

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

<b>Detailed Info for PIF #: 100025543.2</b>		
Professional ID:	100025543	
Name:	Laura Elizabeth Terasaki	
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Fax:		
E-Mail:	lauraterasaki@gmail.com	
Address:	113 NW Raymond ST Wilbur, WA 99185	
Actively Seeking?:	Yes, Actively Seeking	
Ecclesiastical Status:	Teaching Elder	
Membership Presbytery:	INLAND NORTHWEST PRESBYTERY	
Ordination Date:	10/9/2016	
Candidacy Date:	09/18/2014	
Formal Education:	Master of Divinity – Fuller Theological Seminary 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charles E. Fuller Scholarship</li> <li>• Fraser Grant, California Community Foundation</li> </ul> Bachelor of Arts – Seattle Pacific University 2009	
Continuing Education:	2017 Whitworth Institute of Ministry - "Reformation and Re-Formation: The Church as Witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ"  2017 Whitworth Institute of Ministry, Preaching and Teaching "Minds and Hearts" Cohort, Spokane, WA  2016 Missional Pastors Cohort (Presbytery of Inland Northwest), Spokane, WA  2015 Los Ranchos Presbytery Pastors Retreat, Malibu, CA  2014 Fresh Expressions Vision Day, San Clemente, CA  2013 Care at Life's End, Hoag Hospital, Newport Beach, CA  2013 Prepare Enrich Premarital Counseling Facilitator Training  2013 Clinical Pastoral Education, Level 1, Arcadia Methodist Hospital, Arcadia, CA  2012 Presbyterian Multicultural Conference, Montreat, NC  2012 New Beginnings Training (Participant), Los Angeles, CA  2012 1001 Worshiping Communities Conference, Newport Beach, CA	
Employment Type:	Full-time	
Minimum Effective Salary:	\$65,000 / Year	
Position Types and Experience Level	Youth Director (Non-ordained)  Solo Pastor	2 to 5 Years  0 to 2 Years

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	Head of Staff (Multi-Staff Pastor, who supervised two or more teaching elders and other staff)	0 to 2 Years
	Head of Staff (who supervised one teaching elder and other staff)	0 to 2 Years
	Associate Pastor (Christian Education)	0 to 2 Years
	Associate Pastor (Youth)	0 to 2 Years
	Associate Pastor (Other)	0 to 2 Years
	Pastor (church planter, new church development, new worshipping community)	0 to 2 Years
	Pastor (Transformation/Redevelopment)	0 to 2 Years
	Pastor Interim	0 to 2 Years
	Pastor (for a designated term)	0 to 2 Years
	Pastor (Other Temporary i.e. Supply, Student)	0 to 2 Years
	Pastor, yoked/parish	0 to 2 Years

Geographic Choices:	Washington
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Languages:	English
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Other Languages:	Spanish (strong but not fluent)
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Leadership Competencies:	<p>Preaching and Worship Leadership</p> <p>Spiritual Maturity</p> <p>Communicator</p> <p>Technologically Savvy</p> <p>Change Agent</p> <p>Culturally Proficient</p> <p>Strategy and Vision</p> <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Interpersonal Engagement</p> <p>Initiative</p>
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Training / Certification:	<p>Clinical Pastoral Education Training</p> <p>Interim Ministry Training</p> <p>Week 1 by PC(U.S.A.) at Corbett, Oregon in 2015</p>
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Other Training:	
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Clergy Couple?	False
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Housing Type:	Open to Manse/Housing Allowance
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Work Experience:

Solo Pastor, Wilbur Community Church (Community Presbyterian and Wilbur Lutheran), Wilbur, WA (2016-Current)  
• Small Congregation, Rural, 200+ members

Director of Youth and Worship, Cornerstone United Methodist Church, Placentia, CA (2014-2016)  
• Multicultural/Asian American Congregation, Suburb, 125 members

Project Manager, Low and Joe Creative, Brea, CA (2015)  
• Secular Employment, Suburb

Pastoral Intern, New Hope Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA 2013-2014  
• Multicultural/African American Church Plant, Suburb, 100 members

Pastoral Intern, Pasadena Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, CA 2014  
• Multicultural (Caucasian, Korean, and Hispanic), City, 300+ members

Small Groups Coordinator/Assistant for Christian Growth, Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Bellevue, WA 2011-2012  
• Resource Size Church, City, 1000+ members

Youth Services Manager, Jubilee REACH Center, Bellevue, WA 2010-2011  
• Para-Church Org, City

Para-educator/ Educational Assistant, Bellevue School District, Bellevue WA 2009-2010  
• Secular Employment, City

Recreation Assistant, City of Bellevue, Bellevue, WA 2005-2010  
• Secular Employment, City

Other Services:

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#### Denominational Activities:

2017-Current, Whitworth Institute of Ministry, Preaching and Teaching Cohort

2016-Current, Future Church/Missional Pastors Cohort in Presbytery of Inland Northwest

2014-Current, Company of New Pastors

2014 General Assembly (Detroit), Social Justice Committee, Theological Student Advisory Delegate, Fuller Theological Seminary

2014 Article "Our story—and the struggle for cultural diversity" in Presbyterian's Today (May)

#### Cornerstone United Methodist Church:

- Staff member--Director of Youth and Worship
- Regular preacher and worship leader
- Pastoral care
- Taught special seminars
- Chair of Worship Committee
- Staff Parish Committee
- Administrative Board
- Designed new website and managed social media
- Organized five praise bands, supervised and trained sound and media volunteers
- Led special projects: stewardship, strategic planning, and more

#### First Presbyterian Church of Downey:

- Guest preacher and worship leader
- Worship Committee
- Multicultural Ministry Committee
- Sunday School Teacher
- Staff member--After-School Ministry Leader

#### Bellevue Presbyterian:

- Staff member --Assistant for Christian Growth department and Small Groups Coordinator
- Staff member at Jubilee REACH (para-church organization)

#### Seattle Pacific University:

- Young Life Leader
- Women's Small Group Leader

#### St. Andrew's Lutheran Church:

- Staff member—Nursery Coordinator
- National and international mission trips leader
- Co-leader of kids choir
- Youth Ministry Committee
- Homeless ministry
- Church Council member
- Vacation Bible School leader

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

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I take a "missional" approach to ministry. My leaders have adopted spiritual practices that have enabled them to discern, listen, reflect, and experiment. We've moved from inward-focused ministry to outward, Spirit-led, transformative relationships with our neighbors and with Christ. We still experience some institutional decline (aging church, less financial giving, etc.), but are more energized than ever before.

One way we discern together is by using Lectio Divina. From that practice, we experimented with: visitation at the local retirement center, hosting a party alongside our food pantry clients (as equals, not as "us" serving "them"), opening our community garden to all, sharing popsicles and music with locals, discipling college interns, trying new forms of worship and more.

A specific moment of success that gave me great joy was during our Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service. Instead of a typically low-attended (mostly by elderly), traditional service in the sanctuary, we advertised on social media, moved worship to fellowship hall, dimmed the lights and lit candles, had a teen lead us in blended worship, and then I led us in an activity where we wrote and shared our own psalms. It was a huge success! Relationships were formed with new families and young adults outside our church. We had 5 new members and 2 baptisms (child and adult) in the last year. The Thanksgiving event was the catalyst for us beginning a relationship with these new members of our church family.

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

I believe God is calling me serve as a Pastor and Teaching Elder in the PCUSA in a congregation that desires to faithfully adapt in a rapidly changing world and religious landscape. It would be my joy to serve in a community of faith rooted in the reformed tradition but with arms open wide to all people while being open to innovation, creativity, and experimentation as we step out in faith together.

In this season of discernment, I believe that my strengths, experiences, and spiritual gifts are best expressed in a neighborhood congregation that desires to be a vibrant and dynamic community of faith and a strong, tangible presence in their surrounding community. I am energized when serving as a team faithfully committed to discipling up the next generation of disciples.

In addition, because I am bilingual English and Spanish (strong but not fluent), in an inter-racial marriage, and having served in multiple culturally diverse settings and churches, I am uniquely qualified to be a bridge-builder for a congregation that wants to take the exciting journey of serving and reflecting the ethnic and cultural makeup of their surrounding neighborhood.

In general, whatever congregation calls me as their next pastor, I am confident they will receive me as someone who is full of energy and hope for the future of the Church, whose love for God is contagious, and as a creative, compassionate and strategic leader that will follow wherever the Spirit leads us together as the body of Christ.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

I am extremely passionate about the power of strong communication and am continually working in this area in a variety of ways. A strong communicator can articulate the good news of gospel, pitch a compelling strategic vision, provide comfort during difficult seasons, and so much more.

As a life-long learner, I am constantly seeking ways to improve my communication skills. For example, to become a better preacher and worship leader, I am constantly listening to others sermons, attending conferences, practicing vocal exercises, and more.

I have also worked on other areas of communication to help become a stronger communicator during times of conflict or transition as well as in pastoral care situations. My prayer is that with continued practice and training, I will be a strong public communicator that will help to guide and lead others well.

Describe a time when you have led change.

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For mainline churches today, rapid change is necessary to offer relevant ministry in the real world. Below is one example of how I led change amidst a lack of resources. It takes trust, collaboration, interpersonal, and communication skills to lead a group of people into a new future together.

While working at as the Youth Services Manager at Jubilee REACH, I sensed the leading of the Spirit and saw an opportunity to grow our service capacity. At the time, all of the local middle schools had after-school programs run by the city but with the challenges of the recession, they decided to take bids from outside groups to run their after-school care.

At Jubilee REACH, I was running an after-school program for 65 students at our community center with 25 volunteers, no staff, and a budget of \$0. I trusted that when God leads us somewhere new, God provides the means. I pitched to our board that we should bid for the contract. At first, they brought up many doubts about our ability to resource the program.

Yet, through hard-work, fundraising, and more, we beat out all the other organizations attempting to win the government contract, including the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA. Shortly, we were serving 600 kids a day at six locations. I recruited and trained over 100 volunteers and six part-time staff to manage our new sites.

Overall, this was a formative experience of leading successful change and trying something new that has given me courage in the years since.

Optional Links:

<http://lauraterasaki.com/> (Bio, philosophy of ministry, sermons, resume and curriculum vitae, and more)

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/struggle-cultural-diversity-0514/> (Article published by Presbyterians Today)

Statement of Faith:

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\*redacted due to character limits, see lauraterasaki.com for full statement

Jesus is coming and his return signals the end of all the ways we have squandered what we were meant to be. The groaning of creation will cease and all will celebrate its restoration to God's ultimate intention. As a redeemed people, we will reign with God forever. We will revel in the glory of the one, eternal God, who is three persons in one essence— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Out of love, our God created the heavens and the earth from nothing and proclaimed it good. Even before the foundation of the earth, God chose us. God, our Father and sovereign Lord, loved us before we took our first breath. Our days were meant to be in full communion with our Creator.

Exploiting the gift of free will, the first man and woman turned from God and folded to Satan's temptation, provoking God's justifiable anger upon humanity. The curse of sin has gripped every generation following and our inward depravity has corrupted our very nature. Our sin alienates us from God and from one another. We ignore injustice when it is inconvenient for us; we seek after creature comforts and nurture habits that break our relationships with the ones who matter most; we are apathetic toward social evils and deny responsibility for interventions we are called to. Far too often, we ask "What's in it for me?"

Jesus, the Son of God, fully human and fully divine, came in the fullest expression of humility. Born to unwed teenagers, he lived a sinless life and showed us God's character through his ministry to the ostracized, poor, and lonely. In God's greatest act of love, he sent Jesus Christ to die for us on the cross and through his death atoned for our sins. Salvation comes solely by God's grace and mercy. Jesus's life, death, and resurrection mark victory over sin and death and the promise of eternal life and the new creation to come.

God has called the church to proclaim the gospel, make new disciples, and baptize them into the body of Christ. The Church has many expressions but is one, holy body in union with Christ and one another, the priesthood of all believers. Both the Spirit and the Word of God equip us uniquely for the task at hand.

The Spirit illumines the Bible for us and moves us to apply its teachings to our faith and life. Inspired by the Spirit and written by human hands, the Bible is the trustworthy, sufficient, and authoritative Word of God. The Church worships God through the preaching and teaching of the Word and in the celebration of the sacraments. In baptism, we are adopted into God's family and proclaim new life in Christ. As a covenant community, we share in the Lord's Supper and celebrate the work of Christ and the promise of the gospel. When we drink of the cup and eat of the bread, Jesus administers grace to us by means of his life-giving Spirit. These sacraments are tangible signs and seals which mark us as united with Christ and one another.

#### References:

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# 6	Name	Rev. Karen Claasen
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Sexual Misconduct Self-Certification Statement:	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.
	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.

*This PIF was last updated at 11/17/2017 2:11:28 PM.*

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