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SOUTH MERIDEN TRINITY UMC MERIDEN, CT

JULY 2017 TO PRESENT

*Pastor*

Hired by the Connecticut District of The United Methodist Church New York Annual Conference to fill a vacancy for a half-time Pastor serving a congregation founded in 1851.

- Develop, lead, and coordinate worship services for a small UMC congregation on a weekly basis. Coordinate the Worship Committee team to encourage growth in service and discipleship.
- Develop communication, discipleship and leadership skills for a congregation that had experienced recent sharp declines in attendance and membership.
- Established regular office hours in balcony of sanctuary, enabling this facility to be open three days a week for individual and consultative prayer for the public and members.
- Communicate and coordinate regularly with church Office Administrator on bulletin preparation, financial reporting, community communications, and other key tasks.
- Extensive outreach to community leaders and organizations on a regular basis.
- Hands-on support and leadership for emergency care situations, including helping to re-home a family that was facing homelessness.
- Coordinate with managers/owners of daycare center that rents the church's education building, exploring opportunities for cooperative ministries involving children and parents of their client base.
- Led two memorial services in first two months, one taking place two days before official start date. Regular visitation with shut-ins, and those who are hospitalized and in nursing homes. (I have led eight memorial services in total to date).
- Complete redesign and deployment of new Web site using Weebly development and hosting services, establishing communications channels via MailChimp, Twitter, Instagram, and other online services. Oversee the publishing of a weekly online newsletter summarizing upcoming events and providing links to audio, video and text from recent worship services.
- Implemented several upgrades to worship technology to improve worship experiences and post-worship communications, including Proclaim presentation management software and podcast publishing, high-speed Internet networking, extended-range Bluetooth transmission of audio board output, and more.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MIDDLETOWN, CT

JULY, 2015-JUNE, 2017

*Seminarian Associate*

Lead the development and execution of mission and outreach programs to provide community service and congregational growth for a congregation that meets in rented space after having sold its buildings in September 2014. Collaborate with Pastor regularly on "reinventing" the church in innovative ways for worship, devotion, mission, outreach, and communications.

- Initiatives have included re-establishing mission teams, forming a Christian/Muslim build team for Habitat for Humanity, extensive outreach to Wesleyan University & Middlesex

Community College and local institutions, a complete re-design and rewriting of the church's Web site and blog (fumcmiddletownct.org), leading and developing leadership for children's Sunday School, adult study groups, prayer groups.

- Researched, developed and facilitated the discussion of an 80-slide analysis of the opportunity for congregational "replanting" in the Middletown area, used to confirm congregational and NYAC CT District support for land acquisition, currently underway
- Occasional worship leadership at FUMCM (~6x/yr + ~6x/yr at Wesley Village), funeral leadership and preaching (6x 2016-17, 4x for FUMCM), pastoral visits and consultations
- Innovative use of multimedia in worship, including audiovisual "scenery" for sermon skits
- Coordinating FUMCM support for transitioning a formerly homeless person through shelter, medical care and permanent housing - now active in the life of the church
- Coordinated FUMCM participation in transitioning a refugee family from the Middle East into permanent housing, employment, and cultural acclimation (gave the father of the family driving lessons and helped him to pass his CT driver's license written and road tests)
- Promoted an open house door to door in neighborhoods, developed online advertising campaigns and social media campaigns, "guerilla" marketing in downtown Middletown.
- Investigated and evaluated real estate for potential rent and or purchase and site development, participating in committee meetings for finance, trustees, staff/parish relations and the Church Council, training and members in media technologies, including Proclaim worship slide management. Selecting and implementing new technologies for worship and office support. Regular delivery of children's sermons for worship services.

SHORE COMMUNICATIONS INC. WESTPORT, CT 1999 TO 2015

*President*

Provide senior-level marketing and research consulting services to the electronic publishing industry, including strategic requirements planning, business plan development for major and emerging publishing and publishing technology companies. Spoke at dozens of major industry conferences and forums on key topics relating to the content industry, authored "Content Nation: Surviving and Thriving as Social Media Changes Our Work, Our Lives and Our Future" (Wiley, 2009). CODiE award for Best Media Industry blog, 2007, EContent Best 100 award, 2004-2006.

OUTSELL, INC. BURLINGAME, CA

2000 TO 2002

*Vice President – Lead Analyst*

Provide senior-level research and advisory consulting services to the electronic publishing industry. Write briefings, speak at regional and national conferences on publishing-related topics, interviewed for numerous magazine articles and television segments regarding the electronic publishing industry. Worked remotely from my home office.

WATERS INFORMATION SERVICES/RISK PUBLICATIONS NEW YORK, NY 1998 TO 1999

*Director, Market Research*

Complete line responsibility for establishing a new market research business for the leading news organization in the financial market data and information industry, sold to leading international electronic publishers and financially-focused internet startups. Created and implemented all marketing, development and delivery plans for an industry-wide survey, using online interviews, phone interviews and in-depth personal interviews.

REUTERS LIMITED STAMFORD, CT & NEW YORK, NY 1990 TO 1998

*Group Product Manager Stamford, CT 1996 to 1998*

Lead product manager for directing the design, development and launch of globally delivered web-based credit research products with search capabilities.

*Group Project Manager – Fixed Income Information Products “ Stamford, CT 1995 to 1996*

Directed 4 Senior Project Managers responsible for collecting and disseminating fixed income financial data and research related to 19 active and pending financial services projects.

*Project Manager “ New York, NY 1994 to 1995*

High-visibility issues-oriented management for the President and Executive Vice President in charge of North American operations.

*Marketing Manager – Realtime Financial Products “ New York, NY 1990 to 1994*

Defined and implemented product sales and support strategies for realtime financial datafeed products. Developed strategic marketing plans for financial information products.

QUOTRON SYSTEMS, INC. NEW YORK, NY (ACQUIRED BY CITIGROUP) 1986 TO 1990

*Project Manager - Business Development Manager*

Hired, trained, supervised and evaluated staff of 11 including Programmers, Business Analysts, Technical Writers and Support Specialists. Recruited and hired 20+ persons overall for the Professional Services business unit. Developed product requirements specifications and business proposals for customer-specific software systems. Hired and managed a team of business analysts specializing in new business development. Designed numerous software systems, usually devoted to the processing of realtime financial data.

CITIBANK, N.A. NEW YORK, NY 1984 TO 1986

*Senior Systems Officer – Financial Database Development*

Designed and developed software systems used to support high-volume mainframe transaction processing for a \$200 Million consumer banking project.

Developed design specifications, trained staff in the implementation of Unix-based systems.

WESTERN ELECTRIC/BELLCORE (A division of AT&T) PISCATAWAY, NJ 1982 TO 1984

*Systems Technologist – Human Factors Engineering*

Systems interface design, systems documentation, and training course development and delivery to end-users for a 600+ person project dedicated to digital and voice telecommunications circuit and trunk design and implementation.

EARLY EXPERIENCE 1976 TO 1982

- Early professional experience in electronics sales and management, radio advertising sales, radio and print advertising copywriting and production, direct sales.
- Youth Ministry Internship at Calvary United Methodist Church, Dumont, NJ.
- Part-time truck unloader, United Parcel Service, Parsippany, NJ (6 months)
- Summer camp counselor, Camp Aldersgate, Swartswood, NJ (three seasons)
- Door-to-door consumer product sales, Fuller Brush Company (Summit, NJ)

EDUCATION

B.A., English, Connecticut College, 1976

Other Studies:

Drew Theological Seminary, 1976-1977

City University of New York, 1983-1986 (Computer Programming, Marketing, Accounting)

Hartford Seminary, 2014-2016 (Co-Operative Master of Divinity program)

Yale Divinity School, September 2016-Present - MDiv degree candidate (completing studies by December 2017 on full-time basis, or May 2018 on half-time basis)

#### CERTIFICATIONS

Business Analysis certificate, 1996

Local Lay Servant, Golden Hill UMC, Bridgeport, CT, 2008

Certified Lay Servant, NYAC CT District, 2009-present. Preach ~10-12x year, have preached at 10+ churches, plus nursing homes and other venues

Certified Candidate for Ordained Ministries, New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Connecticut District, December 2016-Present

Clinical Pastoral Education - 1 Unit - Completed May, 2016 via Middlesex Hospital

#### OTHER INTERESTS

Golden Hill UMC, Bridgeport, CT - Served as Sunday school leader 8 years, adult studies, *Church Council Chairperson and Secretary, Nominations, Evangelism, Worship committees*

United Methodist Church, Branford, CT - Redesigned Web site, servant for adult studies, vacation Bible school, Sunday school, Board member for Learn & Play Early Christian Learning Center, coordinated all-church mission day at 4 sites, rep for Branford Housing/Food coalitions

Lead devotional study and outreach group for UMC Branford at Shoreline Cafe, Tuesday nights *Support blogging for NYAC Volunteers in Mission teams, 2012 VIM Ghana team member*

Volunteer support for NYAC Annual Conference, moderator for NYAC Laity Convocation, 2016 *Frequent blogger at [johnblossom.com/faithwalker](http://johnblossom.com/faithwalker) I post faith reflections and sermons there*

Occasional contributor to The Upper Room daily devotional magazine, Google+, Twitter, etc. *Al-Anon Family Groups member since 1990, CT Webmaster, 2002-2005, District Rep,*

*2006-2008, Chaired CT state Assembly and World Service Committee, 2008-2011, Board of Directors member, 2007-2010, Board Chair, 2011-2013, Alateen group sponsor, 2008-2014*

Leisure interests include gardening, swimming, hiking, travel, reading, concerts, sailing *Wife of 33 years and son (Autistic, 30) share a quiet, rewarding and faith-filled family life*