

APPLICATION FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE GOSPEL MINISTRY
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PRESBYTERY

Please print or type your answers.

I. PERSONAL HISTORY

Name Jeremy Kemp Telephone (404) 422-0983

Address 3170 Valley Vista Circle

Lakeland, FL 33812

Birthdate 5/25/84

Your baptism: Infant? _____ Other? x

By which church? Perimeter Church, Atlanta GA

Have you previously been received as a candidate in another presbytery? No

Marital Status Married Date of marriage 8/16/08

Name and ages of children or other dependents Corban - 2yrs, Gray - 4mo

Your present occupation (If student, give institution and class) Youth Director - Christ Community Lakeland; Student - Reformed Theological Seminary, Senior

Formal Education Record (Since High School):

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Degree</u>
1. University of Georgia	8/02-5/07	Technology Education	3.08	Bachelors
2. Reformed Theological Seminary	8/09-present	MDiv	3.16	still pursuing

Employment Record (Last two employers):

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description of work</u>
1. Perimeter Church	8/07-7/10	High School Youth Ministry Intern
2. Christ Community	8/10-present	Youth Director

II. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Why are you seeking candidacy in the Presbyterian Church in America?

I am seeking to become an ordained minister of the gospel and to carry out the duties of preaching, teaching, shepherding, and leading a congregation through full time vocational ministry. Particularly I am interested in pursuing further opportunities in youth ministry and eventually church planting.

2. Describe ministry activities in which you have been involved which have contributed to your sense of call.

Throughout my 5 years in youth ministry I have had the opportunity to teach, preach, shepherd, evangelize, lead music, cast vision and do a variety of administrative and planning tasks. Each of these has been a joy and has confirmed in me my call to full time vocational ministry. Specifically in regards to my call to ordination, I greatly enjoy teaching for youth group every week and have also particularly enjoyed the opportunities I've had to preach to our entire congregation. I desire to be licensed and sent out to do more of this type of ministry.

3. What are the attitudes of your parents (if living) and spouse (if married) toward your decision to make application for candidacy?

My wife is very happy with my decision to pursue candidacy. She affirms my calling to be an ordained pastor and enjoys her role in supporting my ministry and caring wonderfully for our children. My parents both support everything I do and are therefore in support of my pursuit of candidacy. Though my mom is not a Christian and my dad is a new believer, they have always been very supportive of my calling to ministry.

4. Describe your personal devotional life and other means by which you are seeking to grow as a Christian. I keep as consistent as possible to our Community Bible Reading plan of 4 chapters of Scripture a day in addition to prayer at that time as well as a posture of "praying without ceasing" throughout my day. I also enjoy playing guitar and singing and will do this from time to time as part of my personal worship. Seminary is certainly another way in which I am continuing to grow as a Christian as I get to explore the depths of knowledge of God and see his excellence through my studies. In addition my wife and I attend a community group with 4-6 other couples sharing life together and I am a part of a discipleship group with 2 other men working through a curriculum and challenging each other in our walk with Christ. All of this and more is growing me as a Christian.

5. In what ways can the presbytery be helpful to you during a period of candidacy, should this application be accepted?

I will need prayer. Moving towards licensure and ordination, finishing seminary, leading a youth ministry, and caring for my family can be taxing at times and I need prayer to be faithful and persevere in this busy season. I also look forward to the friendships that will form as a result of being involved in our presbytery, being encouraged by men who have gone through the rigors of this process and can care for me as I move in that direction as well.

Testimony, Call, and Request for Candidacy

For some, following Christ has been a given for as long as they can remember. My story, however, does not begin in this manner. I was raised by two parents who love me dearly but did not have personal relationships with the Lord. Through elementary and middle school I had no knowledge of a personal God and little encouragement to learn about Him. In high school I was very self-absorbed and fully engaged in the pursuits of the world. I managed to evade a nagging curiosity of God throughout the entirety of high school and through my first two years of college before I was hit hard with conviction. I was hired to be the director in charge of all male counselors at a YMCA camp during the summer after my sophomore year of college. During that summer I became convicted that I was teaching and leading counselors to follow a God that I didn't know. This realization led me to seek out and begin regular church and campus ministry attendance in the fall semester of 2004. Throughout that semester of junior year God revolutionized my life. I don't have a specific instance where I gave my life to Christ, but at some point during that semester as God pursued my heart through an understanding of the gospel I surrendered to his grace and began to follow his lead for my life. The deep guilt I felt over my sinfulness was comforted and quelled by the deep love of Jesus exchanging my sin for his righteousness on the cross. For the rest of my college career God proved faithful time after time providing many people to aid in the initial growth of my faith. I first became a member of a church at Perimeter Church (PCA) in Atlanta in 2008 and since then the church has been the primary means of my Christian discipleship.

Most recently I have taken on a job with Christ Community Presbyterian Church as their part-time youth director while I pursue full-time seminary education at Reformed Theological

Seminary in Orlando, FL. I have been feeling a call to seminary and full-time ministry since I graduated from UGA. This desire, to be more informed about the God I love so that I may spread his gospel to others, has grown in intensity since I first began my ministry career in the high school ministry department at Perimeter Church. I learned a great deal on the front lines of ministry at Perimeter, even having my call verbally affirmed by the youth pastor and my boss Jeff Summers. As that three year residency came to its end, God orchestrated this current opportunity perfectly for his glory and the joy of my family and I. For these reason and others within and outside my control I believe that God has called me to full-time lifelong Christian service. To put it bluntly, I don't know what I would do if I wasn't in ministry; I have nowhere I'd rather be. During my time at Christ Community I have had the opportunity to teach God's word every week and preach both in a lab setting at RTS and a few times before our congregation at CCPC. The process of study, preparation, and delivery of talks and sermons has been a delight. The same can be said of my study in seminary, I have enjoyed it immensely. This combined with my love for people and joy in shepherding them towards growth in Christ has led me to believe that God has not only called me to vocational ministry, but that the call to specifically preach God's word has been placed on my life. I also heed to the requirements of my character presented in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3 and will continue to weigh myself by these sobering standards.

For this reason I write to you to state my intent to come under care of the Southwest Florida Presbytery with the goal of becoming licensed and ordained in the Presbyterian Church of America as a minister of the gospel. I look forward to this process of candidacy as an integral part of my preparation for gospel ministry. Thank you for your consideration.

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. We would appreciate it if your Session would provide the following information to us as soon as possible.

Applicant's Name: Jeremy Kemp

1. Please evaluate the applicant's Christian character:

a. Strengths:

Jeremy's strengths are integrity, relational giftedness, love for people, willingness to serve, grasp of the gospel, ability to teach, self-control, emotionally stable.

b. Weaknesses:

Jeremy's weaknesses center around an struggle to distinguish between the immediate and the important. He can be so caught up in a moment of enjoying ministry and serving others that he will neglect other needed priorities. He could grow in his ability to recruit well.

c. 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:

- a. Youth Ministry - Jeremy has started, established and maintained a successful youth ministry at the church. He is doing a great job at building relationships, raising up leaders to own the ministry and communicating the gospel to kids.
- b. Preaching – Jeremy has preached on a few occasions and has done a fine job communicating the gospel and the meaning of the text.
- c. Music – Jeremy consistently leads music during our worship services and does a fantastic job in leading us through songs without becoming a distraction.
- d. Sound and Media – Jeremy has set up various sound and media presentations successfully.
- e. Shepherding – Jeremy meets with students and parents individually to help them grow in a relationship with Christ and we are seeing fruit through his ministry.

3. Does the Session recommend this man as promising usefulness for the ordained ministry?

Yes

4. Would this recommendation be with any qualifications? Please explain.

No

We, the session of Christ Community Presbyterian Church, certify that the above named applicant has been a member of this church since 2010 and we recommend him as an applicant for candidacy for the Gospel Ministry.

Moderator _____

Date _____

Date Sessional Endorsement Passed _____

Please return this form to: hammtd@gmail.com

REFERENCE ON AN APPLICANT FOR THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

The Presbyterian Church in America

Southwest Florida Presbytery

Dear Friend:

Jeremy Kemp 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.

1. Describe the applicant's character:

Having spent ample time with Jeremy in a variety of settings, I can honestly say he has exhibited high standards of character and integrity. He loves people well, listens well, handles money well, guards his tongue, is slow to judge and is careful to honor his commitments. He is also a faithful father and husband.

2. Describe the applicant's Christian commitment:

Jeremy has exemplified a commitment to Christ in the way that he carries himself and ministers to others. He is quick to repent and to run to Christ.

3. Describe the applicant's discipline and perseverance:

Jeremy has a full plate of being a full-time seminary student, husband and father of two kids and runs the youth ministry at our church. He continually fulfills these commitments and exhibits real responsibility, discipline and perseverance as he is usually one of the last persons to leave an event and has done well in seminary.

4. Describe your observation of the applicant in high stress situations.

See comments above. Also, Jeremy oversees around 30 kids each week and organizes the teaching and events and is emotionally stable in the midst of that chaos.

5. Describe the applicant's capacity to relate to people.

Jeremy enjoys and relates well people who have all types of emotional and personality differences. Most all people feel accepted around him.

6. Describe the applicant's level of maturity.

Jeremy is a young man but most importantly, he is teachable. . He is young as a husband and father but he is mature for his age.

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

Jeremy can work on his ability to be more efficient with his time and protect himself from procrastination. He often enjoys being with people or being "in the moment" so much that other things and priorities can be neglected.

8. Describe the applicant's major strengths.

Jeremy enjoys people and genuinely loves those he his around. He is faithful to follow through on his commitments, has a good grasp of the gospel and is passionate about serving others. He relates well with all types of people and will fully give himself to those he is in community with.

Signature of Reference

Date 10/17/12

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