



Lehigh Valley Presbyterian Church

31 South 13th Street
Allentown, PA 18102

610.439.0200

www.lvpca.org



Enclosed:

Invitation to Call

Values and Practices

Additional Profile Information

Dear Candidate,

We invite you to consider the call of Pastor for the Lehigh Valley Presbyterian Church (LVPC) in Allentown, PA. We are a community of Christians seeking to worship and serve God, believing that faithful and sincere worship forms the core of the Church's life and is the fount from which all godly affection arises. Such worship strengthens our participation in the life of Christ, which motivates and compels us to minister, in Christ's Name, to one another and to our neighbors. Thus prompted, we desire to mature in the likeness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and to transform our world according to the pattern revealed in the Bible.

Central to our Sunday gatherings is our worship of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We worship in a liturgical style that allows us to worship as individuals as well as a community of believers through our singing, praying, confessing, listening, receiving, and responding. Weekly communion refreshes and strengthens us. In the midst of our structured worship, one will experience lighthearted moments and comments, children delighting in worshiping with us, and hearty participation by the congregation. Through our worship, God is glorified and we are enlivened, prepared, and sent out to represent God to a broken world.

While we are a small congregation of approximately 70 members, we are a dedicated congregation, consisting of several families who have attended the church for decades. In addition, this call is to replace a Pastor who has shepherded the church for more than 35 years. While he nears retirement, two Elders, John B. Harley and Royce Seifert, intend to stay on, and would be a blessing for any new Pastor, as they are learned men of God who will support the new Pastor in many ways.

The church facility is a converted synagogue, set in a residential inner-city area on the edge of Allentown's business district and downtown area. Allentown, the third largest city in Pennsylvania, sits 60 miles north of Philadelphia and 90 miles west of New York City. The area and community are diverse in every way, and the city is currently undergoing a major revitalization ([an extraordinary development](#)). While many of the congregants travel from outside the immediate church neighborhood to attend LVPC, there is a great desire to proclaim the Gospel throughout the area.

Below you will find a list of additional profile information. If, after reviewing the enclosed information, and after prayerful consideration, you feel a call to apply for the position, please complete a PCA Ministerial Data Form (MDF), and email it with supporting information to Elder John Harley at harleyjb3@verizon.net.

We are eager to meet the man God will lead to us.

In Him,

The Pastoral Search Committee of LVPC

List of Values and Practices

Lehigh Valley Presbyterian Church

- ◆ There is a high commitment to Scripture, worship, and Reformed theology
- ◆ Worship includes weekly communion, and a custom-designed liturgy, modeled on various Reformed liturgies
- ◆ The Communion meal is comprised of bread and wine
- ◆ The church uses a lectionary and observes the church seasons/calendar
- ◆ Worship includes scriptural, expository preaching
- ◆ Session: the TE and REs receive compensation, hold two-office view, hold office for lifetime
- ◆ All elders wear white robes in worship and wear clerical collars at church functions
- ◆ Ruling elders preach during worship a few times a year
- ◆ Session is willing to interview young children for admission to the Supper
- ◆ Members with intellectual disability may take communion
- ◆ Pastor conducts morning and evening prayer
- ◆ Anointing with oil available with prayer and laying on of hands
- ◆ Session is committed to covenantal theology, including having all children baptized
- ◆ Session promotes a call to commitment through membership

Additional Profile Information

Lehigh Valley Presbyterian Church

History & Demographics

- ◆ Founded in 1981 and particularized in 1982
- ◆ Current pastor has served here 36 years
- ◆ Majority of members are college-educated, middle class
- ◆ Most families either homeschool or send children to Christian school
- ◆ Ethnic neighborhood not reflected in church membership
- ◆ Inner-city neighborhood with most members traveling some distance to attend worship

Facility

- ◆ Church building is a former synagogue, older but well-maintained and functional
- ◆ Building renovations done in 1991 and 2001
- ◆ The church has no debt
- ◆ Facilities are not handicapped-accessible
- ◆ Church does not own a parking lot, but ample space is available through local, nearby parking lots
- ◆ No office space in the church building

Worship

- ◆ We use the Trinity Hymnal
- ◆ There is no formal choir
- ◆ Worship is accompanied by computer-generated organ music
- ◆ Nursery is available, but not staffed. Parents are encouraged to have infants/children in worship
- ◆ High value placed on Biblically sound, expository sermons

Ministries & Programs

- ◆ Current pastor is involved in ministerial and community associations
- ◆ Church supports 8 foreign ministries, 4 campus ministries, and 4 domestic ministries, as well as other community ministries
- ◆ Pastor conducts a weekly Bible study and Sunday evening prayer meeting
- ◆ Church web site currently maintained by pastor's wife
- ◆ There is no church secretary
- ◆ Church holds a fellowship event usually once a month
- ◆ There is no youth program.
- ◆ Sunday School conducted 9 months of the year (summer = time of fellowship)
- ◆ The church is not a program-driven congregation

Leadership & Member Care

- ◆ There is strong support for any member in need (from elders, deacons, other members)
- ◆ There is a common commitment to tithing
- ◆ There are two ruling elders