

Dear Candidate:

We appreciate your interest in our posting, and would like to provide a brief overview of the particulars of our fellowship. Covenant Church is situated in Millers Falls, one of five small villages in Montague, Massachusetts. Our congregation draws mainly from a larger village in the town, as well as from abutting small towns; two families commute from somewhat farther away. Four of the villages of Montague tend toward blue collar workers, with a higher percentage of residents of the fifth village attached to professional vocations.

Our county is the most rural in Massachusetts. It is blessed with lush visual beauty in its hills, forests and rivers, and provides abundant opportunities for four season outdoor recreation. Montague is within a brief commute to the University of Massachusetts, and to Smith, Amherst, Hampshire, and Mount Holyoke Colleges. There is a Community College in the next town, and six private boarding schools nearby. We live in an area with easy access to Boston and New York City, to the beautiful mountains of the northern New England states and our own Berkshires, and to the ocean. Education, the arts, agriculture and manufacturing ground much of our area's labor force. Having said that, it is fair to note that with all of the beauty and resources that New England offers, it is also known as hard spiritual ground, with the larger culture often suspicious of those who profess allegiance to the historic, biblical Christian faith.

We believe it is fair to characterize our congregation as loving, low conflict, and eager to receive the ministry of the Word. Folks pitch in across the board in caring for both the facility and for one another in fellowship and when in need. We have been dedicated across many decades to providing appropriate Sunday School for all ages—even down to a class of one, if necessary. Our current families with children all home school. We are friendly to visitors and have a fellowship time every Sunday, with a “pot providence” once a month. We begin our Sundays with a brief gathering of all ages to examine the week's question from The Shorter Catechism and then move to Sunday School. We celebrate the Lord's Table monthly, are traditional in our worship format, and sing from the Trinity hymnal. We are also an aging congregation who has struggled with outreach; overall we are gray-haired or very busy with school-aged children, with few who are in between! We would very much like our church to grow and to be a beacon in its little village and the town in which it nestles. We have tried several kinds of outreach in the past, but to little effect: we are willing to learn—but also to be honest about the challenge.

Thank you for reading this brief account of our church and considering us in your own quest. Both the search committee and congregation at large are faithfully praying and eagerly waiting to see who the Lord calls to serve alongside us and declare His Word to us.

Sincerely in Christ,
The Search Committee of Covenant Church
Jesse Hall, Chairman

Dear Candidate:

Covenant Church is a mission church of Southern New England Presbytery with a commissioned Session consisting of two Ruling Elders from a sister church, and one of our own Ruling Elders. Any candidate should be prepared to work with the temporary Session, two Deacons and two Ruling Elders in training. We are in a time of great transition. We are looking for a Pastor whose primary work would be to shepherd, equip, and disciple the congregation of Covenant Church leading us through example. Candidates should be strong preachers whose sermons are faithful to the Scripture, well organized and easily applicable to the lives of the members of the body. The ability to humbly present the Gospel of Christ each Sabbath in a whole hearted and passionate manner is very important. We are also seeking a man who will be a servant leader in evangelical efforts in our community, which in New England, has the reputation of being hard spiritual ground. Potential candidates should be administratively strong, as in our body the pastor is the only "staff" who is remunerated at the present time. All other work is done by the body as a way of serving. Covenant Church also highly values the historic faith and seeks a pastor who is a strong teacher in theology and how it applies to current events in the community and culture. We seek someone who is able to teach us faithfully from Scripture who the One true God is and how we can glorify and enjoy Him forever.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Search Committee of Covenant Church