

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

Detailed Info for PIF #: 100021323.1	
Professional ID:	100021323
Name:	John W. Caster
Phone:	813-779-4394
Alternate Phone:	813-909-6926
Fax:	
E-Mail:	revjwcaster@yahoo.com
Address:	37725 OAK RUN CIRCLE ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33541
Ecclesiastical Status:	Teaching Elder
Membership Presbytery:	TAMPA BAY PRESBYTERY
Ordination Date:	9/13/1992
Formal Education:	1992 M.Div. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA 1988 B.S. Medaille College, Buffalo, NY

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

Continuing Education:	<p>Spring, 2012 Certificate in Non-Profit Management. Professional level program for leadership in the non-profit field. University of South Florida</p> <p>Fall, 2011 "Understanding the New Form of Government," online course from Dubuque Theological Seminary</p> <p>June, 2010 - "Stephen Ministry Leader Training Course," Orlando, FL. Intensive course to train congregational leaders in implementing and maintaining a Stephen Ministry program at the local level. Stephen Ministries</p> <p>Winter, 2010 - "Beyond Bullet Points" online course on the effective use of technology in worship. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary</p> <p>May, 2009 – "Festival of Homiletics," Conference on preaching. Atlanta, GA</p> <p>September, 2008 – "Church Transformation Training for Pastors" One week long focus on church transformation, renewal, and growth. PC(USA) Church Growth and Development program</p> <p>August, 2007 "Spiritual Nurture of Children, Youth, and Adults." A fifteen hour course for pastors and educators on working with various age groups relative to spirituality. United Theological Seminary and The Blessing Center, Dayton, OH.</p> <p>Spring, 2006 "Foundations in Supervision." A semester-long course for supervisors of seminary students working in supervised ministry situations. New Brunswick Theological Seminary, NJ</p> <p>August 2005, Interim Ministry Basic Training, Week 1, Interim Ministry Training by the Association of Presbyterian Interim Ministers, Montreat Conference Center</p> <p>April 2004, "Sacred Chaos: Workshop for Clergy in Transition" for clergy who have experienced significant transition or crisis in their lives, a retreat sponsored by the Yokefellow Institute, New Harmony, IN</p> <p>January 2003, "History of Christian Spiritual Formation" (Spiritual Formation elective); A one week course exploring the history of Christian Spiritual Formation from the early church through the Middle Ages, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary</p> <p>May 2002, "Immersion Week" (Spiritual Formation Program) designed to further equip leaders of the church in the area of Christian spirituality. The Immersion Week gives a broad overview of the practices of Spiritual disciplines, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary</p> <p>Additional workshops/conferences/consultations on Evangelism/church growth by Easum & Bandy, Stanley Ott, Tex Sample, and others</p>
Experience Level:	8 years or more
Employment Type:	Full-time
Minimum Effective Salary:	\$30,000 / Year
Position Types (with experience)	Interim Pastor
Position Types (w/o experience)	Interim Ministry (Governing Body) Interim Associate Pastor
Community Types:	Rural

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

	<p>Village Town Small City Suburban Urban Inner City College Recreation Retirement N/A</p>
Church Sizes:	<p>Under 100 members 101 - 250 members 251 - 400 members 401 - 650 members 651 - 1000 members 1001 - 1500 members More than 1500 members N/A</p>
Geographic Choices:	<p>Unlimited Geographically Limited to miles of</p>
Languages:	<p>English</p>
Primary Skills:	<p>Administrative Leadership Communication (Written / Oral) Conflict Management/Mediation Skills Corporate Worship / Sacraments Leadership Development Pastoral Care Spiritual Development Strategic Planning Teaching Transitional / Interim Ministry</p>
Training / Certification:	<p>Interim Ministry Training Week 1 by PC(U.S.A.) at Montreat, NC in 2005</p>

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

Clergy Couple?	False
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/Zephyrhills, FL/130/Urban/2008-present Temporary Supply/40-45(yoked)/Springfield, OH/Rural/2007 Interim Pastor/Springfield, OH/250/Urban/2006-2007 Head of Staff/Matawan, NJ/450/Suburban/2003–2006 Pastor/East Liverpool, OH/200/Town/1998–2003 Pastor/Plainwell, MI/190/Town/1994–1998 Associate Pastor/Allen Park, MI/1500/Suburban/1992–1994 Student Pastor/Pittsburgh, PA/75/Urban/1989–1992 Secular Employment/supervisor of developmentally disabled adults in a sheltered workshop/Cantalician Center Workshop/1983–1988 Secular Employment/refinery technician/Ashland Oil Inc./1974–1983</p>
Other Services:	<p>Member, Committee on Ministry/Tampa Bay Presbytery/2009-present Member, Committee on Ministry/Miami Presbytery/2006-2007 Member, Committee on Ministry/Monmouth Presbytery/2003–2006 Member, Committee on Ministry/Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery/1999–2003 Moderated Sessions of churches in conflict, and was called upon to manage conflict in various congregations Chair, Self Development of People/ Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery/2001–2003</p>
Church Characteristics Desired:	<p>The church I would like to serve is an inclusive community of faith, where new ideas and new people are welcomed and valued. The church may be in a period of transition, but is willing to look to the future with faith and hope. This church seeks to be active in outreach and service to its own community and beyond. This church will have a commitment to growth in spirituality and faithfulness. Christian discipleship is at the heart of its ministry and mission, and it seeks to follow the words and way of Jesus in all that it does. I bring to my next position a broad range of pastoral and life experiences. I have served churches of all sizes and in various locations. I have strong interpersonal skills, and have the ability to work well with persons holding a wide range of theological viewpoints. I do not fear conflict and am willing to work through conflicted situations. My preaching and teaching skills are strong, and I am enthusiastic about sharing the good news of the gospel, both within and outside the congregation. I have particular gifts and skills in pastoral care, and I have been privileged to walk with congregations and individuals during times of major transition in their lives, times that have been both joyful and painful. I bring a maturity of faith that has grown and been deepened by personal times of both great joy and intense sorrow. I look forward to utilizing all my gifts and experiences in whatever ministry to which I am called by God.</p>
Accomplishments in present call:	

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

From the start of my ministry here at FPCZ I was aware that I would be a transitional pastor. The church had been through a period of conflict and was seeking to redefine itself, from a pastor-centered, seasonal (snowbird) church to a year-round one with a strong session and outreach to the neighborhood. We have successfully moved the church toward those goals. Leadership has been strengthened and new leaders have emerged. One of the most significant accomplishments during my ministry here was implementation and establishment of Stephen Ministry. I recruited Stephen Leaders and was the primary trainer for the first class of Stephen Ministers. Other accomplishments include: hiring a part-time youth director and the establishment of a strong youth program; Board of Deacons have become active in visitation and congregational care; congregational bonds have strengthened due to a weekly coffee fellowship following worship; children are welcomed and young families especially valued. We have hosted neighborhood parties and back-to-school events. We maintain a strong ministry to seniors, and seasonal residents continue to participate and contribute. Significant improvements have been made to the physical facilities. Old wounds are healing and the church has become forward-looking, seeking to reach out to the immediate community. Although the future is not without significant challenges, the congregation is relatively unified and ready for the next step on its faith journey.

Leadership Style:

My leadership style is best described as collegial or collaborative. I work with leaders of the church and community in order to achieve a desired goal. The role of the pastor has been described as sometimes to be a leader, sometimes to be a follower, but always to walk alongside those with whom we are in ministry. I work best in an environment where leadership responsibilities are shared with elders and others, and I have the opportunity to develop and encourage relationships, as well as to identify and train new leaders. My personal style is to always seek to be a calming influence, a "less anxious presence," and I am usually able to manage conflict well, channeling energy into positive forces for the congregation. I am generally able to help people to see where they have common ground, and to seek to expand upon areas of agreement, rather than emphasize areas of disagreement. I work well with people who hold a wide range of theological viewpoints, always respecting another's perspective. I seek to help a congregation discern its strengths and encourage the leadership to build upon strengths, rather than focus on weaknesses. I encourage and assist individuals to develop ministries to which they feel called. I encourage and seek to develop new leadership within a congregation, training officers and others to share the responsibilities of ministry, to the end that the church community is strengthened and all individuals are empowered for ministry.

Key Theological Issues:

Among the key theological issues is the secularization of our society. The church was once at the center of the social life of a community. This is no longer the case, and the church finds itself in competition with many other interests for time and resources. This shapes my ministry as I continually encourage my membership to make their own spiritual development a priority in their lives. The church has become discouraged by membership losses and declining influence. Instead, we need to be energized by the challenges and opportunities available to the church today, in its contemporary context. Another significant issue is that of Christian unity and wholeness, both within our denomination and ecumenically. The body of Christ is not divided. We have a particular need to remain in communication and communion with one another, especially during times of discord and disagreement. Other issues include issues of social justice, to which the church must continually add its voice. Among these issues are poverty, affordable housing, the right of workers to earn a living wage, and related issues. I encourage the church, through the appropriate committees and structures, to become educated and knowledgeable about the issues of the day, in order to more effectively address the issues facing the local community. Jesus' commitment to the poor and oppressed is of paramount importance to the church, if it is to be true to its call to be the body of Christ in the world.

Statement of Faith:

Church Leadership Connection

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

I believe in the one Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe in God, whom Jesus called Father, the giver of all life, who has created, and who continues to create all that is good. I believe that God loves all that God created, and God calls all to a closer relationship with God.

I believe in Jesus Christ, who became fully human that all creation might be reconciled to God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God and in his teaching and ministry established the standards of justice to which we are called. Jesus was crucified, died, and was resurrected, and in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ lies the salvation of humankind. It is through Christ that we are called to ministry with, and advocacy on behalf of the poor and the oppressed of the world, and to restore creation to the wholeness which God intended. We are called to faith through the faithfulness of Christ, who was faithful even unto death on the Cross. The resurrection is God's sign to us of God's victory over sin and death on our behalf.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who enables us to serve God and our fellow human beings. The Holy Spirit is an ever-present reality, comforting those who suffer, and empowering us to ministry and witness on behalf of Christ.

I believe in the unity of humankind, each one having been created in the image of God, each having worth and dignity in the sight of God. Humanity has been separated from God as result of human sin. Through God's grace, we are brought out of a state of sin, and into the new life promised by Jesus Christ. God's grace alone allows us the freedom to reject evil and accept the gift of abundant life.

I believe the Bible is the Word of God, as it has been revealed to humanity, and that it is authoritative in the life of the church and the lives of the faithful. I believe Christians are called to search the Scriptures to seek and understand the Word, in order to better understand and do God's will. I believe the Church is called to a ministry of reconciliation in the world. I believe the Church is called to raise its voice in prophetic witness on behalf of those who have no voice in society. The Church is a faith community, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to continue the work of Christ. I believe in the unity of the Church, the body of Christ, whose diversity is a gift from God. I believe the Church is called to work with all people on behalf of all humanity, to the end that God's justice and peace may prevail over all of God's creation. I believe the Church lives wherever the Word of God is faithfully proclaimed, and the Sacraments administered. I believe Baptism is the sign and symbol of inclusion into God's grace and covenant with the Church. I believe the Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of being in communion with the crucified and risen Christ and with all who belong to Christ.

I believe God makes all things possible, God loves all creation, and we are called to love one another and to care for all creation.

References:

# 1	Name	Robyn Kirk
	Relation	Ruling Elder, FPCZ
	Phone	813-714-6681
	Address	6423 Silver Oaks Drive, Zephyrhills, FL 33542
	E-Mail	mar121099@aol.com
# 2	Name	Clarence Wuerfel
	Relation	Ruling Elder, FPCZ
	Phone	813-769-6409
	Address	3749 Rockrose Place, Zephyrhills, FL 33541
	E-Mail	cewuerfel@aol.com
# 3	Name	Rev. Janice Chambers
	Relation	colleague and seasonal partici
	Phone	989-329-4008
	Address	1190 Forest, E. Tawas, MI 48730
	E-Mail	rmchambers@juno.com
# 4	Name	Susan and Joe Ritacco
	Relation	members, FPC Matawan
	Phone	732-739-5282
	Address	3 Edgewood Drive, Holmdel, NJ, 07733

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

	E-Mail	SusanRitacco@comcast.net
# 5	Name	Rev. Fred Doscher
	Relation	associate at FPC, Matawan
	Phone	609-306-7816
	Address	2 Fiddler's Creek Rd., Titusville, NJ 08560
	E-Mail	eegram@verizon.net
# 6	Name	Rev. Nancy Kahaian
	Relation	Transitional Executive Presbyt
	Phone	813-868-4800
	Address	Tampa Bay Presbytery, 4704 Kelly Road, Tampa, FL 33615
	E-Mail	nancy@pbty.com
<p><i>This PIF was last updated at 8/4/2012 7:10:30 PM. John W. Caster is a member of the Presbytery of TAMPA BAY 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.</i></p>		
<p><i>This PIF is in the Church Leadership Connection database</i></p>		