Name: Alexander Lester-Abdalla

Degree(s): [x] M.Div. [ ] M.A.C.E. [ ] M.Div./M.A.C.E. [ ] Th.M. [ ] Ph.D.

Denomination: PCUSA

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Call to Ministry (max. 2000 characters)

I feel called to glorify God and to bring about God’s kingdom through love in Christian community. Throughout my life I have been discerning how my passions and gifts are guiding my vocational path and I believe God is calling me to a be a Minister of Word and Sacrament. For one, I believe in the transformational work of the Church where the world’s sin and despair are met with God’s justice and hope. I believe in the power of relationship where individuals and communities grow to be the people God calls them to be. I believe in our response to God’s action in our lives through the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ, the recognition of God’s grace in the sacraments, and the glorifying of God in Christian Worship. And I believe it is a privilege to walk with people on their journey of faith and life.

I am passionate about the many facets of work one does as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and feel called in three areas that work well in tandem as well as in their own ways. First, I feel called to general responsibilities of a pastor of a congregation. I am enlivened by preaching, care deeply about crisis and long-term pastoral care, love teaching, am passionate about church leadership and decision making, and recognize the importance of maintaining the resources of a congregation in order for the Church to be transformative in the world. I also feel called to ministry that serves youth, young adults, and college age people. I feel that my life is intertwined with the development of youth in my community and desire to help them grow in faith and life through unconditional love and education. Finally, I feel called to work towards God’s kingdom in the world through Christian mission. I have always been pulled towards the discriminated and oppressed in our communities and seek to bring equity and wholeness to the world. In these ways I humbly believe God is calling me to do the work of God through the vocation of a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Positions Desired (check all that apply)

[ ] Solo Pastor

[x] Associate Pastor

[ ] Christian Educator

[ ] Chaplain

[x] Spiritual Formation/Discipleship

[x] Social Justice

[x] Non-Profit

[x] Youth Ministry

[x] Young Adults Ministry

[x] Older Adults Ministry

[x] Children’s Ministry

[x] Pastoral Care

[x] Outreach/Missions

[ ] Non-Ordained

[x] Other: Campus Ministry

Education

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Degree | Major | University, City | Year |
| Master of Divinity |       | Union Presbyterian Seminary | 2019 |
| Bachelor of Arts | Global Interdisciplinary Studies; Arab and Islamic Studies | Villanova University | 2015 |
|       |       |       |       |
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Work Experience

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Setting | City/State | Year-Year |
| Youth Pastor, Seminary Intern, Ukirk Intern | Second Presbyterian | Richmond, VA | 2016-2019 |
| CPE Chaplain Intern | VCU Hospital | Richmond, VA | 2018 |
| Summer Intern | Broad Street Ministry | Philadelphia, PA | 2017 |
| Americorps VISTA/Philly Fellows Social Enterprise Fellow | Project H.O.M.E. | Philadelphia, PA | 2015-2016 |

Geographic Preference(s)

[ ] Not Geographically Limited

[ ] International

[x] Specific States: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware

[x] Other: Commuting Distance to Philadelphia (my wife has a job there)

Candidacy Status

[ ] Ready to receive a call

[x] Still have denominational requirements to meet

[x] Other: Candidate and passed ordination exams