



# Okinawa Covenant Church

Presbyterian Church in America

## PASTOR/TEACHING ELDER

Okinawa Covenant Church  
Okinawa, Japan  
<http://www.okinawacovenant.org/>

If interested, please reach out to [okideacon@gmail.com](mailto:okideacon@gmail.com) to speak to the church, or [ckrep01@gmail.com](mailto:ckrep01@gmail.com) to apply.

Documents to include:

- Resume
- Cover letter, including a statement as to why this unique opportunity interests you

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## CHURCH PROFILE

### History

Okinawa Covenant Church (OCC) is a Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) mission church of the Southeast Alabama Presbytery, planted by Ministry to the Military and Internationals (MMI). It was originally formed by faithful service members in 2004 with oversight from its sister church, Trinity Reformed Church in Landstuhl, Germany, with the intent of providing a reformed, bible believing church on Okinawa to serve the more than 50,000 service members and their families. OCC received its first teaching elder in 2009.

### Vision

OCC strives to be a Christ-centered, worship-driven, body of believers that are faithful to the Scriptures, true to the reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission.

### Mission

The mission of Okinawa Covenant Church is to obey the Great Commission and Cultural Mandate of Jesus Christ by ministering to the English-speaking community in Okinawa, Japan through evangelizing, teaching, training, and fellowshiping as a body of believers.

### Facilities

Currently, OCC has been blessed to use the building of an Okinawan church that does not currently hold services, for a small monthly donation. This building will not meet the future needs of the church and the OCC congregation is actively seeking a new building that will better suit the future growth of the church.

## **Staff**

Currently, the OCC congregation is ministered to by teaching elder Mark Moore. Though a mission church, OCC has a session and a diaconate that serve the practical needs of running a church on a daily basis. The session includes the teaching elder, and typically one to two ruling elders. The diaconate has one to three deacons at any given time.

## **Congregation**

The target audience of OCC is American service members and their families. Due to the military lifestyle, the congregation is uniquely transient, with the majority of all members turning over every 2-4 years. Individuals or families may extend their service commitment, or may be civilian contractors with longer term employment, and may thus remain on island longer. Additionally, there are ex-patriots and local nationals who live in Okinawa and attend OCC, but they are the minority within the congregation.

## **Membership, Attendance, and Giving**

Since official membership began in 2010, OCC has seen over 260 members join the church. The highest membership at any given time was 95 members in the spring of 2018. Currently, OCC has roughly 30-40 worshippers on any given week. In 2018, OCC received just over \$113,000 in tithes and offerings.

## **Ministries**

Traditionally, church members attend different Bible studies in conjunction with the base chapel. Additionally, there are Women in the Church (WIC), and Men in the Church (MIC) groups.

## **Strengths**

OCC exhibits strengths in multiple areas but none more so than its sense of community. Being a small congregation, families get to spend intimate time together, relying on each other for support. Almost every family has a key role in the weekly function and facilitation of worship.

## **Challenges**

Over the years, the congregation has averaged approximately 80 worshippers on a weekly basis. However, during the last year, OCC has seen a significant decrease in the number of families due to the Permanent Change of Station (PCS) cycle. Though a few new members have joined, OCC currently has a smaller congregation than would be normally expected. This is in part due to the limitations of the small building in which we currently meet and the recent establishment of another reformed church on island. With the planned departure of the current pastor and the need to find a building suitable for future growth, we believe OCC is at a critical juncture.

## **Strategy for Moving Forward**

OCC will continue to focus on faithfully preaching the gospel, developing a strong sense of community, and teaching the reformed faith as the foundation for ministering to the English-speaking community. OCC has a pulpit nomination committee which is actively seeking a pastor for submission to the MMI commission for approval. OCC also has a building search committee which is actively seeking to find a meeting space where OCC can grow, offer more services to children and families, and have better visibility than is possible at the current location.

## **PASTOR PROFILE**

After prayerful consideration, we believe that Okinawa Covenant Church's next teaching elder should display the characteristics described below.

### **Preacher/Teacher**

The candidate for this position should have an unyielding desire for the word of God and an intuitive ability to deliver complex ideas in an understandable fashion. Congregants should show evidence of spiritual growth due to the direct tutelage and mentorship of the pastor. He should have a zealous love for God and His flock.

### **Devotional Life**

The candidate should place a premium on personal devotion, believing this to be an integral part to the successful execution of his roles as a pastor.

### **Pastoring/Shepherding Skills**

The candidate should demonstrate a variety of desirable traits related to pastoral care, to include: a devotion to fellowship with the body of Christ; the humility to place the needs of others before himself when necessary; a keen eye and discerning intuition when dealing with fallen man; and a natural aptitude to connect with others on a meaningful level.

### **Leadership**

The candidate should demonstrate several leadership traits, both natural and cultivated, to include: understanding and encouraging others' abilities; managing and delegating responsibilities as appropriate; executing orderly church organization and administration; maintaining control over most any situation he may find himself in; possessing a thorough understanding of his own strengths and deficiencies; and being able to guide the church by setting the example.

### **Counseling**

The candidate should possess the skills and abilities to facilitate both formal and informal counseling sessions, on an individual or group basis, as the need may arise. His process of counseling should be grounded in Scripture, and he should actively seek out opportunities to counsel those in his congregation, knowing when such input is desired or needed.

### **Family and Children**

The candidate should strive to encourage biblically-grounded family relationships between all members of individual families, preeminently demonstrating such relationships himself. He should actively support family, adult, and youth ministries as appropriate and as able.

### **Evangelism**

Though the primary audience for OCC is the English-speaking community on Okinawa, the candidate should have a willingness to preach the Gospel to any and all persons as the Holy Spirit should lead him. Furthermore, the candidate should foster active evangelism from members of the congregation, equipping and guiding them for the task.

**Missions**

Going hand in hand with evangelism, the candidate should have the willingness to engage in and support active mission work within the community and beyond, managing and directing the resources of the church to the ultimate glorification of God. The candidate should have a willingness to work with the pastor of a Presbyterian Church of Japan (PCJ) plant in Okinawa, if such a church plant comes to fruition.

**Worship**

The candidate should have a comfortable, yet passionate demeanor when leading worship, and should encourage the congregants to actively worship God on a daily basis.

**Administration**

The candidate should have the managerial skills necessary to delegate, supervise, and perform all manners of tasks necessary to the daily function of the church.

**Visitation**

The candidate should be ready and able to visit with individuals and families of the church, encouraging hospitality and fellowship with one another and with members of the community.

**Professional Growth**

The candidate should constantly endeavor to promote personal and professional growth in themselves and in the congregation through daily study of the word and fellowship, encouragement, and discussion with others. He should seek to continue his education through seminars, conferences, and classes as able.