

## Pastor of Spiritual Formation and Counseling

Christ Presbyterian Church, Santa Barbara, is seeking an assistant (initially) pastor of Spiritual Formation and Counseling to lead our church in gospel appropriation. This person will have strong preaching gifts, an exceptional ability to apply the gospel to the real sin and suffering that we all experience, and be able to equip others to do the same.

### ❖ General Pastoral Responsibilities

- Share (alongside the Senior Pastor) the duty of congregational care, exercising strengths in counseling and shepherding;
- Engaged in relationships of Discipleship and Evangelism
- Teaching in a variety of venues
- Preaching *circa* 15 times a year.
- Advises at session meetings
- Intercedes for the needs of the church and world
- Engaged in the work of the Presbytery and the Denomination
- In collaboration with lead pastor and under the session contributes to overall vision, direction, and strategic initiatives of the church

### ❖ Specific Responsibilities

- Primary:
  - Develops an integrated spiritual formation plan for all church ministries
  - Has pastoral oversight of the weekly liturgy.
  - Initiates a counseling ministry by developing and overseeing a team of lay counsellors.
  - Supports and assists the Session in its shepherding ministry.
  - Provides pastoral oversight of family and youth ministries
  - Sunday morning responsibilities of service leadership.
  - Develops our congregation's capacity for evangelistic engagement
- Secondary:
  - Shares teaching and training responsibilities for service leaders and liturgy team

- Shares teaching and training responsibilities to those involved in family ministries.
- Helps our congregation transition to two services.

#### ❖ **Job Qualifications**

##### ➤ Essential:

- Master of Divinity; ordained or ordainable in the PCA, possessing the biblical character qualifications for eldership (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)
- Must trust in Jesus deeply, find his identity in Jesus, and expect to be fruitful in ministry
- Must have the ability to preach and teach clearly and effectively
- Must desire to shepherd the people of God, with skills in gospel counseling and application
- Must be learning agile and able to navigate a multi-socioeconomic and multiracial context like Santa Barbara
- Must have demonstrated ability to think strategically and creatively about ministry application and context
- Must have liturgical, sacramental, and missional instincts
- Willingness to move to and minister in a West Coast environment
- Ability and desire to collaborate with pastors, elders, deacons, and lay leaders

##### ➤ Preferable:

- Masters degree in counseling
- Ability to minister to those from a Spanish-speaking background.

#### ❖ History, Ethos, and Mission of Christ Presbyterian Church, Santa Barbara.

Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) was birthed 20 years ago out of a small prayer group. In December of 2003, CPC took residence in her current downtown location so that she might fulfill her purpose to be a church in and for Santa Barbara. In 2008, God called the founding pastor, Scott Bridges, to Maryland. Our current pastor, Kyle Wells, came in February 2010.

Santa Barbara is an super-affluent community which boast of a top tier research University, a top tier Christian College, and a number of tech startups and engineering firms. According to Barna, *Santa Barbara also has the second highest never-churched population* in the country (i.e., people who have never attended church regularly).

Nevertheless, over the last handful of years the church has experienced steady growth, both in attendance and in visibility and service to our city.

During the school year, we run at about 80–105% attendance capacity on Sunday mornings and have been discussing the need to move to two services. Our services are liturgically high (Great Thanksgiving, Sursum Corda, Weekly Communion) and culturally low/roots (modern musical arrangements; conversational English; majority are casually dressed). Those attending are very diverse educationally (PhD's to no GED), politically (democrats, republicans, independents, libertarians); racially (65% White, with the other 35% identifying as Latino, Hispanic, Asian, and Black); socio-economically (home owners to homeless), religiously (we have cradle Presbyterians, Eastern Orthodox, Baptists, Anglicans, and about 8-10% unbelievers), and in age (children to retirees). We currently have ministries supporting those who have recently immigrated (The stranger), the homeless (the poor), and the foster system (the fatherless). Beyond these, we seek the common good of Santa Barbara by participating in First Thursdays, a downtown arts evening, for which we won an award. More information can be found on our website, though it is dated and does not give a fully accurate picture of who we are now — we are in the process of redesigning it.

Santa Barbara is a highly transient city and our community is in the midst of much transition itself. Through the Spring and Summer about 10 percent of our regular attenders moved away. During this time, our pastor of worship and arts, Paul Ranheim, got married and moved to Nashville so that his wife could pursue a nursing degree at Vanderbilt. Paul started ministering here in 2011, was well loved, had a key role in initiating much of our outreach and in constructing our service. Needless to say, he has left a big gap.

After prayerfully considering the needs of our congregation and city, the Session believes that at this time God is calling us to look for a pastor whose gifts will support the shepherding, discipleship, and equipping ministries of the church. Even with all our growth, in the last years we have, sadly, experienced an overwhelming amount of failed marriages, suicide, unemployment, and the like. We trust that God will use this new pastor to equip our congregation to minister to those in these painful situations. We also hope that God will use this person to enable us to grow through the gospel in greater depth of relational and emotional health.

If you know of any potential candidates who would fit this role, please contact Kyle Wells at [kyle@cpcsb.org](mailto:kyle@cpcsb.org). Qualified and interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and preaching samples to the same address.