

APPLICATION FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE GOSPEL MINISTRY  
*SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PRESBYTERY*

Please print or type your answers.

**I. PERSONAL HISTORY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chris Pruitt \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( 863 ) \_280-5768\_\_

Address: 606 Country LN NE  
Winter Haven, FL 33845

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ June 19, 1990 \_\_\_\_\_

Your baptism: Infant? \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_

By which church? \_\_\_\_\_ Eastside Baptist Church (Haines City, FL) \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously been received as a candidate in another presbytery? Explain

Marital Status \_\_\_Single\_\_\_ Date of marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Name and ages of children or other dependents

Your present occupation (If student, give institution and class)

Student: Junior at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando

Formal Education Record (Since High School):

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Degree</u>
1. Polk State College	Aug '08- May '10	Liberal Arts	3.24	AA
2. Baptist College of Florida	Aug '10- May '12	Christian Studies	3.21	BA
3. Reformed Theological Seminary	Aug '12 – Present	Biblical Studies	3.29	MA

Employment Record (Last two employers):

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description of work</u>
1. Church of the Redeemer	Jan 1, 2013 – Present	Pastoral Intern
2. Publix	Jan 9, 2012 – Present	Produce Clerk

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Why are you seeking candidacy in the Presbyterian Church in America (one must have been member of church for at least 6 months)? I am seeking candidacy with the Presbyterian Church in America and specifically the Southwest Florida Presbytery as the beginning of the ordination process. I am currently attending RTS Orlando and interning at Church of the Redeemer Winter Haven. I feel called to pastoral ministry specifically in the Winter Haven/Polk County area.
2. Describe ministry activities in which you have been involved which have contributed to your sense of call. I have been involved in leading college Bible studies while pursuing my undergrad in north Florida and currently at Church of the Redeemer. I have also been a small group leader for the Church of the Redeemer youth group for over a year now. I have been fortunate to have opportunities to teach and to participate in some counseling. Through both of these activities I feel like my sense of call has been amplified.
3. What are the attitudes of your parents (if living) and spouse (if married) toward your decision to make application for candidacy? Both of my parents have been supportive prayerfully and financially as I pursue vocational ministry.
4. Describe your personal devotional life and other means by which you are seeking to grow as a Christian. As I attempt to be in daily communion with God through the Scriptures and prayer, I have been fortunate to participate in discipleship with my pastor for the past fifteen months. Twice a month my pastor meets with all of the seminarians for group discipleship and twice a month he meets with us one on one for individual discipleship.
5. In what ways can the presbytery be helpful to you during a period of candidacy, should this application be accepted? I would appreciate the prayers of the presbytery but also guidance through the process of licensure and ordination. Being a young man, I have much to learn and would appreciate older, wiser men coming alongside me and assisting me in discerning my strengths and weaknesses.

SESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF AN APPLICANT FOR THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

*Presbyterian Church in America*

*Southwest Florida Presbytery*

BCO 18-2 requires that a presbytery take note of a Session's evaluation when considering the application of a man seeking to come under care of Presbytery. Candidates must have been a member of the recommending church for 6 months. We would appreciate it if your Session would provide the following information to us as soon as possible. You are also being asked as Session to commit to this candidate, to encourage and instruct him during this period of testing.

Applicant's Name: **Chris Pruitt**

1. Please evaluate the applicant's Christian character:

**Strengths: Chris is conscientious and responsible. He does not take a lot of managing to complete tasks given to him. He takes initiative. He has been successful in pioneering a college ministry at our church. Chris is warm and relational. This is probably his greatest strength and will be his greatest asset in ministry. He is a good friend. He leads a small group in our youth ministry and the kids absolutely love him. People want to work with him and for him. Chris is thoughtful. Sometimes in meetings he says very little. However, this is not a weakness but a strength. He is humble and teachable.**

**Weaknesses: Chris' relational personality can sometimes make him afraid to confront people when he should. He can be cowardly. He can also, at times, come off as timid- particularly in a large group setting (on the stage during a worship service, for example). This is due to a lack of gospel security. He comes from a very legalistic home and church background. We are praying the gospel will make him more bold. ... Chris has had very little practical ministry experience so it is hard to assess his weaknesses in ministry related activities.**

Other Comments:

2. Please list the activities of ministry in which the applicant has participated and which the Session has observed, with a brief evaluation of each: **Chris has pioneered a college ministry for our church, visiting Polk State College to build relationships with students there and teaching a Bible study. It is a very difficult ministry given our context. He has done very good work. Chris also volunteers as a small group leader in our Youth ministry. He is a tremendous disciple-making. Chris has helped lead the liturgy in our worship services. He is articulate, though (as noted above) he can at times be too reserved.**

3. Does the Session recommend this man as promising usefulness for the ordained ministry? **Yes, we would recommend Chris Pruitt to the Candidates Committee. We expect God to use him greatly in the coming years.**

4. Would this recommendation be with any qualifications? Please explain. **We would have no qualifications for our recommendation. Chris is in the middle of a 2-year internship with our church in which he meets with me for personal spiritual direction and also participates in a discipleship group with our other interns.**

5. We commit to assist, challenge, encourage this candidate throughout the time he is under care of the presbytery.

We, the session of Church of the Redeemer, certify that the above named applicant has been a member of this church since January 2012 and we recommend him as an applicant for candidacy for the Gospel Ministry.

Moderator Bug Bear A

Date 3/25/13

Please return this form to:

Rev. J. Steven Light  
350 S Hyde Park Ave  
Tampa, FL 33606

or

email to [steven.light@gmail.com](mailto:steven.light@gmail.com)

REFERENCE ON AN APPLICANT FOR THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

*The Presbyterian Church in America*

*Southwest Florida Presbytery*

Dear Friend:

Chris Pruitt is applying to become a candidate for the ordained ministry in the Presbytery of Southwest Florida of the Presbyterian Church in America. Our committee has the responsibility of supporting and guiding those who sense that God is calling them to the ministry. We need your help in our consideration of the above mentioned person's application for candidacy. Please answer as fully as you can, based on your knowledge of this person. Use additional sheets, if necessary. Be assured that your comments will be kept in strict confidence. We thank you for your assistance.

Describe the applicant's character:

While I've not known Chris for a long time, I have observed in him a keen desire to learn. He does not pretend to be a "know-it-all" as many his age are wont to do, but is honest and candid about the things he doesn't know. There's a soft-spokenness and humility to him. He's a hard worker - juggling a job as well as seminary classes is not easy. I do not, however, observe him to be a complainer. He's loyal to the organization of the church, and desires to contribute to make her better.

Describe the applicant's Christian commitment:

I know that Chris is committed to growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. He loves the doctrines of grace and is learning more of what it means to be a Presbyterian, having been raised in a Baptist context for most of his life.

Describe the applicant's discipline and perseverance:

While I touched on some of this above, I believe that Chris exhibits, consistently, a desire to work hard and be steadfast, even in hard things. He is willing to do hard work, even when it is inconvenient. That sets him apart, in my opinion, given his generation's allergy to working hard.

Describe your observation of the applicant in high stress situations.

The only high stress situation I have seen Chris in is seminary. I believe that he seeks to manage his time well, and complete his assignments in a timely fashion. That's the extent of my knowledge as it pertains to this.

Describe the applicant's capacity to relate to people.

While I do not interact with Chris as he works in our student ministry, I am told that the teenagers relate well to him, and enjoy him. He is shy, in some contexts, but is growing. From what I've seen, his ability to present himself and "come out of the shell" a bit is growing too.

Describe the applicant's level of maturity.

Again, his willingness to work a job that's not glamorous and put in the hours necessary to pay his bills, on top of juggling hours of seminary classes and homework speaks volumes. He is a stand-out among his peer group in that regard. There's a maturity of character in him that I don't often see in others his age.

Describe those areas in the applicant's character which he needs to address.

I think Chris is still too dependent on his family. It's an idol, evidenced by his behavior at times. I have seen some ambition and competitiveness that is unhealthy as well. I know Chris loves sports, and can allow that spirit to overflow in sinful ways. Because he is in community with other young budding ministers/theologians, he often struggles with comparing himself - that can lead to jealousy and backbiting.

Describe the applicant's major strengths.

Chris is loyal and dependable; he is teachable and willing to learn from his mistakes. He is willing to do hard things, whether he enjoys them or not. I believe he loves the church of Jesus Christ and wants to serve her for the glory of Christ, and not his own. I heartily recommend he come under the care of our presbytery.

Signature of Reference \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_Jonathan Winfree\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_4/3/13\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:

Rev. J. Steven Light  
350 S Hyde Park Ave  
Tampa, FL 33606

or

email to [steven.light@gmail.com](mailto:steven.light@gmail.com)

