

PULPIT SUPPLY LIST INFORMATION SHEET

Please return completed form to the Presbytery Office or email to pparrish@greatriverspby.org

Name: Jerry R. Parsons
Home Phone Number: 309-663-2886 Cell Phone Number: 309-830-8463
Email: JerParsons@aol.com
Address: 16 Gloucester Circle, Bloomington, IL 61704

Church Status (check one): Pastor certifiedCLP Elder
 Educator Other Honorably Retired Pastor
 Pastor of another denomination

Church of membership (if an elder, educator, CLP): First Presbyterian of Normal

Date of Ordination and Ordaining Body (if ordained): _____

Are you willing to serve communion as part of the worship? (Applies only to ordained ministers in good standing with PGR) _____

How far you are willing to drive to fill a pulpit: 75

What parts of the worship service are you willing to lead (i.e. will you just preach or would you do the liturgy, children's moments etc)?
Besides preaching, I will lead liturgy to the extent I'm asked to do so, including praying and reading scripture. I have not done a children's sermon and would prefer not to although I believe I am capable of doing so if that's the role of the pastor in the church where I'm preaching.

Please briefly describe your style of preaching.
Typically, I preach from the lectionary, building the framework for the sermon on the scripture. However, I rely heavily on stories to get the message across and generate interest. This is natural for me because of my career in journalism and communications. I am always looking for stories that help to illustrate my message—in my life experience, in books and in scripture. I seek not only to enlighten but also to inspire people to apply the message to their lives. My delivery style is intense, yet warm and personal, often including humor.

What are some key theological issues that shape your ministry?
My faith is grounded in a belief in a sovereign and triune God; yet it is the loving nature of God, manifested in Jesus that shapes my life and my ministry. While I believe we as Christians are to follow God's commandments, it's my conviction we do so because we are loved and forgiven, not so we will be loved and forgiven. Much of my ministry is based on Jesus' calling us to love and serve others, especially the poor, needy and oppressed.