



# SOLO PASTOR SEARCH

CHURCH INFORMATION  
PACKET 2019

**PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)**  
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA) PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

Providence Presbyterian Church believes in the inerrancy and authority of Scripture, the absolute sovereignty of God, and the biblical system of reformed doctrine contained in the Westminster Standards. We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Providence is the only Reformed church in the Coachella Valley resort and retirement area of the California desert. Founded in 2003 by Rev. Clayton Willis as a church plant by Grace Presbyterian Church (Yorba Linda, California), Providence is seeking a replacement for Rev. Willis, who has relocated his family to another PCA church in Southern California. Most of the Providence church members live in the six Coachella Valley cities of Palm Desert, Indio, La Quinta, Indian Wells, Rancho Mirage and Cathedral City.

Providence enjoys a close relationship with Westminster Theological Seminary in Escondido, California. Numerous professors and students at Westminster Escondido have served as temporary pulpit supply for Providence since Pastor Willis' departure in August of 2018. Providence is also receiving temporary pulpit supply from active and retired ministers who are ordained in the PCA, OPC and other Reformed churches.

Many of the women at Providence serve or have served in leadership positions at the Palm Desert class of Community Bible Study that meets at a large local church. The men at Providence are evenly divided between those who are still working and those who are retired. In addition to its core group of members, Providence is the regular seasonal church for a dozen PCA and Reformed church Christians from Canada, northern California and other western USA states. Providence also has, over the years, been the temporary church home for Marines and their families stationed at the Marine Corps base at Twenty Nine Palms. As Palm Desert and the surrounding cities are a major vacation and convention destination, most Sundays about a dozen vacationers and conventioners who are members of a PCA or Reformed church back home will visit and worship at Providence, since they found us on the Providence web site.





Palm Desert is also blessed with three colleges: the Palm Desert campus of the University of California at Riverside; the Palm Desert campus of California State University at San Bernardino; and College of the Desert. These three colleges are largely commuter day student schools, which affords a fertile mission field of college age adults who have stayed at home for the start of their college education.

The major employers in the Coachella Valley include the Marriott Corporation and Eisenhower Medical Center.

The strength of Providence is that it has a core group of about forty Coachella Valley residents who are mature Christians, know their Bible, and actively serve the church. Providence enjoys a long term real estate lease in an office park facility in the center of Palm Desert. Providence has no long term debt other than its real estate lease.

Prior to each worship service on Sundays, several members gather from 9:00am to 9:15am at the church to pray for Providence, its members, the preacher that day and the church universal. The worship service is traditional and liturgical.

After the worship service from 9:30am to around 10:45am each Sunday, and following a fellowship time of coffee and snacks, from 11:15am to noon the children have Christian Education while the adults have an Adult Education class that is usually led by that day's preacher. On Sunday evenings from 5 to 6pm, the church holds a teaching video and discussion session at the church; R. C. Sproul videos are very popular for this purpose. The church has also studied the Westminster Confession at this Sunday evening service.





Once a month, the church hosts an all-church potluck at the church for bonding and fellowship. In addition, the church hosts an annual church wide Reformation day program and breakfast potluck as well as an annual Resurrection day church wide potluck breakfast. The church has a tradition of a Christmas Eve service focusing on the prophecy and fulfillment of Christ's birth, with accompanying hymns.

Annually, church members have a caroling event at a local seniors' retirement community, and then the carolers continue the caroling by singing at several members' homes.

In season, the 55Plus age group members meet at 6:00 pm on the third Friday of each month in a local home for fellowship, appetizers and a competitive trivia quiz. The church members as a whole, and the 55Plus age group in particular, have bonded well.

Besides the amazing beauty of the surrounding mountains, another major draw to the Coachella Valley is the cost of living. The median home price is almost half the cost of other Southern California areas like San Diego, Orange County and Los Angeles. \*

The current weakness of Providence is simple and straightforward: we need to replace our founding pastor. The other drawback to the growth of Providence is the abundance in the Coachella Valley of seeker friendly churches.

The successful applicant to become the new solo pastor at Providence, in addition to knowing, defending, preaching and teaching the Bible as the inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, should also have the personal skill set and enthusiasm to have one eye on the people sitting in the worship service and the other eye focused evangelistically on filling the empty seats at each worship service with full time Coachella Valley residents. While Providence enjoys and values its part-timers and visitors, Providence needs more church members who are full time Coachella Valley residents.



\*Cost of Living - Coachella Valley vs rest of Southern California

	Median Home Price	Population	Median Income	Median Age
Indio	\$308,200.00	86,867	\$47,922.00	33.2
Palm Desert	\$350,600.00	51,675	\$52,053.00	50.8
Palm Springs	\$409,500.00	47,140	\$45,497.00	52.5
La Quinta	\$418,300.00	40,305	\$71,074.00	45
Los Angeles	\$623,800.00	3,949,776	\$49,682.00	34.6
San Diego	\$632,000.00	1,390,966	\$65,753.00	33.9
Anaheim	\$596,700.00	349,007	\$59,707.00	33.3
Irvine	\$862,400.00	256,877	\$91,999.00	34
	source: zillow.com	source: bestplaces.net	source: bestplaces.net	source: bestplaces.net

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information and to initiate the process, please contact the Pastoral Search Committee chairman Marty McCullah at [mlmccullah@gmail.com](mailto:mlmccullah@gmail.com)

## PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

42620 Caroline Court Palm Desert, CA 92211

Email: [office@pcapalmdesert.org](mailto:office@pcapalmdesert.org)

Website: [www.pcapalmdesert.org](http://www.pcapalmdesert.org)