

Union Presbyterian Seminary

Senior Profile

Name: Alexander Lester-Abdalla

Degree(s): 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 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
- Associate Pastor
- Christian Educator
- Chaplain

- Spiritual Formation/Discipleship
- Social Justice
- Non-Profit
- Youth Ministry

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- Young Adults Ministry
- Older Adults Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Pastoral Care

- Outreach/Missions
- Non-Ordained
- 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

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)

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- Not Geographically Limited
 - International
 - Specific States: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware
 - Other: Commuting Distance to Philadelphia (my wife has a job there)
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Candidacy Status

- Ready to receive a call
 - Still have denominational requirements to meet
 - Other: Candidate and passed ordination exams
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