



**Introducing
REV. DR. JAMES E. JANECEK**

PROFILE

Following is a synopsis of Rev Janecek's UCC Ministerial Profile.

Authorization for Ministry

United Church of Christ – ordained January 28, 1995

UCC Ecclesiastical Endorsement as a Military Chaplain with the USAF

Roman Catholic Church – UCC privilege of call, most recent May 6, 2001

Education for Ministry

Excelsior College, Albany, NY, 1982-1989, Bachelor of Science Degree

Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, OH, 1989-1990, Pre-Theology

Univ of St Thomas, Houston, TX, 1990-1994, Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Texas A&M, Corpus Christi, TX, 2000-2001, Master of Science in Counseling

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, TX, 2003-2010, Doctor of Ministry (concentration in Pastoral Counseling)

Educational Programs and Professional Development

United States Air Force Chaplain Service Institute and Chaplain Corps College, 2002-2013, Basic, Intermediate, and Wing Chaplain Courses (qualifying for chaplain, supervisor chaplain, supervisor of all Base chaplains (respectively), overseeing religious and spiritual needs for military members and dependents.

Continuing Education

- Training for Trainers
- Applied Suicide Intervention Training
- Preaching and Homiletics
- Religious and Cultural Awareness

Community Involvement

- Team member designing Interfaith Religious Center, Lackland AFB
- Initiated/led collecting 2,900 pounds of used clothing/toys, Spain
- Coordinated interfaith national prayer breakfasts
- Conducted multiple marriage retreats, single airmen retreats
- Organized airmen volunteers to sort food at food bank, SD
- Led chapel team in ministry for 9,800 hurricane Katrina evacuees, TX

Vocational History

- University of Maryland University College, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, 2015, Adjunct Faculty, part time

- USAF, various locations, 2002-current, Chaplain, full time
- St Paul UCC, Corpus Christi, TX, 2001-2002, Associate Pastor, volunteer
- Family Counseling Service, Corpus Christi, TX, 2001-2002, Counselor, full time
- Robstown Boys & Girls Club, Robstown, TX, 1999-2000, Director, full time
- Holy Family Catholic Church, Corpus Christi, TX, 1996-1999, Pastor, full time
- St Joseph Catholic Church, Alice, TX, 1995-1996, Associate Pastor, full time
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Corpus Christi, TX, 1994-1995, Transitional Deacon, full time
- US Army, various locations, 1982-1989, Veterinary Food Inspector, full time

PROFILE ESSAYS:

Ministerial Calling

My sense of being called was nurtured and affirmed as early as I can recall as a child. My home church community and family taught me a wide range of diverse teachings of the Bible as well as the traditions and history of the Christian faith, instilling a strong sense of ecumenism. After serving in the Army Veterinary Service, I finally entered the seminary and was ordained by the Roman Catholic Church, where I served faithfully and joyfully until I met my wife Lilly. We were welcomed into the UCC where I was once again called to serve in ordained ministry, and eventually as a Chaplain in the Air Force. My sense of being called is to trustingly fulfill humble servant-leadership modeled and guided by Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit.

Covenant

The UCC polity resonates strongly with what is reflected in the scriptures and what I have always felt in my heart. As far as I can tell, the entire universe is in covenantal relationship with God and interdependently with one another. The unity and diversity of the Body of Christ is to be celebrated. A plurality of views and approaches can bear much fruit. Ultimately, the nature and purpose of the UCC is to serve God and the world, as Jesus came not to be served but to serve.

Passions

I am driven to share the Good News that divine love is inclusive of the entire universe. I am passionate about a congregation being a safe place of sincere and genuine belonging. I am adamant about care for the caregiver. My emphasis is often on learning, teaching, spiritual direction, mentoring, and pastoral care and counseling. Careful listening is important. I am invigorated by wildlife and the natural outdoors. I advocate the compatibility of science and religion. I am enthusiastic about interfaith unity. By serving collaboratively and cooperatively with a community of faith, we can all humbly grow together.

Self-Appraisal

One of my primary strengths is as teacher and learner, both formally and informally. I'm eager to offer educational opportunities, and I regularly continue to learn. Counseling is one of my strengths. I have been highly effective in helping marital couples and in dealing with issues of loss, grief, and mourning. I have extensive experience and knowledge in spiritual formation and development. I have developed effective administrative skills and judicious stewardship of resources. I'm adaptable, a team builder, welcome diversity, consensus forming, and enjoy working with interfaith and ecumenical situations.

Additional Comments

My beloved wife, Lilly Flores-Janecek, is my best friend and soulmate. I couldn't ask for a better partner in the journey of life. We have two adult sons who live on their own in Texas. We now only have in the household our four-legged perpetual toddler, Rufus, our little dog.

REFERENCES

Following is a synopsis of comments from Rev Janecek's references.

Positive:

Highly intelligent, impeccably articulate, strong leader, compassionate, genuinely caring, profoundly pastoral, high integrity, exceptionally capable, deeply devout, fluent in Spanish, remarkably suited to pastoral ministry, gifted pastoral caregiver and listener, thoughtful and centered on connecting with others, attentive to detail, understands and embraces spiritual and religious diversity, learns from his mistakes, seeks advice, does well with balancing ego with requirements of the job.

Improvement Needed:

Continue with education and experience to improve with age, his style of learning in taking time to meticulously think through and process subject matter, tends to overextend himself personally and forget to take time to rest.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Following is a synopsis of Rev Janecek's responses to a few of the Pastor Search Committee's questions asked during his interview on February 25.

Q What is your style of preaching, traditional, conservative, progressive, other, and why?

A I believe in engaging the listeners, having them find meaning in the sermon, moving them in some way. I also preach to myself because I need the meaning, teaching, and engaging in my life. I research and study the text of the liturgical calendar as well as what's going on and important in the world. And find depth in coupling the text with relevance to the world, community, individuals. I am not there to entertain, but rather to be thought-provoking, to be fresh and to find new opportunities, rather than canned preaching. The world is always changing. There is only one today and one tomorrow. I will bring humor to my sermons (often self-deprecating). Saying that, not all sermons or texts lend themselves to humor – they need to be somber. The voice of God should be touching our lives and we should be embracing all. I would say I'm more progressive and liberal, though not aggressive – no banners, stickers, protests. I would write a letter to my conference on an issue I felt strongly about. I am not a Bible literalist. Some pastors follow the liturgical calendar to the point of ignoring what is going on, what is needed. It is important to articulate what we're thinking in terms of Christian faith. It is important to facilitate the thinking process, bridging the world affecting us and tradition.

Q What is your understanding of our church as being Board-led?

A UCC churches are primarily congregational, a core group of laity can hire and fire. This is specific to the UCC, we personify that. We all have ownership of "our" church.

Q How do you see yourself working with the Board?

A I believe myself to be a strong leader – I won't be a functionary. This should be a collaborative, team effort, with pastor as spiritual leader. The Board and I are all leaders. Each is one leader among others. The congregation is the final governing body. We all need spiritual leadership

Q How do you feel about having voice but no vote?

A Voting is okay, but the greatest need is in coming together. I, as others, can voice my ideas and concerns. A good pastor is a good leader. The Board changes every few years. The pastor gives continuity – shaping the church by understanding and knowledge. Leadership is not a title. Sometimes saying little can mean a lot. Sometimes an outside, objective voice is needed, and the pastor can provide that voice or new perspective. If an idea is best for the church, he believes they will recognize that. There should be dialogue for every decision.

Q What attracted you to our church?

A Strong lay leadership. A niche here that is unique. The interdenominational aspect and atmosphere – there is a richness in all denominations. The desire for both unity and diversity. Very welcoming.

Q How would you manage church conflict?

A Conflict is not a bad word. Conflict is who we are. The key is in the process of dealing with the issue. If you run from it, it's still there. "Breaking windows" makes it worse. Some conflict is good and important – respect has to be there. Trust and the "speed of trust" takes time and effort to build. Through a process of respect, understanding, vulnerability, candor, authenticity, coming to resolution, and a clear knowledge of that resolution, trust can come about.

TESTIMONIALS

**Following are thoughts and impressions from individual members of the Pastor Search Team. It is our hope that they will provide insight on why we unanimously agreed to recommend to you
Rev James Janecek for the Settled Pastor position.**

I am impressed with Rev. Janecek and believe his educational, military, and life experiences will be a positive addition to our church. (Nancy Marshall)

I loved his excitement at everything he saw in the Glade (the community and the church). I liked the way he was with Lilly. When a man shows respect and concern for his wife, I believe he will show that same respect and concern to his congregation. (Sue Moss)

I was impressed with this candidate from the beginning. His enlisted Army service, his seminary education, ordination and subsequent assignments as a parish priest, his advanced education with a doctorate, his ordination by the UCC, and finally his training for and service as a military chaplain. It would be a challenge to find a candidate with a more diversified background. (Charlie Rau)

Rev Janecek's focus on the importance of relationships – with the Trinity, with the church body, and with each other – is very impressive. I found him to be gracious, generous in giving time to each individual he met, articulate and thought-provoking in his sermon, and anxious to serve our Spirit filled church with his many talents and experiences. (Patty Smith)

I found Rev Janecek to be genuinely excited about the prospect of being a part of our Church family and the FFG community in general. I do believe he has the pulpit presence that we as a Church have been longing for in a settled pastor. He has shown the ability to think on his feet and I believe he will shape and conform his style of preaching to the needs of our congregation. I think the congregation will love his wife Lilly, and the fact that in the Janeceks we have a true "team". We are truly getting a "2-for-1 deal"! Socially they are a wonderful couple and will fit in nicely with our Congregation. (Steve Thomas)

Rev Janecek's strength of character, personality, and loving nature are hallmarks of what drew us to him. He answers all the concerns we have seen in past Community Church pastors. He possesses a strong preaching acumen, his pastoral care profile and education are extremely powerful, and his one on one people skills are superb.

You may like to know that Rev Janecek is originally from Texas, has traveled extensively, now lives in Florida, is 53 years old, and his intent is to be in long-term service to our church. (Gene Pino, Pastor Search Committee Chairman)