Senior Pastor Job Description

What follows is a list of gifts, skills, and responsibilities which Faith Reformed Church requires to fulfill the ministry that God has set before us. Sections 1, 2, & 3 contain the core, essential requirements that we expect our senior pastor to carry out with the help of God’s Spirit and grace. Section 4, on the other hand, outlines the duties which the senior pastor will share with the other elders of the Session. We realize that no single person will be gifted in all of the areas identified in this document. This job description, therefore, can be adjusted by the Session to reflect the specific abilities of our next pastor. Additionally, it is understood that this job description will be examined annually to determine whether it represents the best use of the gifts of the pastor and the needs of the congregation in carrying out the ministries of the Church of Jesus Christ in a changing world.

1. Personal Spiritual Requirements:

1.1 To be an active and committed disciple of Jesus Christ, setting aside time to grow in one’s own faith through Bible reading, meditation and prayer (1 Timothy 4:7b, 15; 2 Timothy 3:14-17), and exemplifying in speech and action what it means to be a growing and fully-devoted student of the Christian faith. (Titus 2:7-8; 1 Timothy 4:12b; 1 Peter 5:3b)

1.2 To be an example of a godly husband and father (if applicable), not neglecting one’s responsibility of being a servant leader and active participant in one’s own family life. (1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6)

1.3 To be a visionary leader who works to build consensus with the other elders, seeking the Holy Spirit’s leading (Ephesians 6:17b-18) while keeping one’s eyes and heart on the latest developments in the church and the world, and discerning how those developments might impact and apply to Faith Reformed.

1.4 To be a Christ-like public representative of Faith Reformed Church in Cedar Grove and the surrounding area. (1 Timothy 3:7)

1.5 To uphold and model our church’s vision statement: Deeply Loving God, Authentically Loving Others, Boldly Living God’s Word. (Matthew 22:37-39)

2. Senior Pastor Responsibilities:

2.1 To preach the whole counsel of God through sermons that are thoroughly grounded in the biblical text, engage both the mind and the heart, and equip the saints for ministry. (Acts 20:27; 2 Timothy 4:2; Ephesians 4:12)

2.2 To lead and oversee the staff and lay leadership of Faith Reformed Church (2 Timothy 2:2), making sure that the work of Christ’s Church is undertaken with compassion, fairness, decency, and order (1 Corinthians 14:40); and that the ministries and programs of the church are carried out with a common vision and a unity of purpose (Ephesians 4:3, 11-14).
2.3 To conduct weddings, funerals, and baptisms.
2.4 To participate in leadership in community joint-ministry opportunities.
2.5 To actively represent Faith Reformed Church in denominational activities at the Wisconsin Presbytery and General Assembly levels.
2.6 To regularly receive input and accountability regarding faithfulness and fruitfulness (of sermons, life, etc.) from the Session.

3. Ministries/Committees Requiring Senior Pastor Oversight:
3.1 To work closely with and communicate freely with the youth director in coordinating goals and responsibilities for the congregation, demonstrating companionship and support in the efforts of youth ministry within the congregation and greater community, and to develop relationships with youth of all ages.
3.2 To be a mentor and leader to the youth director providing timely feedback on performance, as well as completing and discussing the youth director’s annual performance review by August 1st of each year.
3.3 To equip and oversee Faith Care Groups in their ministry of care, fellowship, and service to the congregation and the community.
3.4 To be responsible for—with the executive committee—overseeing that all Session committees are meeting on a regular basis and reporting issues, business and current information dealt with on a timely basis to the Session.
3.5 To work with the worship team as they plan worship services.

4. Senior Pastor Responsibilities to be Shared with the Session:
4.1 To provide spiritual leadership to the whole congregation, seeking opportunities for personal and group prayer (Ephesians 6:18), and one-on-one or small group discipleship. (Acts 20:20; Matthew 28:19-20)
4.2 To provide pastoral counseling to those preparing for baptism, marriage, or suffering the loss of a loved one, and to evaluate the pastoral needs of those in other situations of stress (e.g. marital, family, emotional challenges); to provide care where it falls within one’s area of giftedness and available time, and to refer other cases as necessary to other professional caregivers.
4.3 To be available to teach classes within the congregation on a regular or a periodic basis. (1 Timothy 4:11, 13)
4.4 To call on the sick, the homebound, people with special needs, and responding to crises and emergencies (James 5:14); to share with the Session the ministry of general visitation of the congregation. (Acts 20:20)
4.5 To do the work of an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5b), and to guide and instruct the members in personal and congregational evangelism. (Ephesians 4:12)
4.6 To encourage and equip the members of the congregation to identify and to use their gifts in ministry within the church and the community, and to lead the Session to challenge, release, and empower members in various ministries. (Ephesians 4:12)
4.7 To conduct church discipline. (Titus 2:15; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5)