Lake Trails Presbyterian Church

Church Profile
Dear Pastor Candidate,

Thank you for contacting Lake Trails Presbyterian Church regarding our open senior pastor position. During 2019, our pastor, Shaun Spencer, began to feel that the Lord was leading him and his family to be in a smaller town. He felt that he had been called to Lake Trails in 2010 at a time when we needed healing and stability, but that he had taken us as far as his gifts would allow. To that end, he accepted a call at an Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) congregation in a little town in rural Idaho. His last Sunday with LTPC was February 23, 2020. After a tearful and loving farewell, we all parted as friends in the Lord.

Our Assistant Pastor/Resident Scholar, Max Harris, and our pastoral intern, Michael Vogel, stepped in to provide pastoral care, pulpit supply, and leadership during our time of transition. Then COVID-19 hit, and the world changed. Our last corporate worship was held on March 8. Since then, our church has been adapting to our new “safer-at-home” norm:

- Homilies are distributed every Sunday morning by video.
- Following the homily each week, we virtually meet for fellowship via Google Hangouts. It is not the same as meeting in person, but it helps keep us connected to each other.
- Several times each week, Max provides e-mailed Bible meditations to the congregation.
- Our worship team frequently records and e-mails music for us to enhance our worship and study time at home.
- Community groups are now virtual, as are our other church meetings and ministries.

At the end of June, Michael Vogel accepted a call as the interim pastor at Harvest Church of Madison, one of our sister churches. The Session has now appointed a full-time interim pastor to serve our congregation beginning in September, allowing Max Harris to step back from the active pastoral role in which he has served us faithfully since March.

As a congregation, we most desire to keep growing in Christ and to prayerfully seek a pastor who loves Jesus and strives to live like Him. We value thoughtful biblical teaching centered around the Gospel, which is the vital core of our heritage of worship services richly interwoven with preaching, prayer, and music.

The community our congregation creates, and the support that it provides through loving relationships, makes our church feel like family. To those who are considering shepherding our body of believers, our prayer is that this church information packet will provide some insight into what makes our little corner of the Kingdom unique.

We look forward to welcoming into our family the person God is already preparing to lead us.

In Him,

The Pastor Search Committee
Jim Baird · Anne Broadbridge (chair) · Nathaniel Johnson · Marie Knibbe · Tucker Meyers · Leigh Tsipis
Mission & Values

Our corporate public worship and our life together will form a visible and inviting witness to Jesus for our community and for our world.

Our Core Values

Worship: in and through Christ

Prayer: a privilege and utter necessity

Mutual care: loving one another in Christ

The Kingdom of God: justice, mercy, and reverence for God

The Gospel: the divine power and authority of Scripture

The call of God: calling all people to Christ

What We Believe

At Lake Trails we believe that the Bible tells the truth about who God is, who we are, and how we are to relate to God and the world he made. We join with other Christians around the world and across the ages in affirming the Scriptural truths summarized in the Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostle’s Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Chalcedonian Creed). We also affirm the Westminster Standards as a faithful summary of what the Bible teaches. Our congregation is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America, whose churches desire to be “Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ”.

Principles for Ministry

We believe that the ministry of Lake Trails should aim at simplicity of structure and organization, putting our emphasis on two main aspects: our corporate public worship on the Lord’s Day and our life together. We believe that these emphases will best cultivate and express the long-established core values we have as a congregation.

While the ministry of our church involves the ministry of leaders, the ministry of Lake Trails depends on us all serving together. We believe that the work of imprinting our community and the world for Jesus is everyone’s work as we worship together and live out the gospel in our own spheres of influence.

We believe that our public worship on the Lord’s Day is a fundamental and indispensable part of our witness to what Jesus is doing in the world.

More details about our core values are in the Appendix.
Who We Are
The people of Lake Trails come together for worship every week from many educational, economic, and cultural backgrounds. We are university students and professors; young professionals and business people; recent parents, established families, and empty-nesters; life-long believers, new Christians, and seekers. We value the neighborly love that has formed in our little community.

Throughout our 29 years, our Sunday worship has been a combination of prayer, Scripture readings, silence, preaching, eclectic music, and celebration of the Lord’s Supper. We strive to put these elements together in a way that focuses our attention on the Triune God.

The other mainstay of our lives together is participation in Community Groups. These smaller weekly gatherings give us time for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Together, we grow in our knowledge of God and of each other and are encouraged in our labor in God’s kingdom.

History
Lake Trails began in 1991 as a church plant of the Northern Illinois Presbytery and was organized as a particular church in 1995. The PCA has grown in this part of the Midwest, and we are now part of the Wisconsin Presbytery.

Four pastors have served Lake Trails; the most recent of those, Shaun Spencer, ministered here faithfully for the last ten years. He was joined in 2014 by our Associate Pastor and Resident Scholar, Max Harris, who was also co-pastor at Lake Trails 1995–2003. After Shaun’s move, Max and our pastoral intern, Michael Vogel, stepped in to provide pastoral care, pulpit supply, and leadership while we search for our new pastor.

Membership by Age

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>0–12</td>
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<tr>
<td>13–18</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>19–24</td>
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Finances

Building Rent
Pastor Compensation
Other Expenses
Missions
Intern Stipend
Presbytery – On Wisconsin
Diaconal Fund
Manse – Capital Projects
## Ministries

### Corporate Worship
- Liturgy shaped by God’s covenant
- Worship aided by artistic richness and variety
- Engagement of the whole person—mind, will, and affections

### Sunday School
- Classes on various topics for different age groups

### Discipleship
- One-on-one relationships among members
- Foster encouragement, accountability, and growth in love and knowledge of Jesus

### Women’s Ministry
- Women striving to live and serve one another in love and community
- Women of all ages and life situations organize Bible studies, prayer groups, and social groups to encourage and support women as they negotiate their lives in Madison

### Prayer
- An integral ministry of our congregation
- Weekly pre-worship meeting and women’s group

### Ministry of Elders and Deacons
- Work closely together to care for the spiritual and material needs of church members
- Guide members in awareness of and involvement in needs outside the church

### Community Groups
- “Mini-parishes” in the congregation
- The primary arena for congregational care
- Support participants in their efforts to love their neighbors

### GriefShare
- Support for people in the church and community who are dealing with the loss of a loved one
- Group discussions facilitated by lay women and men in the congregation

## Current Mission and Outreach Opportunities
- Church planting in Wisconsin (the PCA’s On Wisconsin program)
- Friend of Sinners Mission Church and Genesis Lighthouse (Milwaukee, WI)
- Reformed University Fellowship at UW–Madison and UW–Milwaukee
- Cru at UW–Madison
- Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
- Jamie and Jackie Gildard (France)
- Denise Runge (Kenya)
- Mission Together, Inna Bohn Translation Ministry
- Mission to North America
About Madison
As Wisconsin’s capital and the state’s second largest city, Madison is a hub for government, business, culture, and education. It is consistently voted one of the best places to live and one of most bike-friendly cities. It is the home of the University of Wisconsin, and its populace is among the most educated in the United States. The five lakes and numerous parks in the Madison area offer recreational opportunities in all seasons, while the Overture Center for the Arts and various museums, sports, and entertainment venues keep Madison active throughout the year.

About 47% of residents have a religious affiliation, and most identify as Roman Catholic (22%) or Lutheran (12%). Madison is ranked eleventh of cities considered the most post-Christian in the U.S. and it is where the headquarters for both the Freedom From Religion Foundation and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship are located.

Key facts
- Population (Madison): 255,000
- Population (Dane County): 569,000
- UW Madison students: 43,300
- School districts: 3 ranked in the top 20 (among Wisconsin’s 446 districts)
- Parks: 260

Helpful links
- visitmadison.com/media/fun-facts/
- cityofmadison.com/visit-play
- realestate.usnews.com/places/wisconsin/madison

Location
Lake Trails is located on the west side of Madison. Our congregation draws from members across the Madison area. Many live on the west side. Others live near the university and in surrounding suburbs such as Fitchburg, Middleton, and Verona.

Because our members live across the city, we also have Community Groups at members’ homes in various neighborhoods. The church’s manse is centrally located.

We have several sister churches nearby: Resurrection Presbyterian Church, Harvest Church of Madison, and the Madison Chinese Christian Church.
Facilities

We have held worship in various locations on Madison’s west side during our 29 years. We took up residence in our current location, the lower level of One Point Place, about eight years ago.

In 2016 we purchased a four-bedroom manse. With two large living rooms, a screened-in porch, and a large back yard, it provides a nice alternative to our office location for small groups to meet during the time of coronavirus restrictions.
Job Description
It is our desire that the next pastor of Lake Trails will be a man devoted to personal spiritual growth through private devotions, prayer, and Bible study. Our congregation strongly believes that this kind of personal and vibrant spiritual life and connection to Christ is an essential starting point for all ministry, from corporate worship to the spiritual growth of church members.

Desired Characteristics
- A skilled teacher and preacher who clearly and effectively communicates God’s word in a way that is instructive and applicable and that leads the congregation to a sincere pursuit of spiritual maturity and service.
- A devoted disciple-maker who actively supports and encourages members as they grow in their faith, so they also learn to disciple others.
- A caring shepherd who ministers to his flock through friendship, nurturing, and counseling, and who is a present help and comfort in crisis.
- A strong leader who can manage the affairs of the church in an organized, effective, and godly manner, and who serves as a model for other leaders in the congregation.

Major Responsibilities
- Preaching
- Managing church ministries and business
- Leading and working with the Session
- Fostering community in the church, both corporately and individually

Additional Responsibilities
- Helping to plan worship services
- Participating with community outreach, evangelism, and missions efforts
- Pastoral counseling
- Representing the church in presbytery
- Attending General Assembly

Qualifications
- At least 5 years’ ministry experience preferred
- Ordained or able to be ordained in the PCA
- Masters of Divinity or comparable degree

Please send resume to pastorsearch@laketrailschurch.org.
Appendix

Lake Trails Core Values

The Gospel — The Divine Power and Authority of Scripture
God created all things by His powerful Word for His glory. The Bible alone is the inerrant written Word of God, revealing who God is and how we are to live before Him. When we believe and rely upon the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ revealed in the Bible, we surrender our lives to God’s redemptive power to forgive, restore, and renew us. *We will humbly seek to understand, believe, live in accord with, and make known the whole Word of God.*

Worship — In and through Christ
We were created to worship and serve our Creator, but our pride and unbelief led us to reject God in our hearts. Since God is holy and jealous for our whole-hearted devotion, we now need a mediator even to approach God, before whom no sinner may stand. In His amazing grace, God has called us to joyfully enter His presence in and through His Son, Jesus Christ, as revealed in Scripture. *We will gather weekly as a community, joining the hosts of Heaven, to worship and serve God the Father, in and through our mediator Jesus Christ, by the power of His Spirit, for the glory of God in our world.*

Mutual Care — Loving One Another in Christ
A living faith in Christ is marked by Christ-like love for His Church, involving sacrificial care for one another’s needs. How that care is expressed depends on the needs of the body, the measure of our faith, and the nature of our gifts. As we serve one another, we serve the Lord. As we make our needs known to one another, we acknowledge our need of Christ and our place in His body, the Church. God has commissioned pastors and teachers to equip His people for building up the body of Christ. *We will humbly strive to be a community that needs and cares for one another in Christ.*

The Kingdom of God — Justice, Mercy, and Reverence for God
Jesus came to liberate us from a kingdom of spiritual darkness—marked by injustice, selfishness, and pride—and to usher in the Kingdom of God—marked by justice, mercy, and reverence for God. *By His grace, we will pursue His Kingdom purposes in our homes and work. We will also seek to extend His Kingdom to those in need around us, especially the hungry, alien, homeless, sick, orphaned, widowed, and imprisoned. We will humbly seek to bless all places where God has called us, all for His glory.*

Prayer — A Privilege and Utter Necessity
God has given us His Son, whom He loves. He will also graciously give us all things in accord with His will. *Knowing this privileged standing we have in Christ and knowing that apart from Him we can do nothing, we will persist by faith in Kingdom-centered prayer.*

The Call of God — God’s Calling All Peoples to Christ
God’s Spirit is continually drawing to Christ a people from all nations and people groups. God has commanded his Church to make disciples of Christ. *We will expect, prepare for, and pursue opportunities to make devoted followers of Christ of those who do not yet trust in His name.*