

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

Detailed Info for PIF #: 100018123.1	
Professional ID:	100018123
Name:	Dennis Lee Zimmerman
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E-Mail:	dennis@dennislzimmerman.com
Address:	4607 Compass Rose #14 Vermillion, OH 44089
Ecclesiastical Status:	Teaching Elder
Membership Presbytery:	WESTERN RESERVE PRESBYTERY
Ordination Date:	9/18/1983
Formal Education:	2009 Drew University, Madison, NJ; D. Min 1990 Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, OH; Masters of Arts in Pastoral Psychology and Counseling (Highest Honors 4.0) 1983 Louisville Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY, Master's of Divinity 1978 The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH; Post-Bacc. Cert. in Medical Technology 1976 The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH; Bachelor of Science in Microbiology
Continuing Education:	2003 – now – many lectures at Moravian Seminary – Bethlehem PA Oct. 2000 – Leadership in the 21st Century, (Bill Easum & Tom Bandy), Cleveland, OH April 1999 – Leadership for a New Generation, Community Church of Joy, Phoenix, AZ June 1998 – Church Planter's Bootcamp, Chicago, IL Nov. 1997 – Healthy Congregations Training for Trainers, (Peter Steinke), Toledo, OH Jan. 1997 – National Redevelopment Training Workshop, PC(USA), San Antonio, TX Nov. 1996 – How to Manage Conflict in the Church (Norman Shawchuck), Cleveland, OH April 1996 – Regional Redevelopment Training Workshop, PC(USA), Detroit, MI Jan. 1995 – How to Manage Conflict in the Church, (Norman Shawchuck), Cleveland, OH Sept. 1995 – Worshipful Work/Discerning God's Will Together, (Charles Olsen), Cleveland, OH
Experience Level:	8 years or more
Employment Type:	Full-time
Minimum Effective Salary:	\$45,000 / Year
Position Types (with experience)	Pastor (Solo)

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	Pastor (Head of Staff) Pastor (New Church Development/Fellowship) Pastor (Redevelopment/Transformation) Interim Pastor Chaplain Pastor (Parish) Pastoral Counselor
Position Types (w/o experience)	Campus Minister
Community Types:	Town Small City Suburban Urban
Church Sizes:	251 - 400 members 401 - 650 members 651 - 1000 members
Geographic Choices:	Unlimited Geographically Limited to 50 miles of Vermilion, OH
Languages:	English
Primary Skills:	Administrative Leadership Communication (Written / Oral) Conflict Management/Mediation Skills Corporate Worship / Sacraments Counseling Group Process Facilitation Leadership Development Pastoral Care Preaching Spiritual Development
Training / Certification:	(Not Specified)
Clergy Couple?	False

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Sexual Misconduct Self-Certification Statement:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Past Experience:	
<p>Pastor, United PC, Slatington, PA, 200 members, small town, 11/2004 – present</p> <p>Interim Pastor, Trinity and Heights PC, 100 members each, Urban and Suburban, 4/2001 – 11/2004</p> <p>Organizing Pastor, Church Without Walls, Cleveland, OH, NCD, Urban 1/2000-3/2001</p> <p>Interim Pastor, Bosworth Rd. PC, Cleveland, OH, 120 members, Urban, 8/1997-12/1999</p> <p>Interim Pastor, St. Paul PC, Mentor, OH, 100 members, Suburban, 6/1994-8/1997</p> <p>Chaplain, Health Hill Hospital for Children, Cleveland, OH, 8/1991-6/1997</p> <p>Pastoral Counselor, Old Stone Counseling, Cleveland, OH 6/1991-6/1997</p> <p>Chaplain, Community Hospice of Lutheran Hospital, Cleveland, OH 8/1991-6/1994</p> <p>Associate Pastor, Forest Hill PC, Cleveland Hts., OH, 800 members, 4/1987-6/1991</p> <p>Pastor, Third PC, Fort Wayne, IN, 125 members, urban, 6/1983-4/1987</p>	
Other Services:	
<p>2010 Vice Moderator, Lehigh Presbytery</p> <p>2007 – present – founder and moderator of Barnabas Team (conflict resolution)</p> <p>2006 – present, Eastern Synod Redevelopment Task Force, Synod of the Trinity</p> <p>2005 – present, COM, Lehigh Presbytery</p> <p>2004 – 2005 – Congregational Renewal committee, Lehigh Presbytery</p> <p>1996 Commissioner to G.A., Presbytery of Western Reserve</p> <p>1994-2004 – Consulting Team (conflict resolution) PWR</p> <p>1994-2000 – COM, PWR</p> <p>1994 and 1993 – teacher at Synod School, Synod of Covenant</p> <p>1991-1997 organizer and moderator of Ethics Committee, PWR</p>	
Church Characteristics Desired:	

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I have served Christ as a pastor, associate pastor, interim pastor, stated supply, new church development pastor, pastoral counselor and chaplain. I have worked in churches as small as 70 members and as large as 800 members. I have worked for institutions and as an entrepreneur. I have studied church development and redevelopment. The focus of my D. Min. was how history and emotional climate complicates church renewal. I have both taught and practiced church conflict resolution. I have published in the field of death and dying and in family systems theory ("Healing Death: finding wholeness when a cure is no longer possible"). I have served my presbyteries and synods well and had the privilege of sponsoring an overture at the General Assembly. I have not only been a friend in ministry to colleagues and elders, I have become someone others seek out for consultation and wisdom. Each of these experiences has enriched my professional skills and enlarged my appreciation for the PC(USA). I believe God is now calling me to a position where I can put this experience and skill to use either as pastor of a church eager to move into the future or in serving at a presbytery or synod level.

Accomplishments in present call:

I will be remembered at United Presbyterian as the pastor that challenged them to move beyond their history. When I arrived, UPC drew its identity from a merger of two churches over thirty years ago and was still recovering from a nasty power struggle following the departure of their pastor almost ten years before my arrival. I listened patiently to all sides of the controversy and then lead them in establishing healthier ways of working through differences. The result is a session that is no longer afraid of making changes if they feel it furthers God's work. I have also worked hard to encourage independent thinking among members and the emergence of new ministries. Perhaps most visible has been the establishment of a second, contemporary, worship service on Sunday morning and an informal worship Sunday evening. I have also helped to encourage a new sense of hands-on mission which resulted in a new Service and Outreach (local mission) team, getting the Deacons involved in serving home communion, and the church becoming an Angel Food Ministries site.

I had a book published in 2007 by Pilgrim Press: "Healing Death: finding wholeness when a cure is no longer possible." In 2009 I completed a D. Min. degree focusing on how the history and the emotional make up of the congregation complicate church renewal.

Leadership Style:

If the church's "product" is faithful response to God's call through Jesus Christ, then everything we do must focus on that goal. My role as a church professional is to provide church volunteers with the organizational structures and professional expertise to make their experience interesting, enjoyable, and spiritually nurturing. By articulating our corporate sense of vision and focus, we can center our faithfulness to Christ's mission and decide what activities to continue and which to let go. By centering on the spiritual and simplifying the corporate aspects of church life, we free up people to follow God's call in their personal lives. By identifying and claiming spiritual gifts and talents, we can put our energies into that which is deeply satisfying while helping the body of Christ move forward in new and exciting ways.

I believe that almost any well-organized and focused meeting can be over in 90 minutes.

I believe in trying new things, learning from mistakes, and allowing things that are no longer meaningful to end.

I believe that saying what needs to be said is better than pretending that everything is alright.

A decision making body that mixes spiritual nurture and fellowship with business is able to make even the most difficult decision in an atmosphere of joy and love.

I have learned that teams of passionately involved people given a clear purpose and permission to do whatever it takes can accomplish great things.

Key Theological Issues:

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THE issue facing church is the rapid shrinkage of our congregations. The World War II generation that has been the backbone of the church for years is aging. The Baby Boomers have largely not taken their parents places in church leadership. A new generation of young parents is looking for guidance, but find their churches irrelevant and not equipped to help them. A nation of college and high school students seek grounding in something worthy of their devotion.

This combination of factors creates dying churches with neither vision nor resources to reach into the future. Too many churches are living in the past and spending down their reserve funds to maintain a 1950's church rather than invest themselves in building a 2050 mission. The contributions of our aging members must be affirmed, but it is vital that the emerging spiritual searching of Boomers, X-er's, and Millenials be recognized, valued, and put to work.

Related issues are: the changing face of the American family (including the increasing acceptance of same-sex partnerships), the diversification of American society, the polarization of liberal and conservative points of view, and the decrease in tithing to the church.

Statement of Faith:

References:

# 1	Name	Rev. Victoria G. Curtiss
	Relation	colleague
	Phone	312-981-3598
	Address	126 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, IL 60611
	E-Mail	vcurtiss@fourthchurch.org
# 2	Name	Rev. David Duquette
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# 3	Name	Elder Margery Dech
	Relation	church member
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# 4	Name	Elder Sharol Cremeans
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# 5	Name	Rev. Doug Cronce
	Relation	colleague
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This PIF was last updated at 3/5/2012 3:41:57 PM. Dennis Lee Zimmerman is a member of the Presbytery of WESTERN RESERVE PRESBYTERY. As of this date, no allegation 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.

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