

# Covenant Presbyterian Church Russellville, AR

## PASTORAL SEARCH

### A Man After God's Own Heart (1 Sam 13:14)

The new Pastor will bring his unique God-given strengths while continuing to lead Covenant Presbyterian Church in personal godliness, confessional integrity, and biblical fidelity building on what the Lord has done, is doing, and will do. The next pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church must be a man devoted to personal spiritual growth through private devotions, prayer, and Bible study.

### Qualifications

- Ordained or able to be ordained in the PCA
- Master of Divinity or comparable degree
- Full subscription to the Westminster Standards
- (Prefer) Pastor is married to provide insight in applying biblical principles to marital issues
- (Prefer) Pastor with biblical counseling training

### Major Responsibilities

Pastoral Responsibilities regarding **Preaching, Teaching, Worship, Spiritual Development, Discipleship Training, Evangelism, and Community Involvement** at Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Russellville, AR:

According to the Westminster Catechism Q/A #1, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever". How much more should that also be the mission of the church -- to worship and glorify God as we proclaim, demonstrate, and share God's supreme glory in reconciling unworthy sinners to Himself through the incarnate birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and reign of His Son Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. From the New City Catechism, we answer the question, "What is the Church?"

1. God chooses and preserves for Himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together.
2. God sends out this community to proclaim the Gospel and Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

**Regarding Worship:** We believe that the corporate gathering of the church is to praise and worship God as our audience of One. As we anchor our worship in the Word of God, in the regulative principles of our reformed faith, we seek to reveal the majesty of God's saving grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Every part of worship, regulated by Scripture, will lead the congregation — to admire and adore God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; — to see our great need of His gracious deliverance from sin; — to love and commit our lives to loving the Lord our God through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love each other and our neighbors as ourselves.

**Regarding Preaching:** We want to see and know the triune God through the expository, clear preaching of the Word of God by a pastor that lives his life by the Gospel that he preaches as he is enabled by the Spirit of God. We expect a pastor to preach the whole counsel of God, to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable in his preaching as applicable to life in the family, church, community, nation, and world. We want to see Jesus as the answer to our heart's deepest desire and the only source of our faith and life. We want to be challenged to live our lives Coram Deo, before the face of God. Knowing this is a daunting task, we offer our pastor much grace and our consistent prayers.

## **Major Responsibilities (continued)**

**Regarding Teaching:** There is a difference between preaching and teaching, and the participants may be somewhat different. We encourage our pastor to take a primary role in teaching adult Sunday school which also includes the older students among us. We prefer that this venue be more interactive, involving a question/answer format for at least part of the time. We offer much flexibility in this area and the session will be a good sounding board. Video-based studies from Ligonier and others have been instructive and enjoyable to participants. The pastor has also generally been instrumental in picking out the VBS curriculum and securing teachers for that endeavor.

**Regarding Spiritual Development of Members:** We believe in Jesus as the Messiah so that we might be set right before God by trusting in the Messiah, not by trying to be good (see Galatians 2:11-21). But we are not yet mature in our faith and understanding of the whole of the Gospel. Our sanctification is yet to be completed. We need to be motivated by example, by preaching and teaching, by the leading of our pastor to strive to truly love the Lord our God through His Son and with the enabling of the Holy Spirit with all our heart, spirit, strength and mind and to love one another and our neighbors as ourselves. The Sunday school hour has been the primary method of facilitating spiritual development and discipleship training for adults, along with a men's and women's Bible study. The older children/students have benefitted from separate Catechism/ confirmation studies in the past. Younger children have been taught in Sunday school by a rotating schedule of women of the church.

**Regarding Discipleship Training:** "No one is justified [and placed in right standing with God] by works of the Law, but [only] through faith in [God's beloved Son,] Christ Jesus... For through the Law we died to the Law and its demands on us [because salvation is provided through the death and resurrection of Christ], so that we might [from now on] live to God. We have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him, we have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer we who live, but Christ lives in us. The life we now live in the body we live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself up for us. We do not ignore or nullify the [gracious gift of the] grace of God [His amazing, unmerited favor], for if righteousness comes through [observing] the Law, then Christ died needlessly. [His suffering and death would have had no purpose whatsoever.]" (See Galatians 2:11-21 AMP) Therefore, we are in continual need of training in the law and the Gospel to learn how we may please God.

**Regarding Evangelism and Community Involvement outside of the church:** Jesus commissioned all believers to take the Gospel to all nations, teaching them to obey all the Word of God (Matthew 28: 18-20). Our new pastor should lead our congregation and individuals, by example, teaching and discipleship, in sharing the Good News in families and the community. We seek to follow the Lord and find ways to engage our community so that we may truly 'love our neighbor' so that others may enjoy God's grace with us. Seeking first the Kingdom of God and extending the Kingdom of Jesus Christ over all individual lives through all areas of society is the goal of 'community involvement'. Being like Jesus, Friend of Sinners.

Russellville is home to Arkansas Tech University (ATU) and our church had a very successful outreach on campus in the past. Our desire is to begin a new outreach to college students attending ATU.

## **Summary**

The ideal pastoral candidate will be intentional in teaching, preaching, and training all ages in the whole counsel of God in His Word. We desire to be what Charles Spurgeon expressed: "Let us live the life of Christ in public. Let us take care that we exhibit our Master and not ourselves - so that we can say, 'It is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me.'"

## Summary (continued)

Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Russellville, AR, is seeking a pastor to lead a small, reformed congregation of committed believers:

- 1). to grow in the knowledge of and faith in the Triune God who gloriously manifests Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and to show us and teach us of God's glory; to teach us who our God is in all His fullness, to know the greatness of His person and work, to grow our faith and confidence in Him
- 2). to demonstrate to us Christ's love and teach us to love one another and our neighbor as ourselves; sharing the Good News of the Kingdom with those around us
- 3). to show us how to live humbly before God and teach us in spiritual discipline
- 4). to demonstrate discipleship to us and teach us to lead/mentor others into mature followers of Christ fulfilling the Great Commission
- 5). to lead us in thinking biblically about current moral issues and how to respond to them with grace

## Additional Responsibilities

- **Congregational Visitation:** Church officers and our Pastor will develop and carry out a systematic plan for visitation of the entire congregation with special attention to prospective members and those with special needs as well as Hospital or Emergency Visitation (Session assists with this).
- **Congregational Fellowship:** Emphasis placed in developing fellowship and helping members to know one another and function as a family. Emphasis on biblical hospitality in and through the congregation.
- **Encouraging the Ministry of the Laity:** For example: many members are involved with and some are leaders in Bible Study Fellowship, Int.
- **Able to Counsel from the Bible** and make referrals as necessary.
- **Mission Beyond the Local Community** as we are able. At minimum, lead the congregation to be informed and prayerful for the church at large and mission everywhere.
- **Administrative Leadership:** (delegates with church support).

## Desired Pastoral Ministry

Demonstrated experience in preaching, teaching, evangelism, discipleship, and worship leadership are top priorities for this position as detailed below. A skilled teacher and preacher who clearly and effectively communicates God's Word in a way that is instructive and applicable and leads the congregation to a sincere pursuit of spiritual maturity and service.

Obedience to God's commission of evangelism by actively taking opportunities to share the Good News of the Gospel through preaching the Word, personal sharing with others, and in local and missionary outreach activities.

The shepherd of his family, whose house is in order.

### **Desired Pastoral Ministry (continued)**

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 able to help and comfort in crisis.

A strong, humble leader who provides worship leadership and ensures with the Session the affairs of the church are conducted in an organized, effective, and godly manner. He serves as a model for other leaders in the congregation.

A man of God, courageous in Christ.