



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONNECTION  
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## Personal Information Form (Part I) General Information

**Name:** Szabo, Scott W.  
**Preferred Phone:** 610-733-0922  
**E-mail:** [swszabo@gmail.com](mailto:swszabo@gmail.com)  
**Home Address:** 140 N. Broad Street  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
**Ecclesiastical Status:** PC(USA) Teaching Elder  
**Presbytery Membership:** Donegal Presbytery  
**Ordination Date:** January 5, 2014  
**Actively Seeking:** Open to receiving a call and moving within 9 months



### Formal Education

June 2017 - Present **Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary;** Austin, TX  
Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in Proclamation and Worship

Sep. 2008 - June 2012 **Fuller Theological Seminary;** Pasadena, CA  
Master of Divinity; Hooper/Keefe Preaching Award, Shari Harthoorn Memorial Mission Award, John C. and Ruby Wright Ministerial Scholarship, Eugene & Lydia Hermann Scholarship for Pastoral Preparation

Jan. 2001 - May 2003 **Temple University;** Philadelphia, PA  
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

## Continuing Education/Professional Development

### Memberships

Company of New Pastors Class of 2018

### Certificates and Trainings

October 2018 *The Lilly School of Philanthropy: Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising*, Princeton, NJ

March 2018 *The Art of Transitional Ministry: Part I*, Pittsburgh, PA

June 2017 *Facilitator Training: Prepare Enrich*, Philadelphia, PA

August 2015 *The Ministry of Spiritual Direction*, Center for Spiritual Formation, Carlisle, PA

August 2012 *Teaching English as a Foreign Language*, Babel Language Group, Antalya, Turkey

### Conferences and Trips

March 2016/April 2017 Presbyterian CREDO, Richmond, VA

February 2016 NEXT Church National Gathering, Atlanta, GA

October 2015 HOPE International Vision Trip, San Pedro, Dominican Republic

July 2015 Wild Goose Festival: Lead Now Cohort, Hot Springs, NC

April 2014 Mosaic of Peace Conference, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, Israel and Palestine

February 2013 The Justice Conference, Philadelphia, PA

November 2011 Faith Rooted Organizing Workshop, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA

June 2011 PC(USA) New Church Development Leadership Assessment, Portland, OR

April 2009 Guatemala Mission Study Tour, Guatemala City, Guatemala

February 2009 CCO Jubilee, Pittsburgh, PA

July 2008 The Center for Public Justice: *Civitas Leadership Seminar*, Washington DC

September 2006 Christian Community Development Association Conference., Philadelphia, PA

October 2005 Youth Specialties: National Youth Worker Convention, Pittsburgh, PA

**Employment type you would consider** Part Time/Full Time

**Leadership Competencies** THEOLOGICAL/SPIRITUAL INTERPRETER: Preaching and Worship Leadership, Spiritual Maturity, Teacher, Hopeful  
COMMUNICATION: Public Communicator; Communicator  
ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP: Decision Making, Change Agent, Willingness to Engage Conflict, Organizational Agility, Strategy and Vision, Collaboration  
INTERPERSONAL ENGAGEMENT: Interpersonal Engagement, Motivator, Initiative, Flexibility

**Positions you would consider** Head of Staff (5 years), Solo Pastor (5 years), Associate Pastor (2 years), Co-Pastor (No Experience), Campus Ministry (5 years), Mid-council staff (3 years)

**Geographic Choices** Anywhere in the USA

**Work Experience** 5 years ordained; 6 years pastoral leadership; 5 years non-profit fundraising; 7 years lay vocational ministry (youth and campus)

Languages in which you are fluent

English

Clergy Couples

I am not seeking a call as part of a clergy couple.

Compensation and Housing

Negotiable

Equal Opportunity Employment

I am willing to serve in a church or institution composed mainly of persons of another race/ethnicity other than my own.

### Sexual Misconduct Self Certification

The following information related to sexual misconduct was mandated by the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Its Procedures adopted by the 203rd General Assembly(1991), and was revised by the 205th General Assembly(1993).

***XI 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.***

The information contained in my Personal Information Form on file with Church Leadership Connection is accurate to the best of my knowledge and may be verified by the calling and employing entity. I hereby authorize the entity to which my Personal Information Form is being sent to inquire concerning any civil or criminal records, or any judicial or proceeding involving me as a defendant, related to sexual misconduct. By means of this release I also authorize any previous employer, and any law enforcement agencies or judicial authorities or ecclesiastical governing bodies to release any and all requested relevant information related to sexual misconduct to the entity to which my Personal Information Form is being sent.

***XI 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.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Scott W Szabo

Date \_\_\_\_\_

December 10, 2018

## PIF (Part II): Scott W. Szabo

### Work Experience

March 2018-Present	<u>Oxford Presbyterian Church</u> , Oxford, PA, small town, multi-staff, 375 members, <b>Transitional Pastor</b>
July 2013-January 2018	<u>Union Presbyterian Church</u> , Kirkwood, PA, rural, multi-staff, 130 members, <b>Designated Pastor (Solo)</b>
May 2017-Present	<u>The Presbytery of Donegal</u> , Lancaster, PA, mid-council, multi-staff, <b>Facilitator for Developing Congregations</b> (part-time position aiding Donegal member congregations in mission redevelopment and transformation)
November 2015-May 2017	<u>Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church</u> , Quarryville, PA, rural, multi-staff, 500 members, <b>Temporary Pastoral Associate for Visitation and Congregational Care</b> (part-time position providing home and hospital visits during CLPC's interim pastorate)
June 2012-August 2012	<u>Saint Paul's Cultural Center and Babel Language Group</u> , Antlaya, Turkey, urban/international <b>English as Second Language Instructor/Conversation Partner Volunteer</b>
September 2009-June 2012	<u>Northland Village Church</u> , Los Angeles, CA, urban, multi-staff, 100 members <b>Launch Team Member, Preaching Associate, and Small Groups Intern</b>
September 2010-June 2011	<u>Fuller Theological Seminary</u> , Pasadena, CA <b>Teaching Assistant: Koine Greek</b>
June 2010-September 2010	<u>Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches</u> , Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, urban/international, multi-staff, <b>Preaching and Pastoral Intern</b>
June 2005-September 2008	<u>CCO Campus Ministry at Ursinus College</u> , Collegeville, PA, college, multi-staff, 2000 students, <b>Campus Minister</b>
Summers 2006-2008	<u>CCO's Ocean City Beach Project</u> , Ocean City, NJ, recreation, multi-staff, 30 students living in intentional Christian community, <b>Summer Staff Member (2006-2007), Director (2008)</b>
May 2002-December 2006	<u>Centennial Evangelical Lutheran Church</u> , Kimberton, PA, town, multi-staff, 200 members, <b>Youth Director</b>

### Other service to the Church or Denomination

November 2017-Present	<i>Synod Commissioner for Donegal Presbytery</i> , Synod of the Trinity, Camp Hill, PA
May 2017-Present	<i>Staff Support and Interim Chairperson</i> , Engaging Our Mission: Donegal Presbytery, Lancaster, PA
November 2017-Present	<i>Facilitator</i> , NewLead Cohort: Donegal Presbytery, Lancaster, PA
January 2015-Present	<i>Member</i> , Leader Team, Donegal Presbytery, Lancaster, PA
November 2014-October 2016	<i>Assistant Stated Clerk</i> , Donegal Presbytery, Lancaster, PA
January 2015-October 2016	<i>Stated Clerk Representative</i> - Overtures, Amendments, and Review Committee, Donegal Presbytery, Lancaster, PA
January 2015-October 2016	<i>Stated Clerk Representative</i> - Examination Commission, Donegal Presbytery, Lancaster, PA
March 2014-September 2014	<i>Member</i> - Stated Clerk Search Committee, Donegal Presbytery, Lancaster, PA

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

With each visit to the retirement community I heard a lament from our members no longer able to attend worship: "I miss our church." While they valued visits from our care team, birthday remembrances, and times when I would bring the Lord's Supper or preside at the chapel service, nothing could substitute for being present with their family of faith. Having determined it was beyond our reach to bring homebound members to church, we as a session dreamed instead of how we might bring the church to them.

So began a monthly worship service at Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community, specifically designed to serve the social and spiritual needs of our members who resided there. While just a few people were required to lead this service, we wanted those who missed their congregation to feel as though it had indeed come to them. To that end, we recruited young families, elders and deacons, old friends, even the choir, to come and worship with us on one Sunday afternoon each quarter. By design the visitors often outnumbered the twelve residents we served, which contributed to the feeling that what we were about was truly church.

Our members at QPRC began inviting their neighbors to worship, who themselves became regular attendees, and in turn invited friends of their own! In time, people who once lamented the loss of their church came to express their delight in seeing young children, and of again receiving the Sacrament in the company of God's people.



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

In 2012 I travelled to Antalya, Turkey and taught English at Saint Paul's Cultural Center. Saint Paul's began when the city government denied a congregation of expatriates permission to build a church, but in true bureaucratic fashion then allowed them to construct a community center at which church services could occur! In its early days the center perplexed its neighbors who wondered what success a Christian ministry expected to have in a secular Muslim society. Today, Saint Paul's houses the largest English library in the city, hosts dozens of English language learning opportunities, operates a cafe where locals gather, and provides a place of worship for a community composed of expats and once-skeptical Antalyans, the latter having been drawn to the congregation through its undeniable love for the neighborhood and its people.

I want to be part of a story like this here at home, one in which believers prayerfully discern and eagerly pursue God's vision for the neighborhood. I want to serve a community that views obstacles as opportunities for the Spirit to accomplish far more than we could ever ask for or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). I want to belong to a team that turns heads through strange practices of scandalous grace, deep discipleship, radical hospitality, and cross-cultural friendship. In short, I think God is calling me to a place where people are eager to be fools for Christ (1 Corinthians 4:10), convinced that a better world is possible as we pursue Jesus together.



### 3. What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

I like to hike. When I began hiking I often walked alone, and I appreciated the freedom I had to chart my own course. But as I began to trek with others I found myself delighting in the community of the trail, for while it often required me to cede control of choosing the destination, it allowed me to learn from those more skillful, to support new hikers, and to have a richer experience of the journey by seeing it through the eyes of my companions.

Hiking has helped me understand my growth as a leader. By nature I am a person who dreams big dreams and strategizes how to realize those ends. But through the practice of ministry I have experienced God's blessing of the collaborative process, and have learned that being a good leader is really about facilitating the success of those with whom one travels. As a pastor aiding a congregation (and presbytery) in adapting to changing times, this has meant assessing the interests and stamina of my fellow sojourners, knowing enough first aid to keep everyone moving up the hill, and listening to my companions along the way to see if God is inviting us to rest or to set our sights on an even loftier summit. It has also meant seeking guides of my own including a coach and a spiritual director, who help me to remember the trail before me, even as I continue to gaze at the summit farther afield.



### 4. Describe a time when you have led change.

I began at Union as a temporary pastor for a term of six months, right after the previous pastor's unexpected retirement. At that time the session was in an upheaval, intent on recommending that the congregation request dismissal from the PC(USA), a perspective fueled by years of unresolved anger at the larger Church. Given these circumstances and my commitment to ministry in this denomination, I knew my time at Union might be brief. Accordingly, I led with a mind to empower the session, in order that they might make decisions about the congregation's future from a position of confidence and calm.

Pursuit of this aim meant allowing Union's denominational affiliation to remain an open question, and aiding the session in research of their options. It meant working with the elders to improve organizational clarity and function, a process that culminated in the development of an operations manual. It meant speaking the truth in love when I witnessed anxiety or unrealistic expectation driving decisions. Finally, it involved helping the leadership consider issues in new ways, while urging them to be reconciled to fellow believers. In everything, I tried to convey my love and respect for the session and my confidence in them to seek God's will. Eventually, the congregation moved to install me as the designated pastor, in order that I could continue to aid in their visioning of a hopeful future.

In the end, my ministry at Union lasted almost five years. While the congregation ultimately decided that its future lay outside of the PC(USA), I am grateful that our time together allowed them to approach this decision in a less reactionary way.

### Personal Information

I stand in awe of God's love for me shown through my family. As Mikhal and I proceed through our seventh year of marriage I continue to be astounded by her intelligence, passion, beauty, and faith. I am inspired by her service to under-resourced populations through her work with HOPE International, and am amazed by her ability to succeed at just about anything she turns her attention to (especially board games, which drives me crazy!). Most recently I have fallen in love with her all over again as we raise our children, Augustine (4.5) and Clara (2.5). Long accustomed to frequent traveling, evenings spent at the theater, and last minute decisions to go camping, Mikhal and I now pattern our lives around the rhythms of our children, delighting in our time together in the kitchen and while on walks to the park. In this season we especially enjoy the constant discoveries our kids make, for by witnessing their delight in the world we have come to see life differently, being reminded again that there is nothing ordinary or insignificant, but that all is gift given by a loving God.



## Additional Information

**MBTI:** ENTJ **Enneagram:** Type 7 **Strengthsfinder:** Input, Futuristic, Intellection, Connectedness, Restorative

## References

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## My Statement of Faith

In faith and joy I profess that God is the maker of all, in whom we move, and live, and have our being (Ac 17:28). Eternally existing as a perfect community of Father, Son, and Spirit, God fashions the universe out of love, desiring it to share in the divine embrace.

Our world is to reflect this charity and humans are to coax the creation to fulfill its task. Sadly, rather than shepherding God's gift we have sought an independence that impoverishes, crippling the creation with our selfishness and suspicion.

As a loving parent does not define her children by temper tantrums but by hope of their maturation, God chooses to see the world not as it is, but as it will be. Thus, God raised a people to lead the world into healing and wholeness by blessing the biblical Israel and calling it to be a light to the nations. This call was wholly embraced by Jesus Christ who led a fully human life of righteousness and joy, such as God intended for all people. Wrongfully condemned, Christ did not protest, permitting the powers of evil to overstep their authority in executing the incarnate Son and so forfeiting their claim on the world. Christ's resurrection is the assurance of triumph over sin, the guarantee that God's vision will be realized, and the sure and certain foundation of my hope.

In his earthly ministry Jesus called people to follow him and led those who responded into a fuller experience of life. After his ascension Jesus continued this work by sending the Spirit, through whom God gives the gift of faith. By this faith Christians are counted righteous in God's sight and bound with all who have trusted in the promise of God's redemption, thus composing one body called the Church.

Commissioned with continuing God's work of reconciliation the Church is to know its Lord and direct the world to him. This demands dependency upon the Bible, which reminds us of the story of which we are a part and counsels us in leading lives in accord with God's mission. Through the Spirit's illumination the Church studies and preaches the scriptures, finding therein God's message for the faithful today. Knowing the importance of tangible experience in grasping spiritual truths, God nurtures the Church through the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. In the waters of Baptism we experience Jesus drowning our sin, washing us clean, and uniting us to all those God has led through the waters. And as we partake of bread and cup in the Lord's Supper we taste the goodness of God who invites us to the table, dines with us, and who offers the Son to satiate the hunger of the world.

Through interpreting the scriptures and celebrating the sacraments the Church declares who and whose it is, and so it is strengthened as one body to ease the ache of the world while calling it to repentance and new life. While the faithful enjoy a foretaste of this new life now, its full expression awaits Christ's return, when God will be all in all and this world born of love will see its maker face to face (1 Co 15:28, 13:12).