Solo Pastor Search
Church Information Packet 2019
Gospel Church Utah
Dear Candidate,

Thank you for taking some time to become acquainted with us. We realize that, just as we are looking to God for our next steps as a church, you also are seeking His plan for your life and ministry. Please know that we are praying for you and your family, and that, wherever God leads you, we are thankful for this opportunity to get to know you.

As you read and pray over the next few pages, we hope you will become excited about what God is doing here in Utah. The valley we call home is surrounded by mountains and desert -- the land is a beautiful but dry wilderness. The spiritual climate could be described the same way, but God is making “rivers flow on barren heights and springs within the valley” (Is 41:18).

As we describe our church and what we are looking for in a pastor, we want to be very transparent. This is a mission field. The work is slow and hard, but God is good, and His plans will not fail. If He brings you here, please know that He has gone before you and prepared co-laborers for you, and we will, by His grace, do all we can to make your work a joy.

In Christ,
Chad, Maree, Allen, Don, Diane, Ray

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him..."
Colossians 2:6
Who We Are

Our Values

**WORSHIP** - Corporate worship is the highlight of our week. Our aim is to create a comfortable, inviting atmosphere where worship is genuine, intentional and focused. As the family gathers, we call one another to put aside earthly things and focus on God through a simple liturgy that consists of singing, prayer, the proclamation of the word, and weekly communion.

We use a mixture of traditional and modern worship music, carefully chosen for its deep spiritual, doctrinal, theological, and emotional value.

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD** - We are committed to preaching that is exegetical and expository, presented in a manner that edifies both new and mature Christians equally, reminding us all of both our fallen nature, and the good news of our redemption in Christ.

**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT** - We recognize that each of us is at a unique place in our spiritual journey and we are committed to providing an environment where everyone can be honest about their questions, doubts, and struggles. We help each other grow by looking to the Bible for answers and finding opportunities to exercise our faith.

**FELLOWSHIP** - God’s relationship with us is reflected in the way we relate to our church family. Because of that, we share each other’s joys and burdens, pray for one another, and break bread together as often as
possible through fellowship meals, small groups, and social events.

**DISCIPLESHIP** - We are eager and excited to learn Christ’s ways and show others the joy of knowing and following Him. We typically do this through one-on-one personal relationships that allow us to challenge and encourage each other from the Word in the context of daily life.

**EQUIPPING THE SAINTS** - Realizing that we are engaged in a spiritual war, we help one another stay alert and put on the full armor of God. We remind them that He has already won the war. When one of us falls, we lift them up and help them prepare for the next battle, knowing that in Christ the victory is already ours.

**Our History**

Gospel Church began as a Bible study in 2011, meeting in the home of church planter Doug McNutt. As a mission church under the provisional Session of Jordan Valley Church, we had our first formal worship service in the fall of 2012 with around a dozen people, meeting in a rented school building. We later moved to our current location, where we were particularized in January of 2016, installing Doug as pastor, along with two Elders. In October of 2017 we installed our first Deacon.

In Nov 2018 Pastor Doug announced his resignation to the Presbytery, stating that the Lord was calling him back to the mission field in Central Africa. In January of 2019, his resignation was announced to the congregation where we offered our unanimous love and support for him and his new call.

**Where We Are Now**

We are a close knit, strong, diverse, and dedicated family of believers. We have seen so much spiritual growth as individuals, and maturity as a church over the years. People not comfortable praying in front of others are now sharing their prayers openly. People that were not confident in their knowledge of scripture are now able to teach others. People are taking on responsibilities because they want to participate and serve. Most of our members are not Utah natives, so in many cases, our church has become an
extended family for them. You could say that we have been developing our roots. But we now yearn for more.

We have been learning about who we are, and where we want to go from here, and that vision is becoming clearer every day in the hearts and minds of our people. We are poised now to see God grow and revitalize our church. We want our new pastor to play an integral role in doing just that.

Where We Are Going

There are two dimensions to our vision for our church. The vision of who we want to be spiritually, as well as the practical ways in which we plan to fulfill that vision. The easiest way to describe where we are going in spiritual terms is this:

We want to be a church where the work and fruits of the Holy Spirit are obvious and tangible. We want to actually experience and observe how the Spirit is working through each of us, and in our church as a whole. We are His church. If He is active and alive in us, it will be apparent through our worship services, bible studies, and in the lives of our people. But as His hands and feet, we know there are things we need to do, so we have defined a roadmap for where we want to go and what we want to do in terms of achieving our spiritual vision. The following is a summary of that roadmap.

One of the things that defines us is that we are truly a family. We know each other, we fellowship together, and are involved in each other’s lives outside of church. We want to see our church grow in number, but not beyond our ability to maintain that aspect of our church. And we need to balance that with the reality that it takes a certain number of people and financial resources in order to compensate a pastor, maintain a meeting place, and fund the programs of the church.

We are currently in a rented space for Sunday worship only. Our top priority after bringing on a new pastor is to find a 24/7 location which not only relieves us of the burden of setup and teardown each week, but opens up opportunities for ministry and other activities during the remainder of the week, as well as providing an office for our pastor. It is important to us that
we have a place that is suitable for worship - one that is exclusively dedicated as our meeting place, and is accessible and inviting to the community.

Our next priorities are around building out the programs and ministries of our church. We understand the need for providing nursery, Sunday school and other programs for our children and youth. We will work to improve opportunities for adult study and discipleship. We will support foreign and domestic missions work. And we will create other ministries to reach out to our local community.

In order to support where we are going as a church, we have begun working on rebranding and revitalizing our church. We want to meet the challenges that are unique to this area and help get the word out about who we are, and why they should consider joining our family in worship and building God’s kingdom. We have completed most of the research, consulted with people having expertise in this area, and met with two nearby PCA churches that recently went through this very process and have seen success.

We have not planned the details of this yet, so that we can invite our pastor to be part of that initiative. Our goal is to grow our church in size, depth, strength, and spirit as we labor to build up God’s kingdom in this valley.
Who We Are Looking For

A Shepherd’s Heart

We have been so encouraged at how our church has remained strong and positive when finding ourselves without a pastor. We have seen how God equips his people as our Session has offered continuity in the leadership of the church, and we are amazed at how others have pitched in to minister to each other. We have even enjoyed hearing God’s Word from visiting preachers - seeing different styles and personalities, and learning what we want and need in preaching.

However, there is an urgency in our hearts and minds that comes from knowing that a key component of God’s plan for His churches is missing. We know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep. But we are looking for someone to be our earthly shepherd, someone that has the heart of a shepherd. Someone who God has led and equipped to lead others, who has a love for that call that would render it difficult to find himself doing anything else with the gifts he has been given. Someone who will help love us, feed us, and lead us to Christ.

Leadership

We are looking for a pastor that will be a peer with the other Elders and Deacons. So while we want our pastor to lead, we are not looking for an executive, but a member of our team - each leading together. We expect our pastor to fill a special place in terms of influence, but an equal place in authority and decision making. We want our pastor to participate in the denomination (Presbytery and General Assembly), but not to the detriment of responsibilities with our church and congregation. We will want to know your vision for our church, how it melds with the vision of the session and the congregation, and how you can help lead us towards that vision.

Preaching

Preaching God's word will be at the core of this call as it is at the core of our worship. Our pastor will be expected to preach God’s word each Sunday. We desire someone that is able to both teach God’s word and apply it to our lives. Sermons should engage, and excite the members of the congregation, regardless of whether they are a non-believer, or a new or mature Christian.
Each week we need to be reminded of our fallen nature, and of the grace of God in salvation.

**Evangelism and Community**

While evangelism need not be your primary gifting, we want a pastor that would never shy away from sharing the Gospel with anyone, and someone - as Paul exhorted - who is always willing to make a defense for that hope we have in Christ. Evangelism can have a unique character here in Utah, and we would expect that our pastor would learn to “speak the language” in order to effectively communicate with the local Mormon people. And we would want someone that will not be discouraged when the fruits of your labor are not apparent.

Given that we are a small church, we would want you to work with us to seek out practical, inexpensive ways of letting the community know who we are, where we are, and inviting them in. Much of this work will focus on engagement with the community so as to meet people and form relationships with them. Typical programs and marketing campaigns do not normally show much return on investment.

**Growing the church**

We are working on growing our church both spiritually and numerically, and will invite you to help us with both. We have a number of plans in the works to help us grow, and will welcome your input as we continue to develop and execute on those plans. We have done some research on some of the unique things that seem to help churches grow in this area, and while we are beginning work on some of them, we are intentionally holding back on some in order to allow our new pastor to be part of the process, and have a voice at the table as we move forward.

When we are ready, we want to truly revitalize our church. We want to be able to strengthen our members, attract new visitors, see them return to become lasting members who grow in grace, develop their gifts and use them to glorify God.
Mission Minded

Utah is not just another place to pastor a church. It is a challenging mission field. Less than 15% of people identify as Christian. The majority are professing Mormons - although the percentage of cultural Mormons vs. real believers is unknown. Growing a church and evangelizing here is difficult, but rewarding, and will take the heart of a missionary - someone that not only loves God’s people, but all people, and aided by the Spirit, willing to go out and mine that mission field along with us.

There are many resources available to help learn about Mormonism’s history, doctrine, and culture, and would advise anyone who chooses to do ministry here to take some time to learn about those things.
About Utah

History of Utah
Utah was first settled by Native American tribes, of which the Fremont Culture are probably the most interesting and mysterious. The Utes are probably the most well-known. In 1824 the famous American frontiersman Jim Bridger discovered the Great Salt Lake. Then in 1847 Mormon pioneers arrived and settled in the Salt Lake Valley, and soon throughout the state and the intermountain west. The U.S. acquired the Utah region in the treaty ending the Mexican War in 1848, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed with the driving of the golden spike at Promontory Summit in 1869. The Mormon church denounced polygamy in 1890, and was then admitted as a state in Jan 1896.

Utah is rich in natural resources and beauty. The traditional industries of agriculture and mining are complemented by tourism and tech-related businesses. It offers a rich economy and job market. As a result, its population is growing, and its demographics are rapidly changing to include people from across the country and around the world. And the state’s natural beauty leaves no lack of outdoor recreation and sporting resources. Utah claims the “Best Snow on Earth” and offers year round opportunity for outdoor fun and exercise.

Tech and Industry
Utah is home to many STEMM jobs (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medicine).

Utah has gained the title of Silicon Slopes, and touts being the fastest growing state for tech jobs in recent years. In fact, its problem now is that there are more jobs than people to fill them.
Utah’s top industries include Aerospace and Defense, Health Technology, Sporting Goods, Natural Products, Renewable Resources, Travel and Tourism along with many others.

**Education**

Utah’s primary and secondary school systems are generally ranked in the middle across the US. Our church is located in the Jordan School District which has around 55,000 students. There are also good charter schools in the area, and there are a few Christian/Catholic schools as well. Home schooling is certainly an option. It is well accepted, but does not have a very large community of home schools.

The University of Utah has a School of Medicine, a teaching hospital, and a children's hospital. Utah State University, and Southern Utah University are also fine schools.

There are community colleges, trade schools, and numerous private colleges from small and specialized to large and well-respected universities.

**Demographics**

Utah has a little over 3 million people and over 80% of them live in the three counties of Salt Lake, Davis (immediately north), and Utah (immediately south), and a second population center around St. George. We are a young state with a median age of around 30, and a significantly high ratio of children to adults. Around 80% of people are white, with a quickly growing latino population, and an overall growth rate of over 4% per year. We are also experiencing a significant influx of people from outside the state due to the favorable economy, geography, and climate.
Income and Housing
The median income is $68,358 compared to $61,372 nationwide.

The overall cost of living is a little over the national average. With 100 being the average, Utah is 117. However, it is actually lower than average in all categories except housing.

The median list price per square foot in Utah is $192. The median value of homes currently listed in Utah is $249,400 versus $229,500 nationwide. The median rent price in Utah is $1,550. There is quite a diversity of housing types from apartments to townhomes, to single family homes of every size and style. Many new homes are energy efficient.

Recreation
Utah is a paradise for the outdoor sports:
- 5 national parks, 5 national forests, 7 national monuments and 43 state parks.
- World class ski resorts.
- Hiking, climbing, camping, RVing, rafting, boating, mountain biking, waterskiing, golfing, off-road vehicaling, are all available for all levels.
- An equestrian center in South Jordan.
- There are many road races (serious) and family fun runs (just for fun).
- There is an active and outdoorsy culture here. You’ll find trailheads filling up early in the morning.

Utah has a semi-arid, temperate climate with four distinct seasons, and is the second driest state in the US after Nevada. Our average yearly precipitation is 16.5 inches. The humidity is very low and can be hard on hair and skin, but makes the cold of winter and the heat of summer much more bearable.

It is not uncommon to have a summer day in the 90s, while you gaze at the snow capped mountains.
Our Offering

While more information is included in the job posting itself, here is some additional information about what we are offering to whomever God calls to be our new pastor.

Our pastor will be a co-laborer with our Session, and our congregation. While you will have specific responsibilities such as preaching, you will not be asked to run the church or be the head of everything. Nor will you be asked to stand back and serve as a figurehead. We will treasure your leadership, wisdom, friendship, and knowledge of God’s word, along with providing opportunities to exercise all of your Spiritual and personal gifts and talents. But you will be a part of our team as much as you will be a shepherd.

We understand the amount of work involved in this call. It taxes your spirit, heart, mind, and body. And we also know how your family can be affected by that as well. We want to be sure that you have sufficient time for refreshment and renewal. So we offer the following benefits which are negotiable:

- One day off per week.
- 4 weeks of vacation time, including up to 4 Sundays to be taken at your discretion.
- Additional time to be negotiated with the Session for things such as study, writing, education, fundraising, ministry, mission trips, speaking engagements, etc..
- Sabbatical. This will need to be planned well in advance along with the Session, and we have no determined timeframe, but will work to offer an extended time of sabbatical over the course of the years that you may spend with us.

Based on what we can offer in terms of salary and/or benefits, we are open to working on some creative ways to ensure you are properly compensated. We are a small church, and resources are limited at this point in time, but we understand the need to take care of you and your family. Our expectations for your time will be proportional to the compensation we provide so that you will be free to pursue additional income if needed.
Application Process

If you are interested in being considered for this call, please submit the following information by email to Allen at jayallenloew@icloud.com.

**Contact Information** - If not included in your resume, please include your email and phone number. Also, let us know your preferred method, and best times to be contacted.

**What You Are Looking For In Call** - While the details may be in the other information you are providing, a short statement of what you are looking for in a new pastoral call would be helpful.

**Resume** - Please attach a copy of a current resume. Include the following information:
- A brief description of how you came to know Jesus
- A brief description of how you came to be called to the ministry
- Your Christian education history
- Your ministerial history

**Sermons** - Please include links to at least two sermons. We would prefer they be fairly recent, and if possible one OT, and one NT.

**Ministerial Data Form (MDF)** - Please attach a copy of your completed form.

**Other Info** - If there is any additional information you wish for us to consider, please feel free to include that in your email.

**Referral**

If you wish to refer someone you know that might be a good fit for this position, please feel free to forward our information to them. If you prefer, you can send us their contact information along with your reasons for referring them to us.