

Eau Claire Presbyterian Church (ECPC)  
Columbia, South Carolina

**Church Information Packet**

1. Congregational Profile

Our congregation consists of an average of 30 people per Worship Service. Some of us are old, some young. Some of us have deep roots here and others have been freshly planted. With several of our number either originating from or spending significant time in other parts of the country and world, we have a desire to see the gospel transform the lives and relationships of people from every tribe, tongue, and nation – both locally and abroad. On paper, our numbers in recent years mostly show a decline in church membership; however our congregation has actually seen the Lord gradually adding to our number. Our most recent additions have come through the joining of members of existing families into our fellowship – a sign that God is working among us and answering our prayers.

2. History

The roots of our church began in 1912 when Eau Claire, which means “clear water”, was a small town just outside of Columbia, SC. Initially, folks met for Sunday School in a local schoolhouse and soon gathered for worship at open-air meetings on a vacant lot donated for that purpose. First Presbyterian Church downtown was instrumental in helping the church grow and gain stability by calling the first pastor and providing a chapel building. The Lord blessed our church with growth in many ways through the years, including a close relationship with seminary students from Columbia International University (CIU). In 1973, our church chose to withdraw from the PCUS and actively participated in the formation of the PCA. Also in the 1970’s, local schools were desegregated, causing shifting racial and economic dynamics for the entire community, now part of the city of Columbia. Fewer new members came from the immediate surrounding neighborhood, fewer covenant children returned once leaving home for their education. In 2010, the church leaders participated in a Fanning the Flame Church Revitalization process, developing a mission statement and vision narrative. We thank the Lord for the ways He is at work among us and are hopeful for what He will do in days to come. It is our prayer that the Lord would be pleased to use us in sharing the precious truths of the Reformed faith within our own families, in this needy community where He has put us, and in the world - for His glory.

3. Community Profile

The Eau Claire community is located on the north side of Columbia. Composed of roughly 25,000 residents, the Eau Claire community is racially about two-thirds black, with the other third composed of primarily whites and Hispanics. Compared to Columbia averages, Eau

Claire has lower rents, property values, education rates, and household incomes, but more single-parent homes. In the past few years, several younger couples have been drawn to the area with more affordable opportunities to invest in properties. A pastoral commitment to racial reconciliation in our church could complement the goals of local groups to increase the business, educational, and health care opportunities of the community.

#### 4. Goals

ECPC Mission Statement: *For God's glory and by His grace, we exist to make, mature, and mobilize disciples who worship God, proclaim the gospel, and serve the Eau Claire community, the Columbia area, and the world.*

In addition to the above mission statement, the vision narrative completed by the Fanning the Flame team contains detailed goals and objectives in several areas. This material is available upon request.

#### 5. Worship Services

Our worship services are designed to be dialogical and word-centered. Each week we follow the dialogical pattern of a call to worship, confession of faith, confession of sin, assurance of pardon, offerings, proclamation of the word, and benediction. Throughout this pattern we hear and respond to the gospel in unison scripture readings, prayers, and the singing of biblical Psalms, traditional hymns, and contemporary spiritual songs. We celebrate the Lord's supper on a quarterly basis.

#### 6. Major Church Programs and Committees

- Sunday School with Prayer Time –10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service –11:00 a.m.
- Fellowship meals after worship service – 12:30 p.m. monthly
- Prayer Group – 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays at church member's home
- Women's Ministry Circle Meetings (WM) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month usually
- Busy, Energetic, Enthusiastic Souls (BEES) - 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays quarterly
- Session meetings – quarterly

#### 7. Community Ministries

The Lord has graciously brought several local ministries to ECPC with whom we partner by providing faithful prayer support and space in our facilities. We are so very thankful for the following fruitful ministries:

- Tutor Eau Claire – a ministry that helps children and adults gain the precious gift of reading,
- Food for the Soul – a food bank ministry we share with Capital City Church that offers the essential of food to those in need in our area of Richland County
- Two local Young Life groups – from Eau Claire High School and Ben Lippen School, giving these teens a stable place where they can hear, respond to and grow in the Gospel.

#### 8. Session and Diaconate profiles

Tim McSwain	Ruling Elder and Treasurer with clerical duties and some diaconal duties
Graham Shirley	Ruling Elder, Clerk of Session and current adult Sunday School teacher
Barry Shirley	Ruling Elder, Prayer Group leader, with some diaconal duties

#### 9. Financial Reports

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Communicant Members end of year	58	58	60
Non-communicant Members	33	33	32
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>92</b>
Family units	45	43	43
Avg SS attendance	19	20	19
Avg Worship attendance	29	32	32
Tithes & offerings	\$89,097.00	\$97,823.00	\$80,083
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$91,689.00</b>	<b>\$113,039.00*</b>	<b>\$189,788**</b>
Total Benevolent Disbursements	\$7,009.00	\$5,672.00	\$6,511
Total Operational Disbursements	\$75,125.00	\$106,128.00*	\$72,558
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$82,134.00</b>	<b>\$111,800.00*</b>	<b>\$79,069</b>

\*Included in 2016 is \$12,150 in income and a \$10,900 disbursement from an insurance claim on the sanctuary roof.

\*\*Thankful for God's provision through the estate of a member who passed away in 2016 (over \$105,000)

#### 10. Explanation of Current Pulpit Vacancy

After four years of ministry at ECPC, the pastor resigned to focus on strengthening his family. He remains a member in good standing with Palmetto Presbytery, is not currently serving in full time ministry, and continues to live in the ECPC manse.

## 11. Pastor Search Committee Members

Adeline Wallace

Barry Shirley

Cassie Jackson

Diana Myers

Jesse Myers

Linda Jo Powers

Tim McSwain