

Designated Pastor - Job Description
Western Presbyterian Church
June 2024

Western Presbyterian Church, a courageous community living into God's love and justice, seeks a full-time, designated pastor to lead our congregation in downtown Washington, D.C.

We look for a pastor with the energy to lead the rebuilding of our congregation of 160-some members, who can help us create community and show us new ways of relating to each other.

We seek a pastor with strong interpersonal, communication and organizational skills, someone willing to listen but also take charge, both as the head of staff and as the teaching elder of the congregation. We look for someone who appreciates the importance of our hybrid worship and meeting tools, which help connect our dispersed congregation.

Western's congregation has enjoyed strong preaching from the pulpit, and the congregation continues to value a provocative (action-inspiring) Sunday message that makes us think, challenges us, and relates the teaching to our current world.

About Western

We are discerning how the Holy Spirit directs us to build on our foundation of social justice activism and progressive Christian values to grow and to meet the needs of our congregation and community today and tomorrow. We recognize some of the ways of doing church must evolve even as we feel the growing pains of changing beloved traditions.

Sunday morning is the primary opportunity for folks to partake in our ministry. We want more members, friends and visitors to deeply engage on Sundays through worship, music, education, volunteering and hospitality. We've experimented with Bible study during the week in person and on Zoom. We support families with a Time for Children in worship.

Our ministry is focused on meeting the material needs of vulnerable populations in D.C. and welcoming the participation of people of all racial and economic backgrounds. We are a More Light church.

We support Calvary Women's Services, Returning Citizens Assistance Network (RCAN) and Mamatoto Village. Our major ministry partner is Miriam's Kitchen, an independent nonprofit with its own staff that serves two daily meals and provides social services to people experiencing homelessness. They rent space in our church building Monday through Friday. We envision this partnership becoming more significant.

Traditionally, many church members have commuted from the suburbs, but we see potential for growth in reaching out to the young adults and older adults who live near the church. Our neighborhood and city is racially diverse, and it is a high priority for our congregation to actively welcome people of all backgrounds. We are learning how to evolve so that everyone feels like they belong among us.

Responsibilities of the Designated Pastor include:

Worship

- Design, develop and lead our worship services
- Coordinate and collaborate with the music ministry director

Discernment and Governance

- Help us clarify our vision and discern our future
- Moderate the Session
- Be an *ex officio* member of ministry teams

Leadership

- Serve as head of staff. Build a “team” with the staff; discern what staffing is needed for the future; help recruit and retain the types of staff we will need to move forward
- Participate in the local Presbytery
- Represent Western in the community, social justice organizations and in the city
- Coordinate with Miriam’s Kitchen and others using our building

Congregational Care

- Provide congregational care, including pastoral counseling
- Conduct weddings and funerals for members of the church (and as requested)
- Moderate the Deacons

Fellowship, Hospitality, Education and Mission

- Lead/guide activities in the church calendar
- Lead spiritual formation and help members to identify and share their spiritual gifts
- Engage with families to determine their children’s needs
- Develop a hospitality plan and engage folks to participate

Growth

- Help us grow and sustain the congregation
- Support our stewardship efforts
- Follow up with new visitors to welcome them and gauge their interest in the church

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