

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

<b>Detailed Info for PIF #: 100029884.1</b>		
Professional ID:	100029884	
Name:	Jessi Lee Higginbotham	
Phone:	9047292642	
Alternate Phone:		
Fax:		
E-Mail:	jessilh@Gmail.com	
Address:	778 BELLSHIRE DRIVE ORANGE PARK, FL 32065	
Actively Seeking?:	Not Actively Seeking, but open to a call	
Ecclesiastical Status:	Teaching Elder	
Presbytery Membership:	SAINT AUGUSTINE PRESBYTERY	
Ordination Date:	6/28/2009	
Formal Education:	Florida State University 2000-2003, Bachelor's of Arts Degree, Major: History Columbia Theological Seminary 2006-2009, Masters of Divinity	
Continuing Education:	CREDO 2015 Macedonian Ministry 2015-2016	
Employment Type:	Full-time	
Minimum Effective Salary:	\$65,000 / Year	
Position Types and Experience Level	Associate Pastor (Youth)	5 to 10 Years
	Associate Pastor (Other)	2 to 5 Years
	Pastor Interim	2 to 5 Years
Geographic Choices:	Florida	

Languages:	English
Other Languages:	

Leadership Competencies:	Compassionate Hopeful Preaching and Worship Leadership
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	Lifelong Learner Teacher Technologically Savvy Advisor Collaboration Interpersonal Engagement Personal Resilience
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Training / Certification:	Clinical Pastoral Education Training
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Other Training:	
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Clergy Couple?	No
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Housing Type:	Open to Manse/Housing Allowance
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Work Experience:

St. Giles Presbyterian Church  
 (300 Members)  
 Orange Park, FL  
 Parish Associate  
 January 2020 - Present

- Part-Time Parish Associate for Congregational Development and Christian Education
- Preaching
- Worship Leadership
- Pastoral Care & Visitation
- Teaching Bible Study & Book Studies
- Supervising LOGOS Program
- Supervising Sunday School
- Managing Church Website and Social Media
- Assisting Technology Committee, Christian Education Committee, and Covid - 19 Task Force

Community Presbyterian Church  
 (800 Members)  
 Atlantic Beach, FL  
 Interim Associate Pastor  
 October 2016 - December 2019

- Preaching
- Worship Leadership
- Pastoral Care & Visitation
- Managing Our Father's Housewares (Mission of the church focused on providing furniture for those in need)
- Supervising all Missions of the Church
- Organizing Family Promise
- Organizing Cold Weather Shelter
- Organizing volunteers for Mission House (local soup kitchen)
- Building and managing church website
- Running church social media, including live streaming worship services and Church App

First Presbyterian Church  
 (1,000 Members)  
 Delray Beach, FL

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Associate Pastor  
May 2013-May 2016

- Working with Youth and Children from birth-graduation
- Youth Group
- Mission Trip Organization
- Youth Trip Organization
- Preaching Monthly
- Teaching Sunday School Children-Adults
- Hospital and Emergency Visitation
- Funeral Leadership
- Wedding Officiate
- Minimal Pastoral Counseling
- Weekly Newsletter Writing
- Website design and upkeep
- Women's Bible Study
- Volunteer Hospice Chaplain

First Presbyterian Church  
(300 Members)  
Fayetteville, TN  
Associate Pastor  
May 2009-May 2013

- Working with Youth and Children from birth-graduation
- Youth Group
- Mission Trip Organization
- Youth Trip Organization
- Preaching Monthly
- Teaching Sunday School Children-Adults
- Hospital and Emergency Visitation
- Funeral Leadership
- Wedding Officiate
- Minimal Pastoral Counseling
- Weekly Newsletter Writing
- Website design and upkeep
- Women's Bible Study
- Volunteer Hospice Chaplain

Lincoln County Hospice & Home Health  
Fayetteville, TN  
Hospice Chaplain  
January 2011-May 2013

- Home visitation with patients when requested.
- Prayer, Sacraments, Pastoral Care to Hospice Patients

Baptist Medical Center  
Jacksonville, FL  
Chaplain Intern  
June 2008-August 2008

- Daily Visitation
- Weekly over night on-calls
- Pastoral Care with patients tending to their spiritual needs
- Chapel Leadership

First Presbyterian Church  
(200 Members)  
Pulaski, VA

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Pastoral Intern  
June 2007-August 2007

- Preaching
- Teaching Weekly Bible Study
- Home Visitation
- Hospital Visitation
- Community Service

Starbucks Coffee Co.  
Jacksonville, FL  
Supervisor  
March 2004-August 2006

- Shift Management
- Financial Management

Other Services:

Presbytery of St. Augustine

- Montgomery Conference Center Board Member (2016-2018)
- Member Prep and Call Commission Member (2018-Present)
- Synod Rep for Presbytery (2018-Present)

Presbytery of Tropical Florida

- Youth and Young Adult Task Force (2013-2016)
- Chair of Youth and Young Adult Task Force (2015-2016)
- Hunger Task Force (2014)

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

- NaCoMe Conference Center Volunteer
  - Middle School & High School Retreat Leadership
- Congregational Development Mission Unit
  - Presbytery Committee designed to assist congregations with Spiritual development and growth

Presbytery of St. Augustine

- Middle School Youth Conference
  - October 2007
  - Keynote Speaker and Worship Leader

St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Orange Park, Florida

- Youth Director for Junior High and Senior High Youth
  - June 2004-June 2006
  - Bible Study, chaperone to youth events, event planning and executing, worship planning and executing, recreation, minor counseling and mentoring, and planning service projects
- Session Member/Ordained Elder
  - January 2005-December 2005
  - Youth Committee, budget planning, attending presbytery events

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

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When I arrived at CPC it wasn't long before myself and the staff began to realize there was nowhere in our area where people (members and not) could get quality, affordable, mental health care or counseling. For two long years we researched how we could provide counseling services to those in our community. We talked with counselors and other counseling centers across the country. We considered many options. We considered sending one of our pastors back to school to get a counseling degree. We considered hiring a part-time counselor. We considered starting a counseling intern program. We had dozens of meetings and phone calls. As the most-senior staff member involved in this research, I took ideas and presentations to Session for two years. Finally, one day, a counselor in the community suggested we talk with Life Renewed Counseling Services, a counseling center already using space in another Presbyterian church across town, who was doing exactly what we were looking for. After one conversation we couldn't believe what we had stumbled upon, they were looking to open a satellite campus in our area where they could provide quality, very low-cost, talk therapy. It took many meetings, many presentations, many conversations with insurance companies and many, many Session meetings but in June 2019 I helped open a satellite campus of Life Renewed on our campus where clients from our church and the community can be seen at affordable rates.

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

In my next ministry, I am seeking a community that demonstrates the qualities I have seen give life to people in the other places I have been blessed to serve. A setting that practices the love of neighbor as oneself as a reflection of the love that God has for us and for the ministry of Christ. I am eager to find a home in a place where the Word of God is understood as a message of love, peace, and justice for all people. I am looking for a church or organization that has ambition, drive, enthusiasm and embraces creativity and new experiences. I am looking for a church or organization that embraces all of God's people and all forms of worship and is led by the Holy Spirit into seeking new ways of practicing God's mission in the world. I look forward to working with a congregation which functions as a family, works as a team, and navigates the rough waters of ministry together. I am also looking for a church in which I can have many opportunities to care for its members. I bring a variety of experiences with youth, young adults, older adults, the poor, the needy, the down-on-their-luck, and the addicted, all of whom have contributed to my spiritual formation as a minister. I have loved working in both a church setting as well as a hospital setting and have gleaned much from both of these experiences. I look forward to working hard together, laughing together, crying together, worshipping together, celebrating the Sacraments together and sending each other out into the world.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

Growth is just as much a part of discipleship as prayer. As a life-long learner I embrace opportunities to grow and learn in my leadership style, my pastoral identity, and my spiritual development. Each day I go into the church office to work, I expect it will be a day full of learning new things, having new experiences, and growing in my own faith. I have rarely been disappointed as good days and bad days alike present ample opportunities to learn new things as a disciple of Jesus Christ. In my personal journey as a pastor I believe I continue to work on my leadership style and hope to grow in experience every single day. I work on listening, being objective, helping people process hard things, and inspiring the staff I work with. I have been ordained for 10 years now and I still find myself experiencing new things that both challenge and lift up my leadership abilities. I doubt the day will come when I walk into work and don't have anything left to learn.

Describe a time when you have led change.

When I interviewed for my current call one thing they said was they were looking for a pastor to "bring them into the 21st century." I began this journey by assessing two areas in which they needed technological updates: website and missions. I started by assembling a Task Force to identify what CPC wanted to say and do through their website, who was using it? Why were they using it? Where was the information going out on the web? After weeks of educational and uplifting research I began to update their website. While this might sound like a simple and easy change to lead, I assure you it was not. The website had been used for a very long time for very limited purposes and was difficult to navigate. Together with the Task Force, I was able to transform what we had into a new, innovative, simple, stream-lined, website for those interested in learning more about CPC. The second area where I began to lead change was in missions. For 18 years they had a pastor leading their missions one particular way. That pastor retired and it was a new day. I reorganized how we promoted missions, how individuals could sign up to participate, even how individuals donate. I brought my current call into the 21st century through social media, website updates, online registrations, and even set up live streaming of worship services. These changes were not easy but the challenges were where we learned a lot.

Optional Links:

[www.jessihigginbotham.com](http://www.jessihigginbotham.com)  
[www.cpcb.org](http://www.cpcb.org)

Statement of Faith:

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I believe in God the Father, the creator of all things, the giver of life and the lover of all creation. I believe God makes no mistakes, God created all people and living things on purpose, with a purpose and loves us all. Nothing we can do can make God love us more or less, we are God's greatest creation. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's son, fully human, fully divine. Christ came and lived among us, walked among us, taught us how to pray and taught us about our relationship with God. I believe God saw the world through our eyes in Christ and experienced hunger, pain, grief and joy. I believe Christ died on the cross for our sins so that we would be forgiven and on the third day he rose again, greeted Mary in the garden and appeared to the disciples. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the advocate Christ promised to us. I believe this is the spirit of God, one in the trinity, the forever presence of God. The Spirit speaks to us as we read and study Scripture. It is through Scripture that we learn Christ's will for us and for the church I believe the Holy Spirit is always present, never leaves us, and is constantly working within us. I believe we, as God's greatest creation, all have a calling. I believe in the holy catholic church, the church universal, the gathering together of God's people for community, communion, love and worship. I believe this community has changed lives and continues to change lives. I believe in the mission of the church, God's mission in the world. I believe this mission is to love one another as God has loved us, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, poor and those in prison. I believe God is love. Wherever there is love there is God. Wherever there is goodness, kindness, charity, patience, acceptance, comfort, joy, family, friends, and comfort there is God. I believe God never leaves us and is always with us in our times of grief and tragedy. I believe in prayer. I believe in the power of prayer. I have seen miracles, more than one. I believe prayer is how we connect with God and know that God is listening to us always. I believe God hears all our prayers, forgives us of our sins, and always wants this relationship with us. I believe Baptism is an outward sign of the grace of God that exists within us from before we are born. Baptism is the act of the community of Christ, we participate in this sacrament together to show the world that God loves us all, that God saves us all and God redeems us all. I believe Communion is a holy act of our community of faith, both a celebration of Christ's love of us and a remembrance of Christ's sacrifice for us. Finally, I believe that Christ's resurrection means we will all be resurrected. I believe in our death our Baptism is complete, that we go on to the Communion of Saints to be with God and one day we too shall be resurrected.

References:

# 1	Name	The Rev. Dr. Conley Zomermaand
	Relation	Interim Head of Staff
	Phone	(618) 606-1053
	Address	849 Park St., Jacksonville, FL 32204
	E-Mail	pastorz@rpcjax.org
# 2	Name	The Rev. Jake Young
	Relation	Head of Staff
	Phone	(904) 272-1244
	Address	116 Foxridge Rd., Orange Park, FL 32065
	E-Mail	pastorjake@stgilesfl.org
# 3	Name	The Rev. Chris Lieberman
	Relation	Presbytery Staff
	Phone	(502) 475-8025
	Address	1937 University Blvd W, Jacksonville, FL 32217
	E-Mail	chris@staugpres.org
# 4	Name	Mrs. Nancy Yeakel
	Relation	Ruling Elder in Current Call
	Phone	(904) 923-7504
	Address	150 Sherry Dr., Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
	E-Mail	nancyyeakel@gmail.com
# 5	Name	The Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

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	Relation	Mentor and Teaching Elder
	Phone	(904) 502-5432
	Address	3410 3rd St., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
	E-Mail	laurie.furr-vancini@palmschurch.org
# 6	Name	Mrs. Irene Cheatum
	Relation	Ruling Elder in Current Call
	Phone	(904) 860-9501
	Address	116 Foxridge Rd., Orange Park, FL 32065
	E-Mail	irene.cheatum@gmail.com

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>
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*This PIF was last updated at 8/31/2020 10:03:25 AM. Jessi Lee Higginbotham is a member of the Presbytery of SAINT AUGUSTINE 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.*

*This PIF is in the Church Leadership Connection database*