The 1001 New Worshiping Community Residency

Braddock, PA and Greater MOn Valley

2019-2020

AN INVITATION

Applicants are sought for a one-year 1001 New Worshiping Community residency in Braddock, Pennsylvania and the Greater Mon. Valley, in partnership with the New Worshipping Community Commission of Pittsburgh, Presbytery and This Generation Cares, Inc.

The Mon Valley is collection of communities where empty churches share a block with other empty buildings, and community centers struggle to stay afloat. They are the places that our society finds hard to look at because they remind us that the American Dream is not the deepest theology at work in our world. These are the communities where it is easier to close a church than to start one—yet we are committed to maintaining a presence and a witness to what God is doing in the Mon Valley. Indeed, love for the people of the Mon Valley, and faith in what God is doing there, is bubbling up from pastors around the Presbytery, students at the seminary, and even [local politicians](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjM2Lk-xRvc) and [restauranteurs](https://www.superiormotors15104.com/). Despite its struggles, there is a buzz about Braddock, one of the small towns of the Mon Valley. There is energy around the communities nestled there along the riverbed and there are gifted, faithful people who are anxious to be involved with God’s work there.

As this residency placement comes together, the team includes a varied of experienced stakeholders. Pastor Nathaniel Carter is the leader on this project, in large part because of his desire to do multi-cultural ministry in a city full of segregated churches and his deep roots and broad connections in the neighborhood. And, of course, there are multiple elders and staff people from other faith communities that have been carrying a vision for ministry in the Mon Valley for years. In addition to this team, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary would offer additional connection and support to the resident through monthly lunches with church planting students and practitioners, programing around spiritual practices and training, and a local learning community. With the guidance and support of these leaders and communities, the resident will find themselves doing the early work of planting alongside Pastor Nathaniel—exploring the community, connecting with people of peace, and convening community conversations.

To thrive here, a resident in this community would need to bring a love for the community and its people, an honest belief in the community’s worth and charisms, and a vision for what God might do in its midst. The resident would need to be one who works connectionally—someone who crosses boundaries, connects well across difference, and is able to love deeply without being easily discouraged by systemic brokenness. The resident would work in partnership with Pastor Nate, and work collegially with supervisor Rev. Ayana Teter as both a supervisee and a colleague, gaining feedback, insight, and experience in starting community-based ministry from the ground up. Right now, the ministry includes a small group meeting at Pastor Nate’s home, deep community connections in the non-profit, church, and business communities, and a vision for multi-cultural church and polycentric leadership.

This is an opportunity to start a new worshiping community in an underserved community, and it is certainly an opportunity that could go beyond the residency year. The New Worshiping Communities Commission of the Pittsburgh Presbytery promises to welcome, connect, and support the resident in their work and life in Pittsburgh, to pray for their ministry, manage their organizational finances until such a time as the community might incorporate, support the ministry financially as deemed appropriate, and maintain a close connection with both the resident and their supervisor.

Residents will report directly to Rev. Ayana Teter, the supervisor for the residency and experienced church planter, and will take part in our leadership team meetings. There will be weekly meetings to discuss short, medium, and long-range goals for the community

Financial Support: The total package available for support of this residency is $40,000 for the year, to include salary and at least a $1500 health insurance reimbursement. The Presbytery will work with the successful candidate to organize the package to be most beneficial to the resident. The resident will be an employee of Pittsburgh Presbytery. Residents also will take part in an advanced national training (costs covered by the Presbyterian Mission Agency) with 1001 apprentices and other residents this summer in Kansas City. Applications, including letters of reference, are due by April 15, 2019.

Selected applicants will take part in the National 1001 New Worshiping Communities Apprenticeship Training program this summer in Kansas City, June 23-26.

Contact information:

Rev. Ayana Teter

Site Supervisor

ayana.teter@gmail.com

Pastor Nate Carter

Partnering Pastor

nlcarterjr@gmail.com

Application Checklist

✓ Cover letter including:

What attracts you to this residency?

What do you hope to gain out of this experience?

✓ Completed application

✓ Two Letters of Recommendation

Application deadline is April 15, or when the position has been filled. Questions? Contact Ayana, Nate, or Sara Hayden at sara.hayden@pcusa.org

Email your completed application and cover letter to the following persons:

Ayana Teter at ayana.teter@gmail.com

Nate Carter at nlcarterjr@gmail.com

Sara Hayden at sara.hayden@pcusa.org

Contact Info

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Education (as applicable) Please complete on a separate page

Work Experience (post-secondary school) Please complete on a separate page.

Church and Community Leadership (post-secondary school) Please complete on a separate page.

Denominational Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tell Us More

Please answer the following questions. Each answer should not exceed three hundred words.

1. What attracts you to this 1001 Residency? What would a fruitful conclusion to the residency look like for you?
2. Provide one theological issue that matters to you that you hope will be shaped and formed by spending time in this residency.
3. Tell us about a time when you had to seek support from someone outside your immediate circle in order to accomplish a project for which you had limited resources.
4. Describe the relationships you maintain with people who are not a part of a church.
5. Describe an instance in which you had to learn a new skill in order to grow in your current role and/or be successful in another role.
6. What draws you to starting new ministries from scratch? What are important components for a new ministry that you have considered inaugurating?
7. Tell us about a new ministry that you have started, or been a part of.
8. What will you contribute to and how will you benefit from this environment?

Cover Letter

Please submit a cover letter with your application that includes what attracts you to this program and what you hope to gain from this experience.

References

Please provide two letters of recommendation from people who know you well enough to address your theological integrity, gifts for ministry, and capacity for personal relationships.

Provide two additional references we can contact. Indicate relationship (pastor, professor, supervisor, mentor, friend, etc...).

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Have you ever been convicted of a felony or found guilty of an incident of sexual misconduct? Yes ❒ No ❒

Marking “Yes” to this does not disqualify you from the Program, but we would like you to attach an explanation including offense and date