



PASTORAL SEARCH

New Haven, Connecticut





GREETINGS

IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST!

If you are reading this booklet, it may be because someone forwarded it to you and thought you might be a good candidate in the search for our next lead pastor. Be encouraged that others see how God has gifted you. Or perhaps you heard of our search and discovered this booklet on your own. Whatever the reason in God's providence, we greet you.

Maybe you are at a moment in your ministry when you are prayerfully considering whether God might be leading you to a new call. Maybe the opportunity to minister to and reach people in a diverse, vibrant, historic city in the shadows of a world-renowned research university appeals to you. Maybe you have ties to the northeast and sense a longing to return, or you are drawn to the challenges of ministering in a "post-Christian" context like New England. If so, we invite you to read on. Hear our story. Learn about our community. Understand our sense of mission. Discover our city and the region we love.

Through these words and pictures, we have done our best in this limited space to describe who we are, where we have come from, what we value, how we hope to grow, and what we are looking for in our next lead pastor. If our story speaks to your sense of calling, we encourage you to reach out to us to see if our journeys might align and come together.

We are praying that God is preparing our next lead pastor and that we will clearly know who he is in God's timing. If that is you, we hope it will become clear to you, too. If not, may the Lord bless your labors wherever he leads you.

In Christ,
The CPC Pastoral Search Advisory Committee

Tanilla Brown, Lisa Hawkes (co-chair), Kaitlyn Jessee, George Levesque (co-chair), Diane Miller, Megan Paek, Bill Phinney, Tyler Rice, Alan Tweed, Heather Woolbert



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Our Story

The seeds for CPC New Haven were planted in the summer of 1991 when three young families, a Yale graduate student, and a recent Gordon-Conwell Seminary graduate, Preston Graham, met with several pastors from the Presbyterian Church in America (Tim Keller, Skip Ryan, and Charlie Drew) to discuss a possible church plant in New Haven, one that would faithfully teach the gospel of Christ from a Reformed theological perspective.

During the 1991-1992 academic year, Preston agreed to lead a Bible study with the group to help them lay a theological foundation for planting a church. Meanwhile, he was considering pastoral calls and was invited to preach a final candidacy sermon at a congregation in his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia. Immediately after the sermon, someone in the congregation, a Yale undergraduate student, greeted Preston with a challenge to consider planting a church in New Haven, with no PCA church for many miles in every direction, rather than accept a pastoral position in Atlanta, which has dozens of faithful churches. As Preston retells it, “the voice of God could not have been more clear and compelling.”

In September of 1992, after raising needed funds to cover a first year budget, Preston was ordained by the Northeast Presbytery of the PCA and commissioned to plant a church in New Haven. On October 11, 1992, CPC held its first worship service at Amity Regional Junior High School in Orange, CT. Other milestones include renting a church office and new worship space in downtown New Haven (1994), purchasing an historic house at our current location (1997), moving to a larger worship space at Yale Divinity School (1998), and holding our first worship service in our current sanctuary (2002).

But our ambition was never simply to become an established church with a building. Rather, our ambition was to reach all neighborhoods and vernaculars of New Haven and to see Christ's Kingdom expand throughout Connecticut, New England, and to the ends of earth.



Beginning with church plants in Providence, RI, and Danbury, CT, we asked God to establish 10 more local churches, and 10 more global churches, in 10 years. It was bold, we knew, but we also knew we have a big God.

God moved in the hearts of people both outside and inside the congregation to give generously and sacrificially toward this goal. The Lord eventually raised up \$3.5M for this cause, and in 2009 a church planting network called Mission Anabaino (Greek for “I am ascending”) was born. We praise God that through MA, other churches around Connecticut have been planted in the last decade in

Fairfield, Milford, Wallingford, and we are currently in the early stages of planting in East Lyme and Norwalk. We also rejoice to see churches affiliated with MA in other parts of the country and across the globe. With this initial seed gift nearly exhausted, Mission Anabaino is currently in the process of becoming a separate nonprofit organization, in partnership with other churches.

Alongside church planting in other regions, we have been eager to reach our own city. In 2006, we began an annual outreach to New Haven called Impact Week, which led to an ongoing ministry to a low-income neighborhood in the

city, called The Hill, and in 2009 we established a satellite congregation of CPC in that neighborhood. In 2014, CPC collaborated with six other Christ-centered churches from across the city to establish a ministry called Bridges of Hope to pursue Christian unity and reconciliation across races and Christian traditions while showing the love of Christ to New Haven through service projects and youth mentoring partnerships.

Yet we know there is much more work yet to do to reach our neighbors and our city, and we hope to find a pastor who shares that vision.

Our Vision

THAT IN EVERYTHING CHRIST MIGHT BE PREEMINENT

Colossians 1:18

When selecting the name of our church, Christ Presbyterian Church, we wanted always to remember for ourselves and signal to others that our life together should be all about Christ—his work, not ours—and that we should seek his glory above all things. We have come to call it a “Total Christ” spirituality as we seek to be both missional and gospel-centered, and as Christ mediates his presence to us as our Prophet (through confessional teaching), Priest (through sacramental worship) and King (through communal formation). Through all of our ministries, we seek to know and experience both Christ’s justifying grace as our covenant head and the sanctifying grace of his temple presence though his church.



Our Values

01

We are committed to

the Old and New Testament Scriptures as our only rule of faith and practice.

02

We are committed to

the teachings of grace as they are summarized in the historic Westminster Confession of Faith.

03

We are committed to

God-centered worship designed after a covenantal pattern that is the mediated presence of Christ through word and sacrament.

04

We are committed to

being a multicultural church with a missional focus both locally and globally.

05

We are committed to

a high view of Christian calling as reflected in the vocational spheres of family, church, and public service.

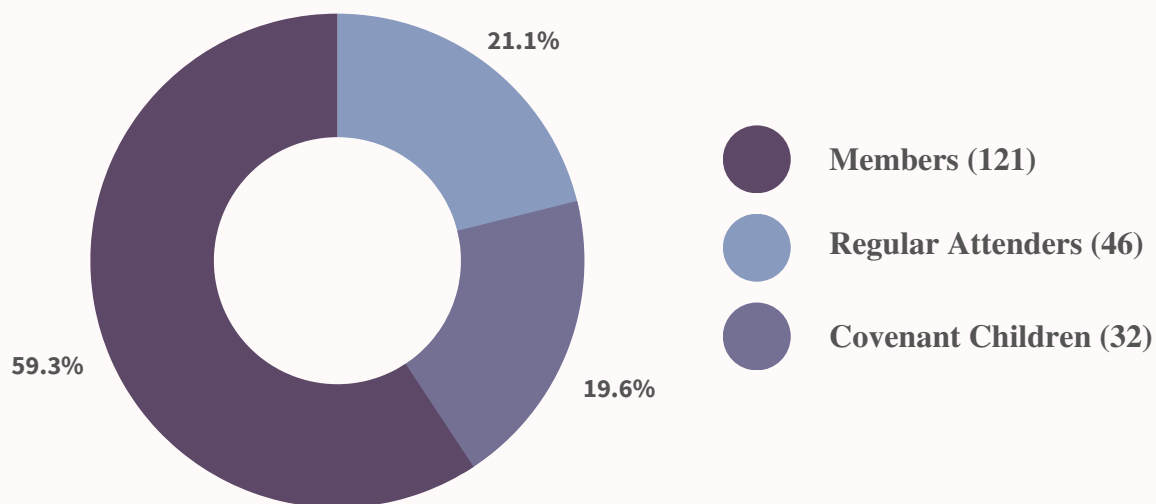


Our Congregation & Communal Life

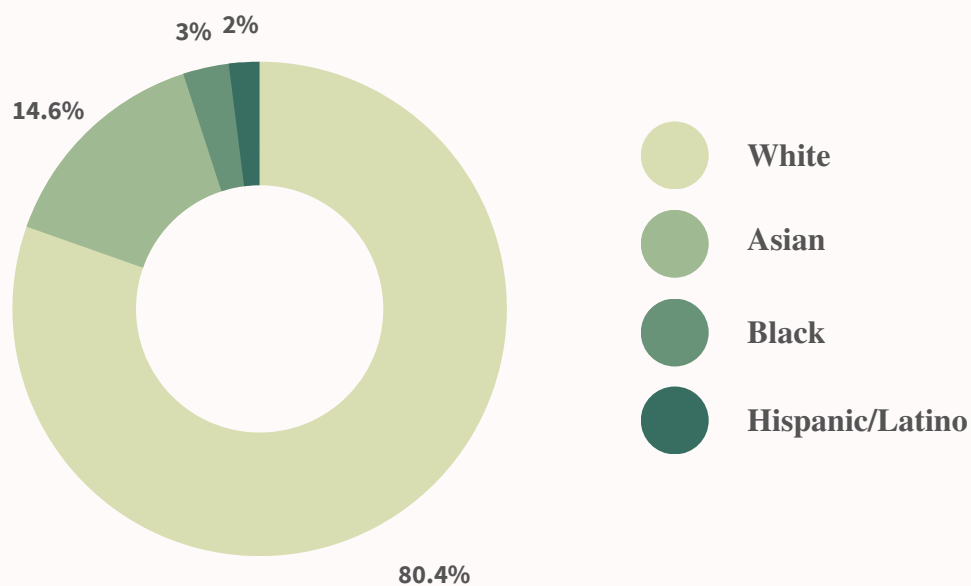
Our congregation's demographic makeup reflects that of both our state and city to an extent, but we recognize room for growth both in unity and diversity. CPC members reside in both New Haven city limits and various nearby towns (some members commute 30 minutes to our church). We regularly pray and wrestle through what it means to be a church to the city and a church to the region in which all are in desperate need of a gracious Savior and trustworthy King.



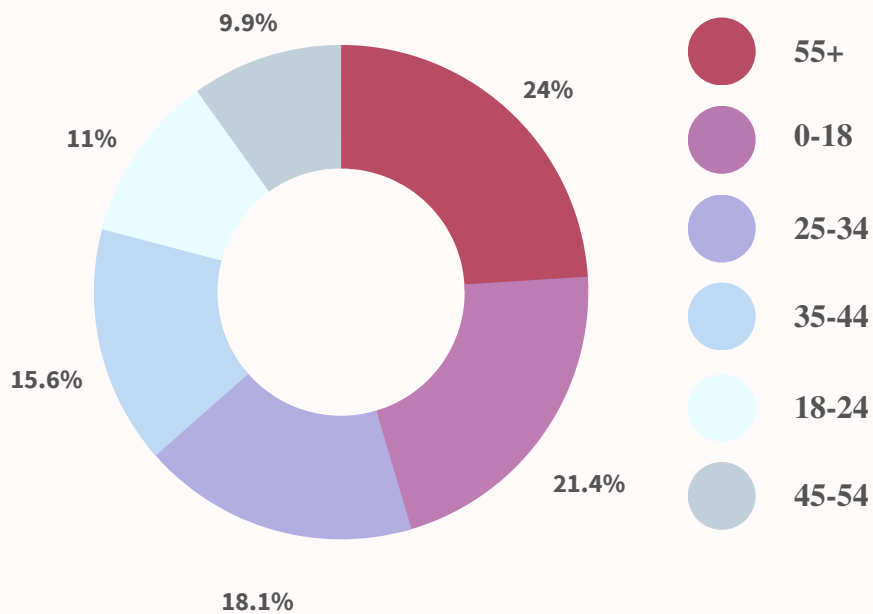
Membership



Race/Ethnicity



Age



CPC is committed to uplifting the *Imago Dei* in all people (Gen. 1:26; Acts 17:26-27) and eagerly awaits the expansion of God's kingdom until it reflects the beautiful picture given in Revelation 5:

AND THEY SANG A NEW SONG, SAYING, "WORTHY ARE YOU TO TAKE THE SCROLL AND TO OPEN ITS SEALS, FOR YOU WERE SLAIN, AND BY YOUR BLOOD YOU RANSOMED PEOPLE FOR GOD FROM EVERY TRIBE AND LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE AND NATION, AND YOU HAVE MADE THEM A KINGDOM AND PRIESTS TO OUR GOD, AND THEY SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH."

Revelation 5:9-10

Through our active participation in Bridges of Hope, we reflect more fully the broad demographics of our city. It's a joy to worship and serve with our brothers and sisters in Christ at city-wide volunteer events, mentorship programs, prayer nights, and more.

With many different spiritual, cultural, and generational backgrounds represented in the pews of CPC, we are "iron sharpening iron" as we learn different rhythms and forms from one another, ever widening our view of the beautiful body of Christ with its many parts.

We are also strikingly politically diverse, which is further evidence of the power of the gospel in overcoming cultural differences, and it is a reminder to us of the importance of preaching Christ alone. We thank and praise God for the long peace and purity of our church, and that he protected us through recent challenges of the pandemic and cultural upheavals, forcing us to find our unity in Christ.

Our Ministries

Life Groups

Life Groups are our way of doing church in the small with all sorts of people engaged in prayer, teaching, fellowship, and care. They are the vehicle that we use to help its participants continue to experience Christ outside of our Sunday morning worship gatherings and to impart the care that Christ provides through the love of his people. Thus, the worship, teaching, fellowship, and care for one another in our seven Life Groups supply a more intimate and hands-on encounter with the living Christ.





Children's Ministry

To assist our covenant families in raising their children in the grace of the gospel, we have developed a comprehensive approach toward providing our children with deep and enduring roots in the Christian faith that emphasizes close parent/church cooperation. Children's Sunday School classes range from 2 ½ year-olds through high school, and we currently have 42 children involved with Sunday School.

Youth Ministry

Our youth ministry at CPC is the capstone of our broader children's ministry and focuses on both junior and senior high. We have many various activities throughout the year, that include a monthly social event to build relationships, one-on-one discipleship, and our one week summer theology camp.

Undergraduate Students

CPC seeks to help college students love Christ, love the church, and love the campus life to which they are called. We have a presence on campus, but above all, we invite students to take part in the fullness of Christ through CPC's rich, communal Sunday morning worship. Outside of Sundays, students have opportunities to get involved in on-campus Bible studies, one-on-one and small group discipleship, and a church internship program.

20's & 30's

This group exists to minister to men and women in their 20's and 30's as they follow God through their academic, vocational, and relational callings. We seek to develop a deeper love for Christ and a richer involvement in the life of the Church.

Men's & Women's Ministries

Men and women gather separately a few times throughout the year to build relationships with one another through social events.



Our Rhythms of Worship

The liturgy of our service is designed after the five movement pattern of ancient temple worship and the model in Revelation 4-5. We believe that a temple-informed worship service not only invites us to hear about God and the gospel but also to partake of God and do the gospel. And we believe that as the people of God gather in worship, in the mediated presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament, we get a glimpse, a foretaste, of heaven meeting earth. Below are the five "movements" in our service:

01 Rediscovering God's Glory

God's desire initiates an invitation into his presence. Through the call to worship and hymns of praise, we rediscover the holy otherness of God in his glory revealed through creation and salvation.

02 Rediscovering God's Grace

Entering God's presence naturally leads us to face our sin, yet in Christ we can do so both mournfully and courageously, with the knowledge that his abundant mercy awaits.

03 Renewal in Christ's Word

The Word of God is proclaimed and received by the illumination of the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge that our Christian faith and practice must be grounded in God's works of redemption in history as explained to us through the divinely appointed means of inspired scripture and the preached word.

04 Renewal in Christ's Presence

In the covenant meal of the Lord's Supper, we remember the sacrificial life of Christ's atonement, partake of Christ's ascended presence by the Holy Spirit, and enjoy communion in each other's gifts and graces. Our weekly partaking of the Lord's Supper has become a treasured component of our communal life.

05 Restored in Christ's Supremacy

From the throne of heaven, God's power and grace is with us. In reverence and awe, we worship an exalted King. We are sent forth with God's benediction, reminded of his immeasurable power working within us.



Our Leadership

Shepherd Leaders

The Session and Women's Leader Board are jointly referred to as our Shepherd Leaders.

Session

In addition to the moderator, the CPC Session has four ordained Ruling Elders, and three apprentice Ruling Elders. The Session is responsible, in the words of the Book of Church Order, for maintaining "the spiritual government of the church," but the Session actively consults the other leader boards of the church, listed below, in making decisions. The Session also seeks to be active in extending pastoral care to the congregation, and every member of the church is assigned to an elder through their Life Group.

Women's Leader Board

The Women's Leader Board consists of six women and two apprentices who have been nominated by the congregation and examined by the Session. This board assists the elders in shepherding the flock of God as Christ's undershepherds, with special attention to the women of the congregation through active involvement in the life-on-life discipleship of women at CPC. They also take the lead on planning and executing organized activities for women as needed and serve as an advisory sub-committee of the Session to assist in the overall planning and execution of the ministry at CPC.

Servant Leader Board

This board includes ten members of our congregation, both men and women. They function like a diaconal board, encouraging and facilitating the communion of saints at CPC. They oversee our servant teams who handle the day-to-day implementation of our programs and the care of our physical building, each of which is represented on this board.

Staff

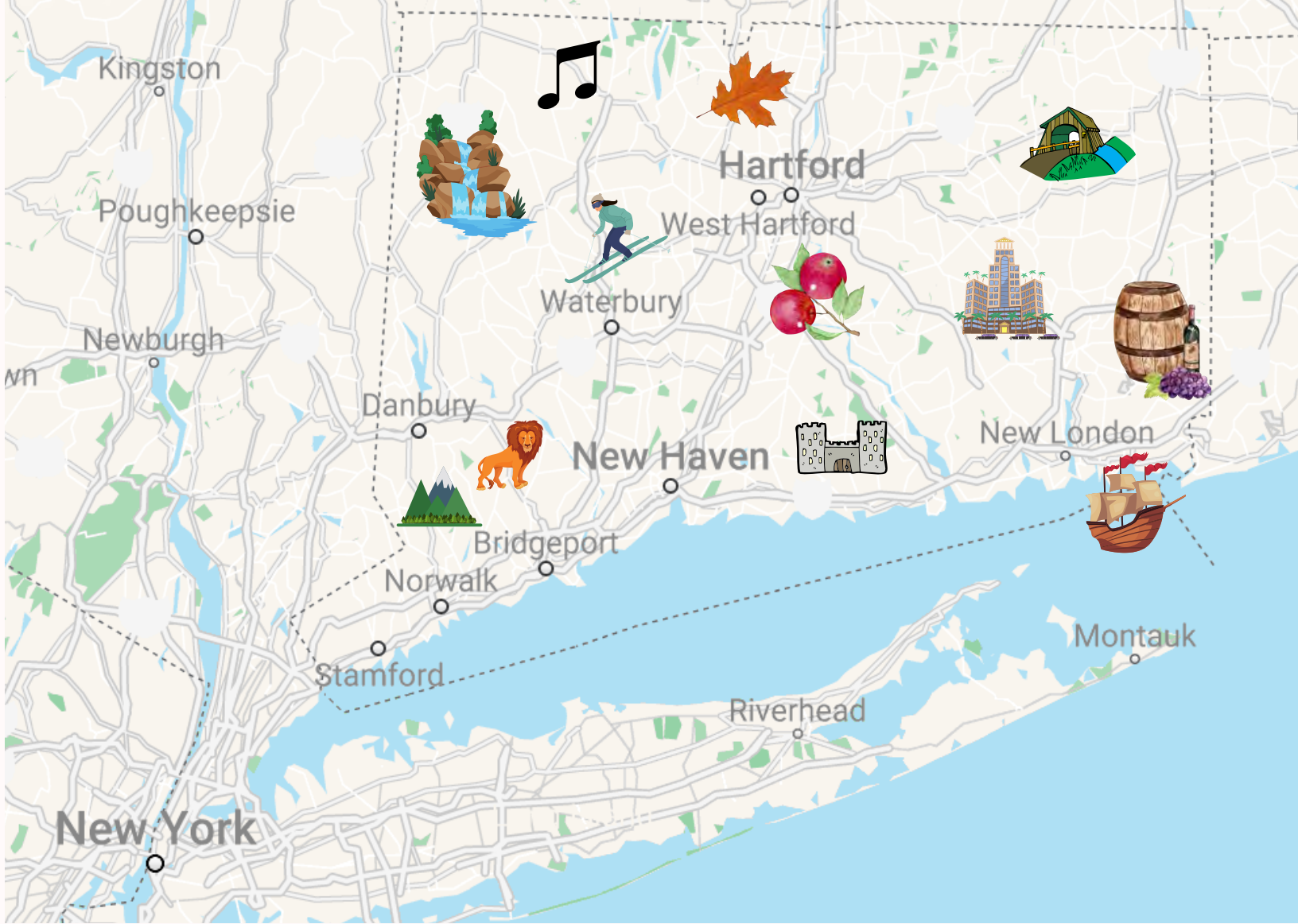
Our staff currently includes: Rev. Craig Luekens, Associate Pastor, who is serving as our Interim Lead Pastor; Rev. Jerry Ornelas, Assistant Pastor, with a ministry focus to youth in the church and students at Southern Connecticut State University; Annie McHugh, Operations Coordinator; three part-time technical and administrative assistants; and a part-time sexton.

Our City & Region

CPC New Haven is situated at the epicenter of vibrant Southern Connecticut, exhibiting charming New England qualities but with the cosmopolitan influences of an international hub. A ninety-minute train ride from New York City, New Haven is one of many notable stops along the bustling I-95 corridor, but green space is easy to find north of this corridor, and there is easy access to Long Island Sound to the south. Part university town and part medium-sized city, the “Elm City” offers world-class cultural attractions, legendary pizza, stunning waterfront views, and people who have come from every corner of the world. Yale University, Yale-New Haven Hospital, Southern Connecticut State University, Quinnipiac University, and other institutions attract scholars from wide-ranging disciplines as well as visiting national and world leaders. Other major employers like Assa Abloy, Sikorsky, Medtronic, and a range of financial institutions bring many professionals to New Haven independent of Yale.







Neighboring towns reveal unique aspects of the region and provide different benefits, opportunities, and subcultures. (Connecticut is very “town-centric,” composed of 169 townships, each with its own local government structure and identity.) Within a short driving range are myriad state parks with scenic hiking trails, boating on Long Island Sound, and quintessential New England “leaf peeping.” And within just a few hours drive are the Berkshire Mountains of Western MA, the Green Mountains of VT, and the White Mountains of NH.

New Haven and Southern Connecticut display the beauty of God’s kingdom in many ways, while still bearing scars of the world’s fallenness. New Haven is home to institutions that have produced some of humanity’s greatest accomplishments in arts, ideas, science, medicine, technology, and manufacturing, but it is also home to staggering economic inequality, racial segregation, opioid addiction, homelessness, and pockets of violent crime. We believe we have been called to this particular place to be salt and light to our

neighbors from around the corner and around the world, trusting in the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to continually renew our community and save souls to his kingdom.

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|  Yale Chamber Music Festival Norfolk, CT |  Lyman Orchards Middlefield, CT |
|  Heublein Tower Trail Simsbury, CT |  Covered Bridge Brooklyn, CT |
|  Kent Falls State Park Kent, CT |  Mohegan Sun Resort Montville, CT |
|  Mount Southington Ski Area Plantsville, CT |  Gillette Castle East Haddam, CT |
|  Beardsley Zoo Bridgeport, CT |  Stonington Vineyards Stonington, CT |
|  Devil's Den Nature Preserve Weston, CT |  Mystic Seaport Mystic, CT |

Our Next Lead Pastor

Connecticut is known for its rocky soil, but as strong and stubborn New Englanders, we use those rocks to build solid foundations. Christ Presbyterian Church has been blessed by a founding pastor who laid the foundation and faithfully shepherded the flock for the past 30 years. We are grateful that, as he steps down, the church is on solid ground to continue its next chapter. We are looking for a lead pastor who is eager to continue this work and help establish CPC as a multi-generational, multicultural congregation that honors God's image bearers, where all feel loved, seen, welcomed, and heard.

We seek the following in our next lead pastor:

A Gospel-Centered Expository Preacher

Someone who is committed to redemptive historical and Christ-centered preaching through complete books of the Bible, doing so with boldness, and clarity, to a diverse audience.

A Reformed Thinker

Someone who knows, appreciates, and applies the principles and doctrines of the Westminster Standards.

A Wise and Caring Shepherd

Someone who is eager to know, love, and counsel a diverse congregation, across an increasingly wide range of ages, consisting of both transient and long-term congregants.

A Skilled Disciple-Maker

Someone gifted at challenging the congregation to go deeper in their faith, helping them navigate and integrate the spheres of their lives, and to be faithful in their callings at all of life's stages.

A Servant Leader and Team Builder

Someone aware of his own limitations, while guiding and equipping other staff, fellow members of the Session, and members of the Women's Leader Board and Servant Leader Board.

An Organizational Leader

Someone who builds structures for ministry that allow for the flourishing and growth of gospel relationships and partnerships within a socially, economically, ideologically, and racially diverse congregation and greater community.

A Heart for the City

Someone who seeks cultural renewal, mercy, justice, and cross-cultural community in a vibrant university city.

Our Prayer

Our Father, we praise you that you have written our story past, present, and future, as you have also written the story of each man faithfully pursuing your call to ministry. We give you honor and thanksgiving for building your church throughout the ages and to the ends of the earth. We pray for the expansion of your kingdom, for its perfection, and for its consummation. In the work ahead of us, we pray that you would guide us by your indwelling Holy Spirit to follow hard after you alone.

For each candidate considering your call on his life, we pray that he would seek you and your kingdom and that you would

*captivate him with your beauty, love, and power,
anchor him in the promises of your Holy Word,
flood his heart with grace and truth,
be his strength and his shield in battle,
bring clarity and conviction to his ministry,
stir him to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you,
use his sufferings and trials to refine him and sanctify him,
protect him from the schemes of the evil one,
bless him with abundant peace and love,
hold him close.*

*For our steps in the coming seasons as Christ Presbyterian Church in New Haven, we pray that you would be in all and through all, and that you would quicken our minds to attune to you,
open our eyes, soften our hearts, and unstop our ears,
give us grace to trust your will and lean not on our own understanding,
raise up the right man to lead us as your undershepherd, and
come quickly, Lord Jesus, transforming the whole earth for your glory.*

We offer these praises and prayers in the merciful and mighty name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



Application Process

We are eager to get to know candidates. If you desire to pursue this opportunity, please submit the following to cpcnewhavenpastorsearch@gmail.com by January 31, 2023. You are welcome to reach out with any questions in advance. All inquiries and submissions will be kept confidential.

Materials:

1. Cover letter
2. Resume
3. Brief responses (5-7 sentences each) to the following questions:
 - Where along your spiritual journey did you sense a call to pastoral ministry?
 - What about ministry in an urban context inspires you?
 - What part of serving the church energizes you? What do you love most about pastoring?
 - As you have considered this role and researched CPC, what stands out about our church that matches your gifting and your passions?
 - (Truly optional) Is there anything you would like to tell us about your life and ministry that would help us understand you and your application?
4. A link to three recently preached sermons.

Specific qualifications:

- Ordained in the PCA or other Reformed denomination.
- At least ten years of experience in a like-minded ministry.
- While not required, experience in either an urban or university town environment is preferred.





**CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

