRESBYTERY Presbytery of New Covenant

ORDINATION DATE September 16, 1979

FORMAL EDUCATION Austin College, (Sherman, TX) BA with honors, 1975
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Austin, TX)
M.Div., 1979; D.Min, 1990 (Worship & Preaching)

CONTINUING EDUCATION (LAST 5 YEARS)
Linking for Ministry—Trinity Presbytery
MoRanch Worship Conference 2004-2009
Austin Seminary Mid-Winter Lecture Series 2003-2006
Presbytery, Synod and National Small Church Conferences
Presbytery Events

EXPERIENCE LEVEL 8 years or more

EMPLOYMENT TYPE part-time or full-time

MINIMUM EFFECTIVE SALARY: \$20,000 / Year (for part-time call)

POSITION TYPES Associate pastor (Other campus ministry)

(with experience) Pastor (Solo)
Pastor (Head of Staff)
Pastor (Redevelopment)
Pastor (Tent Maker/Part-time)
Interim pastor

POSITION TYPES Designated Pastor
(without experience)

COMMUNITY TYPES Town; Small City; Suburban

CHURCH SIZES Under 100 members
101-250 members

GEOGRAPHIC CHOICES Texas

LANGUAGES English

PRIMARY SKILLS Administrative Leadership
Congregational Redevelopment and Revitalization
Corporate Worship/ Sacraments
Hospital and Emergency Visitation
Leadership Development
Organizational Leadership and Development
Pastoral Care
Preaching
Small Membership Church Ministry
Spiritual Development

**TRAINING/
CERTIFICATION** Interim Ministry Training
Week 1 by PC (U.S.A.) at Montreat, NC in 1989
Week 2 by PC (U.S.A.) at Ghost Ranch, NM in 1991

CLERGY COUPLE? No

PENSION PLAN MEMBER? Yes

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.

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PAST EXPERIENCE

1999-present: Volunteer in Mission for Presbytery of New Covenant: Houston, TX
part-time volunteer work at presbytery office: COM paperwork (records), small church
resourcing, supply preaching

Nov, 2008-Aug 2009 Interim Pastor, Gulf Prairie PC Jones Creek, TX 130 members Rural

2000-2008 Stated Supply St. James PC, La Porte, TX 60 members
small city (redevelopment)
(The interim at Gulf Prairie had been worked out before Hurricane Ike hit both areas)

1999-2000 Commissioned Lay Pastor Research Union Seminary Research Fellowship
Behold We Are Doing a New Thing@ (www.pcusa.org/clp/pdf/currie.pdf)

1995-98 Stated Supply/long-term Interim Braeburn PC, Houston, TX 150 members
suburban (conflict resolution/redevelopment)
Braeburn has merged with Bellaire PC to become ChristChurch PC, Bellaire, TX

1994 Interim First PC, Mexico, Mo 800 members
small city (intentional 6-month Interim for conflict resolution)

Fall, 1992-Dec. 1993

Interim Campus Ministry First PC Columbia, MO 800 members
university city
(Asked to evaluate campus ministry program, make recommendations on its future)

1990-1992 Interim Advent PC Houston, TX 120 members
suburban (conflict resolution; presbytery governing church at the session=s request)

1983-1989 Pastor First PC Copperas Cove, TX 100 members
military town (redevelopment)

1983 Intentional 9 month Interim First PC Bowling Green, MO 200 members
town (interim training by Interim Ministry Network in St. Louis, MO, spring 1983)

1979-Jan, 1983 Pastor Troy PC Troy, MO 100 members
Small town (conflict resolution and redevelopment)

OTHER SERVICES TO CHURCH OR DENOMINATION (LAST 10 YEARS)

Fall, 2008, continuing: Presbytery's Ike Recovery Committee

2005-2008 Planning Team MoRanch Worship & Music Conference

Current Committees/Planning Teams: Presbytery's General Council, Church Officer Enrichment planning team,
Small Church events

Past Presbytery Committees: Small Church Network, Nominating Committee, Special Disciplinary
Committees

2000-2006 Austin Seminary Alumni Board (Vice-president, 2004; President 2005)

April, 2002 Workshops on Commissioned Lay Pastors for GA national small church conference in Austin,
TX

Synod Small Church Task Force 2000-2004

2010 Alternate GA Commissioner (2012 Commissioner) Also 1998 GA Commissioner and vice-chair of Assembly
Evangelism Committee; 1988 GA Commissioner; seminary page in 1978

CHURCH CHARACTERISTICS DESIRED:

I have intentionally served in smaller congregations through the years because of the unique opportunities this ministry offers. I would like to serve a smaller congregation (under 150 in worship) that

§ Is willing to explore the ways it can grow in faith and in ministry to the community around it

§ Is aware of the creative tension between nurturing personal faith and living that faith in the world around us;

§ Looks for the unique ministries it can do because of its size and its place in the community.

Much of my ministry has been in small church redevelopment, especially after a conflict or crisis, or in program development (e.g., the Lay Academy). This has helped me develop skills to help people define their visions for the church and themselves. I have learned creative ways to help sessions/committees begin to clarify where they are and what they are called to do next as they go into the future; exploring options and ways to meet their hopes and expectations by setting reachable goals; and encouraging a sense of adventure (flexibility). In dealing with healing and redevelopment over the years, I have learned it takes 2-3 years to begin making intentional, constructive change that both honors the past and the traditions of a congregation and looks forward to a renewed future. Further, any meaningful and lasting change in worship, activities, or ministry is best made when it is planned to fit naturally into the yearly cycle of the church's events and activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE PRESENT CALL:

In 1999 I was first invited to serve as a volunteer in mission at the presbytery office as I did the research work on commissioned lay pastors, and this service has been continued and varied in focus in the years since then: I have helped in many ministry areas as needed: helping in the resource center, doing research and grant writing, resourcing the small church network during interim periods in staffing, continuing small church event planning, and emergency preaching and other work with churches in times of conflict or crisis.

Presently my focus is helping with the record keeping involved as ministers move in from one church to another and some of the paperwork that goes into the General Assembly for our candidates. This is detailed support work that frees up time and saves duplication of work for several other staff members.

Serving in the presbytery office also allows me the opportunity to advocate for smaller churches and small church events as we plan presbytery functions—and to be a resource for those small churches as needed. Since completing the interim at Gulf Prairie, I have also been free to help several of the small churches in crisis situations with supply preaching and other needs.

LEADERSHIP STYLE:

Because much of my ministry has been in developing programs or redeveloping programs and/or churches after a time of crisis, I have a strong appreciation of the role and work of the elders and other leaders in the church. While I serve knowing strong pastoral leadership is needed, I also know I have much to learn from the people of the church.

In beginning a new position, good pastoral leadership involves a time of listening, asking questions and learning about the church and its groups: where you feel strong, where you seek stronger leadership, what traditions are important, where there is a need for change. It is important to discern the present habits, relationships and traditions of a church or group as well as the visions, hopes and dreams. The future lies in the hearts of the people: Good leadership helps discern and define the vision and bring a new future to life. In biblical tradition we build on the solid foundations of the past as we move boldly forward: honoring important traditions (which define identity) as we strive for the future that is set before us. Effective leadership involves good communication; building trust, excitement and involvement among the people; an ability to prioritize needs and organize time and resources (materials and people) as well as a sense of adventure (and humor) and sometimes infinite patience.

KEY THEOLOGICAL ISSUES:

The issues which the church debates on the national level are not necessarily the key concerns of the local congregation and community. Most people join a congregation, not a denomination: the issues debated at GA are not always the primary daily concern for a particular person or congregation.

Two things of importance are: How do we minister to our community? And, What difference does it make that our church worships and serves Christ here? These questions of vision and evangelism shape ministry in that they keep us asking: What are we doing now to reach out to others? What do we need to be doing next? How do we need to grow in our understanding and personal faith in order to do the work of this church in the community around us?

People move from one denomination to another so easily today that we cannot assume Biblical knowledge, reformed theological understanding or historical knowledge. Bible Study, church history, polity, and theology often need to be a part of small study or interest groups, and new member/confirmation classes, even elder training as they help put contemporary issues into perspective.

The differences in the generations now living in the church—from the institution building pillars of our churches to the children of the millennium who see spirituality and faith as a more personal matter—bring both challenges and opportunities to grow and share the Gospel in our world today.

REFERENCES

- Kevin Coulter** Elder, Clerk, Gulf Prairie PC (Home) (979) 798-1333
3510 CR 352 Brazoria, TX 77422
ksoulter@classicnet.net
- Kathleen Duncan** Elder, Clerk, St. James PC (Home) 281-471-4515
10010 Dover Hill Circle LaPorte, TX 77571
kndroses@comcast.net
- Sharon Darden** Volunteer work at Presbytery Office (Work) 713-526-2585 ext 204
1110 Lovett Blvd Houston, TX 77006
sdarden@pbyofnewcovenant.org
- Ron Fleming** Small church work (Home) 281-333-4016
1803 Antigua Lane Nassau Bay, TX 77058
ronfleming@prodigy.net
- Jon Kotchavar** CLP; Elder from Advent (Home) (281) 443-3797
21211 Lazy Ravine Lane Houston, TX 77073
jonkot@sbcglobal.net
- Anne Earnest** Friend, Presbytery Work (Home) 281-493-0957
11423 Highgrove Drive Houston, TX 77077
ace@fdn.pcusa.org

Status Note:

1. This PIF was last updated 5/19/10. Mary Miller Currie is a member of NEW COVENANT PRESBYTERY. As of this date, no allegations or charges are pending against the member, nor is the member currently under judicial censure limiting the ministry or under supervised rehabilitation. The receiving body should always call the presbytery to ask for further information about any applicant, including their ministry and activities within the presbytery of membership.
2. This PIF is in the Church Leadership Connection database.