

Christ Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, Virginia seeks a Designated Pastor

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement for our church says that God calls us to be a people who:

- Live in the reconciling Spirit of Christ;
- Joyfully praise God and grow together in faith and knowledge;
- Care for one another in His Spirit;
- Nurture each other through teaching, fellowship, and prayer;
- Reach out into our community, witnessing for Jesus Christ, and sharing His hope, faith and love;
- Stand in solidarity with those actively working to end racial injustice;
- Commit to acting with intent to achieve justice, equality, and inclusivity for all.

Church History and Current Status

Our church began in 1935 and was chartered in 1958 by the Presbyterian Church U.S. (now PCUSA). Our first worship service at the current site was January 1968. We are a diverse congregation with approximately 80 members, 59% female and 41% male. Our latest survey reports incomes between \$35K and \$300K; 81% White, 15% Black/African American, and 4% Other. Education ranges from high school to college graduates (49% with graduate degrees). The range of ages skews toward older adults, with fewer young families.

We are beginning hybrid services—one that combines in person and online worship after more than one year online. In the past, church activities included Sunday School classes for adults and children, a community Vacation Bible School and a Mother's Day Out program. Our music program consists of an adult handbell/chime choir, and previous to the pandemic, a chancel choir, and a children's chime and singing choir. We also have talented singers and musicians in our congregation. The pandemic halted many of these programs, which we hope to rebuild now that we are back in the building.

Our preschool was established in 1993 and has grown immensely. It began with a 3-hour schedule, but has expanded to a full day with before and after school programs that benefit our community. There is a close relationship between the church and the preschool. The church helped support the preschool during the pandemic and the church budget benefits from its income and sharing the costs of the building. In the current fiscal year, the preschool will provide \$41,000, amounting to 9.6% of CPC total general operating fund income.

There are many groups that meet regularly at the church now that we have reopened. Men of the Church are active and meet monthly for fellowship and to share the Word of God. Our Presbyterian Women's program has not met for several years, but an informal group of needleworkers gather weekly. Both groups are experimenting with a hybrid format that allows participation by those in the building and those at home. In 2021, the Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS) have resumed their monthly gatherings at local restaurants and CPC has provided meeting space for scouting and 12-step programs.

CPC has shown concern for our community with contributions of food and to wider missions with money. Our church congregation and preschool children donate mittens and nonperishable

food. We have joined with another church to serve hot food for the homeless with the Fairfax Area Christian Emergency And Transitional Services (FACETS) and support Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) with cash and food donations. Church members have been involved with medical mission groups to Central America, with the Presbyterian Church in Cuba, and with peace initiatives in Africa. Many years ago, our youth participated in mission projects. This past year we developed a statement on race and racism, which can be found on our website, to reflect concerns about discrimination. In 2021, several church members joined a non-partisan county effort to support voter awareness and registration.

Characteristics of Pastor Being Sought

Christ Presbyterian Church is at a pivotal moment that brings problems and possibilities. We face declining membership, more than a year outside the sanctuary, and the need to use technology to open new possibilities for worship. We are looking for a pastor who will combine personal and spiritual qualities with technological skills that will help us grow in faith and serve the Lord. Our next pastor should work collaboratively with session, Christian education leaders, the preschool director and board of directors, church staff, and lay leaders. We want a pastor who will provide stimulating preaching and spiritual maturity to inspire us on our faith journey. Because we are facing many challenges and new opportunities, our next pastor should be someone who can help us develop and articulate our vision and strategies, teach us in a biblical manner how to grow, and communicate effectively with the congregation and the community we serve. Finally, we need someone who is flexible and who possesses a technological savvy to help us develop the full potential of hybrid worship and embrace the possibilities it brings.

Pastor Responsibilities

The Designated Pastor will work a 30 hour week, with salary and benefits that proportionally meet Presbytery guidelines. We expect our pastor to lead inspiring worship services and to provide a Christ-centered focus in all interactions. The pastor will follow Presbyterian polity in moderating Session meetings, encouraging and prayerfully managing the church budget, and working with Deacons to care for members. The pastor will work collaboratively with the Office Manager and staff, and with the Music Director (to be hired) regarding weekly services and special music. It is important for the pastor to be involved in community outreach and spread CPC information via social media and other formats. The pastor will also minister to individuals within the congregation and be available during office hours (TBD) and in times of special need.

The CPC preschool is an important part of our ministry, and the pastor will work closely and collaboratively with the Director and Board to ensure the program serves the community. Christian education is critical to the mission of our church, and the pastor will provide support and work with leaders to provide programs for all ages on Sundays and at other times.

Finally, the pastor will attend Presbytery meetings, participate in committees when asked, and ensure that the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) strengthens our congregation.

Church Address:

12410 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22033, United States

Website: www.cpcfairfax.org

Address to which PIFs may be sent is: Cpcfairfaxdesignatedsearch@thepresbytery.org