

Providence Presbyterian Church

Applicant Information Sheet

Part 1: The History of Providence Presbyterian Church

In 1994, the Lord began to place a desire in the hearts of people for a PCA church in Lubbock, Texas. After a few failed attempts, in 2001 the Southwest Church Planting Network out of Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas began to develop a plan for a church plant in Lubbock. The network chose Lubbock for three reasons. First, Lubbock was a “hub” city to many other smaller areas. Second, having a large Division I university campus in Lubbock, made for a perfect partnership with RUF. Finally, the church plant would be the only reformed church in a 300-mile radius. With good reason and funding, the network hired Rev. Rob Bailey as the church planting pastor for Providence Presbyterian Church in early 2001.

The vision for this new church in the “Hub City” was first to grow and multiply and second to be home to the RUF ministry at Texas Tech University. A core group met in Bible studies and small groups for a while, and on October 14, 2001, Providence had her first advertised worship service in the Science Spectrum building. In God’s providence, a practice run for this service took place on September 11, 2001. It was a sweet time for this core group to come together to pray for our nation’s tragedy and prepare for what the Lord was doing in Lubbock.

In the fall of 2002, Providence moved from the Science Spectrum to the Ralli House. Attendance had grown from 50 to over 100 people with a third being college students. The church was closer to being self-sufficient and began the process of becoming particularized. Rob Bailey left Providence to move closer to his mom in the southeast in 2005. In 2008, Providence became particularized in the PCA under the leadership of the session and lead pastor, Rev. Jim Angher. Having the goal in mind of finding a building near the Texas Tech campus, Providence purchased the building she currently resides in on 34th Street and Indiana. The congregation has been shepherded by Rev. Ronnie Rowe for the last nine years.

Currently, the life of Providence consists of multi-generational community groups, men’s and women’s Bible studies, adult and youth Sunday School, and growing Covenant Children’s and Youth Ministries. For over twenty years, Providence has faithfully participated in worship, offered Christ-centered teaching, and supported local and foreign missions. The RUF ministry at Texas Tech University is thriving under the leadership of Rev. Davis Sweatt. Providence continues in her vision of bringing the hope of Christ to the people of Lubbock and beyond.

Part 2: Position Description

Church life at Providence centers around Sunday morning worship. Providence seeks a pastor who is a skilled expositor of the Word, and who preaches with clarity and conviction. Preaching should primarily be expository, although occasional topical sermons or series may benefit the

flock. Owing to the importance placed upon preaching, our church understands and appreciates the lead pastor's need to spend an appropriate and necessary amount of his time devoted to study and sermon preparation.

The church also desires active leadership within the worship service. The congregation enjoys thoughtful selections of scripture, music, responsive readings, creeds, confessions of sin, and other means to direct their hearts to the Triune God. Faithful administration of the sacraments is of vital importance in the worship of our covenant-making and covenant-keeping God. Providence celebrates the Lord's Supper weekly and rejoices in the baptisms of believers and their children.

An established congregation, the people of Providence desire growth in their Christian walks. The senior pastor should provide leadership to facilitate and encourage discipleship of congregants and to encourage members to utilize their gifts to serve. He will work with the Session to refine existing programs or introduce new ones to continue disciple-making in the body. Our senior pastor will model and encourage evangelism.

The senior pastor oversees paid and volunteer help to accomplish the mission of the church and meets with the Session monthly. He will cast a Christ-centered vision for the direction of the body, and work with others to realize that vision.

Part 3: Qualifications

- Personal testimony of love for Jesus Christ and faith in his saving life, death, and resurrection
- Character traits laid out in I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:7-9 as fitting for the office of elder
- An approachable, kind, and generous spirit that encourages and seeks out interaction with people of all ages and stages
- Assured and clear leadership, with a willingness to delegate where necessary
- Master of Divinity or equivalent
- Minimum five years of ministry experience
- Ordained or ordainable as a Teaching Elder within the PCA

Part 4: Lubbock, Texas

Lubbock, Texas is the "Hub City" of the South Plains. With a population of 260,000, it is the largest city between Dallas/Fort Worth (5 hours to the east) and Albuquerque, New Mexico (5 hours to the west). Lubbock is the birthplace of the rock-n-roll icon, Buddy Holly. It is also home to the second largest contiguous university campus in the United States, Texas Tech University (Guns Up!). Palo Duro Canyon, 120 miles north of Lubbock, is the second-largest canyon in the United States. Our rich agricultural landscape proudly produces 40% of the nation's cotton.

Texas Tech University is a major Division I University. It has more than 40,000 undergrads and has graduate schools in law, medicine, engineering, business, etc. On game days, school spirit can be seen throughout the city with Texas Tech flags flying high, and people dressed in red and

black to show their support. When people aren't enjoying university sporting events, they can take a hike through Palo Duro Canyon or Caprock Canyon, kayak at Maxey Park, or enjoy a late-night movie under the stars at the local drive-in theater. Families can enjoy several museums including the Science Spectrum, the Ranching Heritage Museum, the Buddy Holly Museum, and the Texas Tech Museum. One can see numerous concerts, including the occasional traveling Broadway show, at the newly built Buddy Holly Hall of Performing Arts.

Lubbock Stats and Info:

- A diverse community with 50% white, non-Hispanic, 37% Hispanic, 8% African American, 3% Asian, and 2% other
- Boasts three reputable public school districts, numerous excellent private schools and a thriving homeschool community
- Place of consistent growth with a strong economy, lower than the national average cost of living (median housing price of \$209,000)
- First-rate medical community with multiple hospitals
- Flourishing art, music, and food cultures

The people in Lubbock do not lack friendliness or hospitality. It is a large city with a small-town feel. One can easily fall in love with Lubbock and call it home.

Next Steps: Please email your cover letter, resume, Ministerial Data Form, and examples or location to examples of preaching to pastorsearch@providencepca.org.