



For the Glory of God & the Good of Orlando



University Presbyterian Church Church Profile

Provided by the Senior Pastor Search Committee, solely for candidates of the position

www.upcorlando.org

Introduction

University Presbyterian Church (UPC) is a reformed church in the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA). We are a community of ordinary people who believe that true fulfillment in life is found only in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

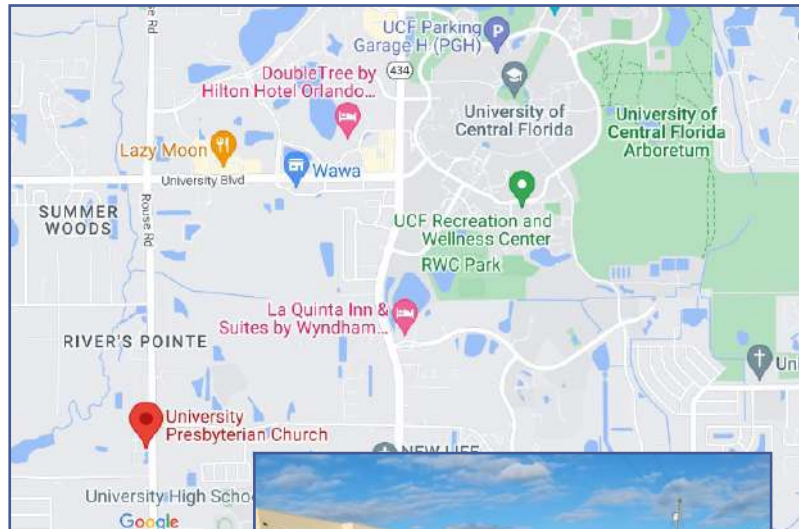
UPC is located on the east side of Orlando, less than two miles from the University of Central Florida. Additionally, Orlando is an international city with an increasingly diverse population. Over the last three decades, Orlando has been characterized by rapid population growth; and so today, our congregation draws its membership from dozens of residential developments within a 15 mile radius. We seek to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel to our neighbors and the nations.

The purpose of this profile is to give you and your family a high-level overview of who we are and what we value, as well as to provide a glimpse of our worship style, ministries, history, and where we live. Please see the accompanying Pastor Profile to discover what we seek in terms of gifting, strengths, and qualifications/experience for our next senior pastor.

The church has retained the services of Dr. Chuck Frost of McGowan Global Institute to assist us with identifying candidates. Chuck can be reached by email at chuck@mcgowanglobal.com or by phone at (601) 946-6838.

If you wish to contact the Search Committee, please email us at psc@upcorlando.org.

Thank you for your interest in University Presbyterian Church.





Our Vision and Mission

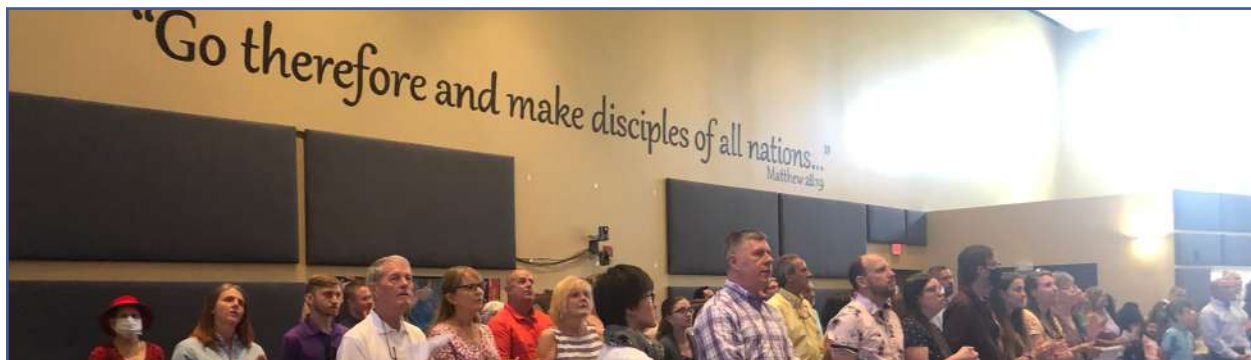
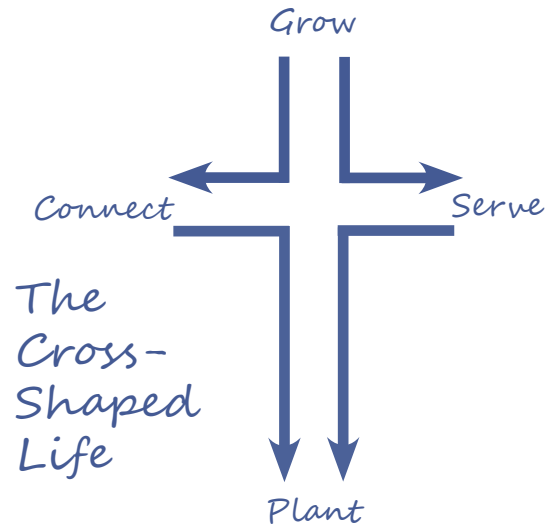
Vision

Our vision is to see the Kingdom of Heaven represented by people from all walks of life. As stated in Revelation 7:9a (ESV) “a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”

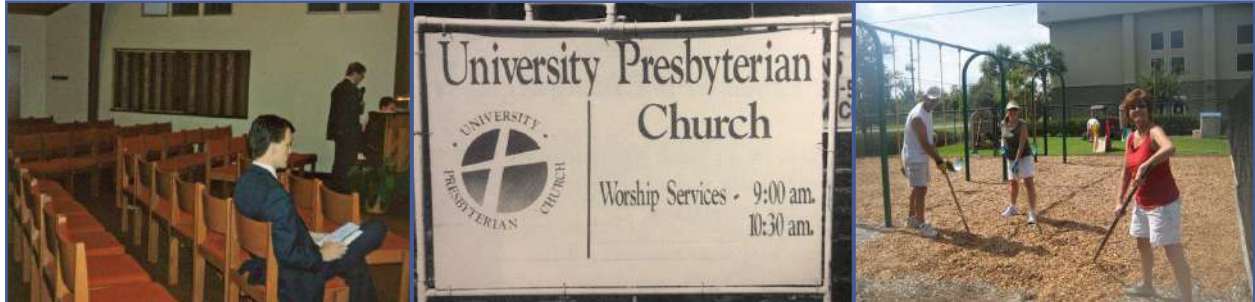
Mission

Our mission is to follow the words of Christ from Matthew 28:19a (ESV) “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” We seek to achieve this mission, by God’s grace, through this model of the Cross-Shaped Life:

- Grow (Discipleship) - Disciples experience *Gospel Transformation* as they become Christlike (mature) in moral character and missional conduct.
- Connect (Evangelism) - Disciples participate in *Gospel Proclamation* as they meet the spiritual needs of people in East Orlando and other strategic world locations.
- Serve (Mercy/Justice) - Disciples participate in *Gospel Demonstration* as they meet the physical needs of people in East Orlando and other strategic world locations.
- Plant (Church Planting) - Disciples participate in *Gospel Multiplication* as they increase the number of disciples, Life Groups, and Congregations in Central Florida and other strategic world locations.



Our History



UPC recently celebrated 30 years of ministry in East Orlando. UPC was a daughter church of nearby Orangewood Presbyterian Church in Maitland, Florida and was formed to reach unchurched people within the rapidly growing area surrounding the University of Central Florida (UCF).

The church's first service was held on September 15, 1991 with 253 people in attendance. Its first mission statement was "Transforming lives in a changing world." The power of the gospel has been transformational for both unbelievers and believers and has helped to mold the church throughout the years.

As UPC was forming, several para-church organizations were moving to the Orlando area, including Campus Crusade for Christ, Wycliffe, Pioneers, and others. Many families from these ministries found a home at UPC and greatly contributed to the growth and work of the church.

In 1995, UPC purchased 10 acres of land off of Rouse Road, a narrow two-lane country road. UPC's newly acquired property was located about five minutes from UCF's campus. The first building was completed in 1997. By 2005, the church had acquired 16 acres of additional land and constructed a new worship center along with a multipurpose building. Ten years after UPC's initial land purchase, Rouse Road had become a four-lane divided urban roadway.

God has faithfully provided for every need throughout the years. UPC has benefited from many gifted pastors, ruling elders, deacons, lay leaders, interns, and staff. God has graciously provided ministry resources such as land and buildings. We look forward to the next 30 years and beyond, as we trust God to use UPC to bring the hope of the gospel to our community and the world, to His honor and glory.



Past Leadership

Since its beginning, UPC has been served by three senior pastors who have made valuable contributions to extending Christ's Kingdom locally and globally.

Rev. Mark Bates – (1992-2007) Founding Pastor

Mark was known for saying, “the next three months are the most important months in the life of our church.” And he was right. God kept showing up and under Mark's leadership, the church expanded from rented facilities, to buying land, to building its initial multi-purpose facility, culminating with the current worship center. Mark's commitment to gospel-centered preaching and emphasis on God's grace propelled UPC through its early years. He challenged the congregation with expressions like “every member is a minister.” Under his direction, small group ministry was started and the congregation began to be more active in outreach to the poor within our community. In 2007, Mark accepted a call to Village Seven Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs.

Rev. Mike Osborne – (2008-2013)

UPC's first Associate Pastor was Mike Osborne. Mike's pastoral heart greatly fostered community and shepherding, which gave life to UPC outside of Sunday services. Mike was a former Senior Pastor at another church and initially did not want to be considered for the role when Mark resigned. However, God began calling Mike back to the role, and he reconsidered his decision. Mike's love for people, his previous experience, and his familiarity with UPC allowed for a seamless transition and continued growth.

Rev. Matt Ryman – (2013-2021)

Matt became the Youth Ministry Intern at UPC in 2007. He served in that role during his entire enrollment at Reformed Theological Seminary. After graduation from seminary, he worked full time as a Youth Pastor serving both middle and high school students. Under Matt's leadership the youth ministry grew to more than 80 students, many from unchurched families. Matt was

eventually called as an Associate Pastor, and he transitioned out of youth ministry to focus on other UPC ministry areas. In late 2012, Mike Osborne approached the Session about himself and Matt exchanging roles. Mike felt that he could better serve in his gifting as an Associate Pastor and better position the church for the future. With the recommendation of the Session, the church congregation voted to install Matt as the Senior Pastor. Matt emphasized disciple-making as being fundamental to Christian and church life. His vision was summarized in the model of the “Cross-Shaped Life.” Community outreach, particularly to the working poor and homeless, grew under Matt's leadership. In June 2021, Matt accepted a call to pursue a church planting opportunity in Minnesota.

An Interim Pastor, Rev. David O'Dowd, was hired in September 2021, and in December 2021 the congregation had elected a Pastor Search Committee to identify UPC's next Senior Pastor.





Our Staff and Leadership

Pastors & Staff

Interim Senior Pastor
Executive Pastor
La Viña Church Planter
Worship and Arts Director
Youth Ministry Director
Ministry Directors
Facilities & Events Coordinator
Business Manager
Administrative Assistant
Children’s Ministry Director
Digital Communications Manager
Facilities/Maintenance

Rev. David O’Dowd
 Steve Weidenmuller
 Rev. Pablo Torres
 Stephen Trafton
 [Budgeted and Recruiting]
 [Budgeted but On Hold]
 Lisa Stephens
 Tanya Turner
 Megan Brown
 Gabby Peterson
 Courtney Besteman
 Jim Stanfield



The 2022 UPC Pastors and Staff. They love UPC!

Elected Church Leadership

Elders

Chris Akers
 Vic Godlewski
 Brent Larson
 Tim Maguire
 Brian Moore
 Harvey Spears
 John Webb

Deacons

Matt Adams
 Justin Besteman
 Tony Bowie
 David Brown
 Mark Brown
 Jim Dennis
 Dan Felix
 Gary Pepin
 Tim Stahl

Additionally, **Redeemer Counseling** has an office on UPC’s campus where services are provided to people from UPC and the surrounding community.



Our Worship and Music

Public worship is at the heart of UPC. In it, we glorify God, make and grow disciples, and become equipped to serve our neighbors and the nations.

Worship Values and Vision

God-Centered – The Triune God gathers *us* for a meeting with *Him*.

Gospel-Shaped – We hear the Gospel throughout the service, and our narrative liturgy allows us to experience the unfolding story of the Gospel as participants.

Ancient & New – We are deeply rooted in the Reformed Tradition, at the same time, intentional about accessibility and the vernacular in our speech and in music. We blend traditional and contemporary elements and styles.

Balanced – We strive throughout the service to bear witness to God’s glory in awe and reverence while also having moments of God’s closeness and intimacy.

Formative – God gathers our community to reorder our loves and to form us into a particular kind of people whom he calls to move out into the world counter-culturally.



Purposeful worship is an integral part of UPC Sundays

Evangelistic Worship – Worship at UPC seeks to build up the body of Christ, while at the same time remaining accessible to those questioning and exploring faith.

Participatory – In our services, people are not spectators watching a performance, but active participants in the service through the liturgy, including having lay men, women, and children lead portions of the service in accordance with their gifting.

Growth culture – We pursue excellence in our music and all portions of the service encouraging lay people from all levels to serve while growing in their skills and growing as worshippers.

Exegetical Worship – Taking the themes from the scriptural text of the day not only determines the preaching, but is worked out through all of the elements and songs each Sunday.

Loving the Community and the World – Each service emphasizes that God gathers us to ultimately send us out into our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, as well as into global engagement.

Ministry Teams

UPC has been blessed by a number of full-time Christian workers (Cru, Pioneers, Wycliffe, RTS, etc.), as well as other lay people, who have provided a source of leadership for the church's various ministries. The change in Senior Pastor and the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted church participation and affected the strength and size of church ministries. The following section shows our assessment of our current ministries and future desires.

Continuing to Flourish

Children's Ministry – a thriving children's ministry has served as a cornerstone of the church and includes a wide-reaching VBS outreach to the neighborhood each summer

ESL – our largest outreach ministry teaches English while loving and sharing the gospel with our international neighbors

Family Advocacy Team – an all-round mentoring program for families living in marginal conditions in UPC's surrounding neighborhoods

JOY Group – men and women, 50 years and older, who want to continue to enjoy fellowship, learning, and ministry opportunities



UPC has partnered with the local Elementary school for over a decade

Life Groups – small groups that meet regularly for encouragement and spiritual growth through the studying of God's Word, praying, and serving together

Missions Team – promotes a Great Commission emphasis within the church and connects with the numerous missionaries supported by the church

Special Ministries – periodically UPC offers special opportunities for those who are dealing with grief, abuse, or other life circumstances

Transformers Club – outreach to the church neighborhood providing children a place to have fun and learn about Jesus, as well as getting help with their homework

Women's Ministry – numerous Bible study opportunities and activities to build friendship and community among the women of UPC

Worship Team – musicians contributing regularly to worship services on Sundays



We are thankful for the Children's Ministry and volunteers who teach the gospel to God's children each week

Emerging Opportunities

The Arts at UPC – seeks to foster a flourishing group of artists, to grow the arts in public worship, and to produce more opportunities and events that engage the imagination through art

Family Ministry – expanding beyond the annual “Breakaway Marriage Retreat” currently held, we seek to minister to the family as a whole

La Viña – a church plant of UPC which meets on the church’s campus, La Viña is a Spanish-speaking congregation that presents an opportunity to reach the large Hispanic community in our midst

Singles Ministry – recently launched this year, this ministry serves to provide community to single adults

Rebuilding

Men’s Ministry – expand beyond the annual bowling event to bring men together for friendship, growth, and community

Youth Ministry and College Ministry – Staff changes and the challenges that occurred during the pandemic have hurt participation in these ministries; this is a major focus for the church moving forward

Events at UPC

- The Great UPC Bake-off
- Men’s Ministry Bowling Night
- Vacation Bible School
- Breakaway Marriage Retreat
- Trunk or Treat
- Manna Thanksgiving Dinner
- Andrew Peterson Concert
- Disney Concert on the UPC Lawn
- Carols and Cocoa on the UPC Lawn



Andrew Peterson “Behold the Lamb of God” Concert



The 2022 Great UPC Bake-off inspired bakers of all ages



We love to connect with our neighbors at the UPC Trunk or Treat

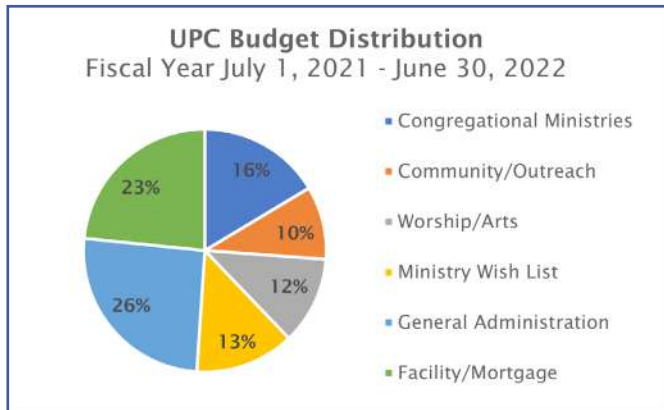


Manna Thanksgiving Dinner 2021



Finances and Church Statistics

UPC's budget is summarized below for Fiscal Year (FY) July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.



Congregational Ministries	\$231,563
Community/Outreach	\$137,901
Worship/Arts	\$165,235
Ministry Wish List	\$186,729
General Administration	\$360,754
Facility/Mortgage	\$330,418
TOTAL FY 21-22 BUDGET	\$1,412,600

FY 2021's giving of \$1,244,000 fell below budget by \$85,000. However, actual expenses were \$158,000 below budget leaving a surplus of \$73,000 at the end of the fiscal year.

Like many churches, the COVID-19 Pandemic impacted attendance and giving. The average Sunday morning attendance fell from a pre-pandemic high of 500+ per week to what is now closer to 200+ per week (plus a number of online participants). One benefit of the pandemic was that we expanded our presence online and continue to minister this way even though we are now meeting again in person.



Easter Sunday, 2022

Church demographic information can be found in the results of our 2022 Congregational Survey on the UPC website: www.upcorlando.org/pastor-search-committee



Welcome to Orlando

Our Neighborhood

Life in East Orlando is very accessible with convenient shopping centers, many quality schools and parks, and well-maintained neighborhoods. This area is a great place to raise a family. UPC is in ZIP Code 32817 and its demographics, along with nearby ZIP Codes, are summarized in the table below.

	32817	32826	32828	32825
White (%)	59	57	47	37
Black (%)	8	9	7	8
Hispanic (%)	25	26	35	47
Asian (%)	7	6	7	7
Population	35,100	29,400	58,000	53,000
Median Household Income	\$47,000	\$48,600	\$77,350	\$62,300



We enjoyed serving Chick-fil-A breakfast to the Teachers & Staff at Riverdale OCPS before the 2021-2022 school year

UPC has developed a close relationship with Riverdale Elementary School located about a half mile from the church. We love having neighbors to connect with and serve right in our backyard.



Each December, our congregation and community are invited to the UPC Lawn for a Disney concert sing-along, featuring Disney singers and musicians

The Greater Orlando Area

Orlando has grown 22.5 percent since 2010, and now Greater Orlando has more than 2.6 million residents. Central Florida is a desirable place to live for so many reasons.

In Central Florida, you can enjoy a morning at Cocoa Beach watching a SpaceX rocket launch, and a “magical” afternoon at one of the 12 theme parks. Then you can go downtown to the Dr. Phillips Center for a Broadway musical or spend an evening cheering on one of the many hometown sports teams.

Continuing education is also very possible in Central Florida, with Orlando hosting more than 35 institutions of higher education. Reformed Theological Seminary is just 8 miles from UPC. Residing even closer, the University of Central Florida has more than 70,000 students and is the second largest student body of any public university in the U.S., drawing many international students and faculty to our area.

From our warm, tropical climate, to abundant entertainment options, and cultural and educational opportunities, you will find Orlando a great place to call home. Come and live where the rest of the world comes to vacation!



Next Steps

Thank you for prayerfully considering UPC

Dear UPC Senior Pastor Applicant,

As you prayerfully consider God's call for the next stage of your ministry, we want you to know that University Presbyterian Church offers a tremendous opportunity to work alongside a staff and congregation that are warm-hearted, gospel-centered, and zealous for the Lord.

If you are interested in pursuing the Senior Pastor position, please contact Dr. Chuck Frost at chuck@mcgowanglobal.com to begin the first step of the process.

With our church for the glory of God and the good of Orlando,

The UPC Pastor Search Committee