



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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P.O. Box 103 | Murrieta, CA 92564

Solo Pastor Candidate Packet

Introduction

The purpose of this profile is to give you and your family a clear picture of Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) in Temecula, California.

CPC began as a church plant in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) with our first worship service in 2005. We became a particularized church in 2009. At CPC, we firmly believe that pastors are a gift from Christ to build up His church. We have been blessed with two senior pastors who have faithfully ministered Christ to us.

Our most recent pastor began his work at CPC as a pastoral intern in 2007 and was ordained as our part time Associate Pastor in 2010. He was ordained as our Senior Pastor in 2016 when our founding pastor accepted a call to another church. Having served as Senior Pastor for 7 years, he accepted a call to another church earlier this year. Not surprisingly, CPC initially experienced a period of shock and concern about our future. At the same time, we were quickly reminded of God's faithfulness and promise to provide for His church.

We have now turned our attention as a congregation to prayerful reflection and preparation to welcome the next pastor that God will send to care for us.

We appreciate your interest in CPC, and we hope the following pages will provide the information needed to help you determine whether God might be calling you to serve as our next Senior Pastor.

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Who We Are

Humble Beginnings | 2005-2009

It all started in a small living room with a handful of believers from different churches and different backgrounds. In early 2005, after being ordained in the PCA, Pastor Eric Landry was installed by the South Coast Presbytery to plant a church in Temecula, CA. To get started, Eric and his wife Sarah sent 100 letters to people in the area that might be interested in a Christ-centered church plant. Then in February 2005, Eric and Sarah hosted the first church meeting in their living room of what is now known as Christ Presbyterian Church with 18 people in attendance.

A few months later, the first public service was held on the evening of October 30, 2005, at a little Korean Presbyterian church in Murrieta, CA. The following year the church moved to Chaparral High School in Temecula where we would do “church in a box” for the next 14 years. Opportunities were given to Westminster Seminary students who drove 30 minutes to meet with us on Sundays and during the week to support the work of the ministry at CPC. They filled vital roles such as leading worship, teaching Sunday school, and shepherding the youth. In early 2007 an intern named Robert Recio and his wife Cassie decided to make CPC their home church.



Who We Are

Church In a Box | 2009-2020

After a few years as a church plant, CPC took the necessary steps to particularize. On September 13, 2009, the members agreed to become a self-sufficient body taking the covenant vows, electing, ordaining and installing the first ruling elders: Lew Castle, Mike Dewit, and Gary Gunnerson.

The next year, Robert Recio was called by CPC as our first associate pastor after finishing his M.Div. at Westminster Seminary California. He was ordained and installed on October 17, 2010. Four years later, in 2014, the church ordained and installed its first two deacons: Izzy Avila and Peter Jenson.

Then, in the summer of 2016, the church faced its biggest challenge to date. Pastor Eric announced he had accepted a call from Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas and was leaving after 11 years in the ministry that he had come to call home. Having prepared Pastor Robert well to replace him, CPC unanimously voted Robert Recio in as our next senior pastor in August 2016.



Who We Are

The Church Today | 2020-2023

In the beginning of 2020 CPC brought on a new intern, Dan Warne, who started out by leading worship and teaching Sunday school and would later become our associate pastor. It was also during this time that the pandemic disrupted our standard worship service. Like many churches during this time, CPC initially moved to online services. Schools were closed indefinitely, so the church was forced to look for a new meeting location. Thankfully, the Lord provided a great location at the local Professional Golfers Career College, which had previously been the location for an OPC church. In June 2020, CPC officially moved to the golf college, ending our years of “church in a box.”

After successfully managing the change in pastor in 2016 and navigating the choppy waters of the pandemic, 2022 produced the next big challenge for the church. First, in November 2022 Pastor Dan Warne announced he would be leaving for a call as a full-time Associate Pastor for a PCA church in Virginia. Then, in May 2023 Pastor Robert and his family moved to North Carolina to take a call at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Saying goodbye to our beloved pastors has been bittersweet: sorrow at the loss of such faithful ministers and joy for them as they continue to pursue God’s call elsewhere. Both Dan and Robert left in good standing and with the support and love of CPC.



Who We Are

Core Values

Our core values are centered around and emerge from God's work through Sunday worship. Each week He meets with His people. Using His appointed means of grace, He applies the benefits promised in the gospel as He reminds us of our union with Christ. He then sends us out into the world as witnesses as we follow the various vocations to which He has called us. The following are CPC's core values:

GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION – The Gospel changes everything! We are reoriented week after week to the work of God in Christ for sinners. This affects every aspect of life.

GOSPEL COMMUNITY – We are a Spiritual family growing in grace together.

GOSPEL-SHAPED DIVERSITY – We seek to be a community united together in Christ that includes racial and ethnic diversity, socio-political diversity, and generational diversity. We long to be a place where unbelievers are welcomed, newer believers are growing, and mature believers are flourishing.

GOSPEL SHEPHERDING – We seek to be a place where the leadership is characterized by faithfulness and integrity that reflects their calling as under-shepherds of Christ and an awareness of their own weakness and dependence on Christ.

GOSPEL MISSION – We seek to be a church engaged in local and global missions. We desire to be a presence in the Temecula Valley, equipped to share the Gospel and seeking the good of our neighbors through the pursuit of justice and mercy.

Who We Are

Our Worship

*In the name of Jesus, this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
And to whomsoever will come.*

Our service has an intentional structure designed to reflect our belief that worship is a conversation between God and His people. Those who worship with us are invited first to **CONSIDER** why they have come to worship by reflecting on a thought, a verse, a lyric, or a quote (provided in the bulletin). Then, we all respond to God's **CALLING** us to worship Him. Upon responding to that call, we realize that we must be reminded of the **CLEANSING** given to us through Christ. God then gives us His **CHARTER** as we hear Him speak through the Scriptures. That is followed by the heavenly feast of **COMMUNION**. God dismisses us with His blessing in the **COMMISSION**.



Who We Are

Our Worship

Worship at CPC reflects our belief that God has promised to work through His ordinary **means of grace**: Word (especially preached), Sacraments, and Prayer. Our preaching is expository and **Christ-centered**, reflecting the **Redemptive-historical** understanding that all Scripture points to, reveals, and applies Christ.

Services typically include a reading from the **Law** that exposes our sin and self-righteousness to remind us of our need of Christ and a reading from the **Gospel** that offers us forgiveness and acceptance in Christ. These are reinforced through a time of silent confession and absolution.

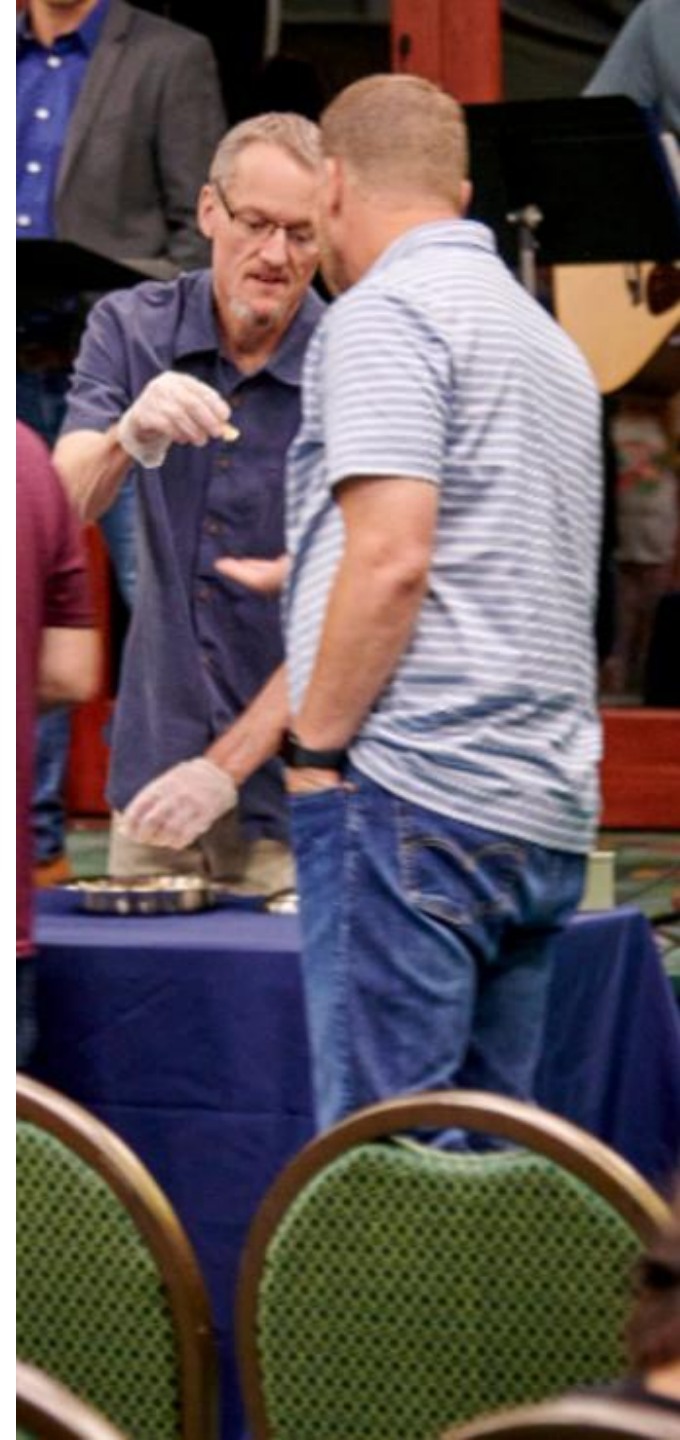
CPC partakes of the Lord's Supper every week. Congregational readings from creeds (Apostle's Creed, Nicene Creed, Westminster Standards) are used to confess our faith together. Prayer and Music are utilized throughout the service to reinforce God's message and respond with thanksgiving and praise. Our music style is eclectic with an emphasis on hymns (traditional and modern) and Psalms.

Who We're Looking For

Christ Presbyterian Church is a well-established and close-knit community of believers. We have always been blessed and nurtured by excellent teaching pastors. We view this transition to a new pastor as an opportunity for us to grow and mature as a church. This is an opportunity to intentionally clarify our vision, and to be more systematic and effective in finding, and developing leaders for that vision. Changes like these can be unsettling for a congregation, so we need a pastor who knows how to lead through change patiently and wisely. He must consistently communicate purpose and build consensus in a way that unifies people through the gospel.

We desire a pastor who boldly preaches God's Word from the pulpit each Sunday. We need him to encourage and edify believers, and to be enticing and persuasive to non-believing visitors. As well, we want someone who is active in organizing and teaching Sunday School, small-group studies, and membership/communicant classes in a consistent manner.

Our congregation comes from a variety of doctrinal backgrounds. Some of our members were steeped from childhood in the Reformed faith, while others had scant familiarity with it before coming to CPC. Therefore, we have found our liturgy, in its present form, to be clarifying, unifying, and encouraging. Furthermore, we are committed to the Reformed faith, the tenets of the Westminster Confession, and to the PCA. Our new pastor must be likewise committed.



Who We're Looking For

Beyond preaching and teaching we seek a relational pastor who loves to shepherd not only from the pulpit, but also by pursuing people in other purposeful ways. We would appreciate a pastor who visits, counsels, and becomes part of the lives of people within our church community.

Because our primary desire is for a preacher of God's Word, we do not want him to be overburdened by the administrative duties that are a part of the position of a solo pastor. We're looking for someone to prayerfully work with our session in recasting and implementing our vision. Therefore, we want a pastor who is comfortable with appropriate delegation and shared leadership. We want someone who helps equip our elders, deacons, interns, and volunteers, and then encourages them to use their gifts to help meet different responsibilities.

We seek a senior pastor who displays the qualities contained in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and is an ordained pastor in the PCA; who is eager to know, love, and shepherd the flock with compassion; preferably with a minimum of 5 years experience as a senior or associate pastor.



Who We're Looking For

We are looking for a pastor experienced in expository preaching of God's Word and

- who declares the Word of God boldly, and presents the people with both the Law and Gospel
- who will lead us in our liturgy, inviting us to the Lord's table every week
- who will share our struggles regarding the Christian faith and will provide opportunities for people to reflect on our beliefs and doubts individually and together
- who will take an active role in teaching the scriptures, and leading studies and Sunday school to provide instruction on things like Church history, theological topics, and the tenants of the Westminster Confession
- who will take on administrative responsibilities and encourage the congregation to use their ideas and skills
- who will encourage the congregation regarding the proper place of financial giving, and will plan for the wise stewardship of church finances
- who can identify the needs of our members, develop discipleship and educational programs to meet those needs and train church officers and develop leaders

Top Priorities

- Proclamation of the Word
- Worship Leadership
- Spiritual Development
- Teaching Responsibilities
- Administrative Responsibilities
- Development and Support of Education and Training Program

Skills & Experience

- Redemptive Historical Preaching
- Teaching
- Worship Leadership
- Church Administration
- Leadership Training
- Stewardship





Church Life

Our Ministries

Sunday School

Our adult Sunday school provides a format for discipleship. Members interact with scripture through teaching by the pastor or seminary intern. Personal application, catechism, and church history are topics that have been taught. These classes meet in the Spring and Fall. Children's Sunday School meets separately at the same time as the adult Sunday School. These classes are taught by elders or other volunteers.

Connect Groups

Connect Groups are designed to build relationships within the CPC community as we study God's word together. Groups are small, usually around 12 people, and meet on Sunday afternoons.

Sunday Nights at CPC

In the summers, church members meet for potluck and teaching on Sunday nights. Topics in the past have usually focused on cultural issues and how it affects our faith.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach is a mercy ministry to reach out to the community and partnering with local non-profits like International Christian Adoptions, Birth Choice, among others.



Church Life

Our Ministries

Women's Ministry

CPC's women's ministry is a safe and supportive environment where the women of the church can gather to study the Bible, celebrate mothers and their new babies, coordinate retreats, and enjoy special nights out. It's run by the Women's Ministry Council which has 6 members.

Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry focuses on weekly Bible study and periodic fellowship events.

Youth Group

Our youth group meets every Wednesday evening for the purpose of helping our youth grow in their relationship with the Lord. Izzy Avila, one of our elders, leads the teens through meaningful Bible study, discipleship, and occasional community activities.

Vacation Bible School

VBS is a yearly ministry outreach. It meets nightly for one week in June teaching the Bible through themed activities and lessons.



Church Life

Facilities

CPC meets at the Professional Golfers Career College in Temecula, CA. This facility is under lease, and we have a good standing relationship with the landlord. We generally have access to the building Monday through Friday after 5:00 PM, and all-day Saturday and Sunday.

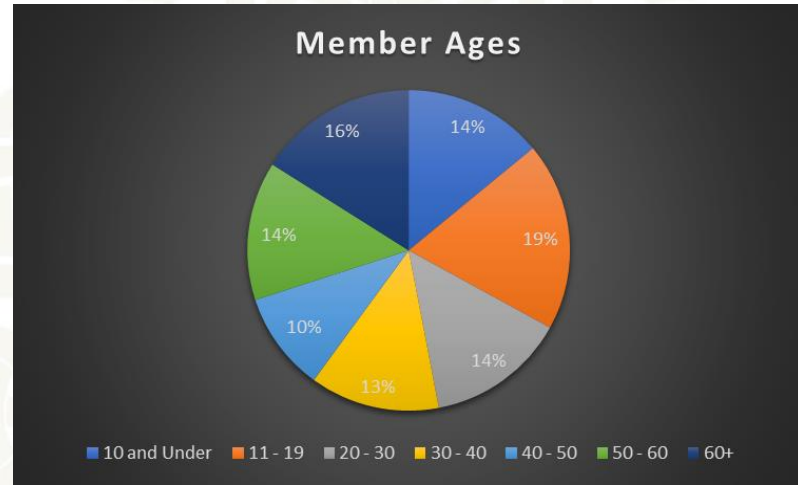
The main space in the facility holds approximately 200 people, and we have volunteer crews that rotate on a monthly basis doing set up and tear down.

Along with our meeting place at the Golf College, we also maintain a small office space for use by the pastor, and some space at a storage facility.

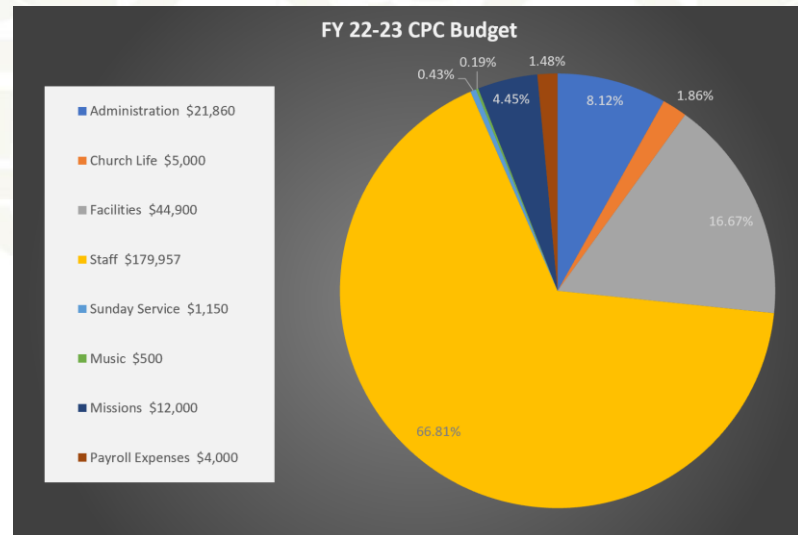


Church Life

Demographics



Finances





Church Life

Our Leadership - Elders



**Rev.
Jeremiah
Rivera**

*Interim
Pastor*

Jeremiah is serving CPC as interim pastor since April 2023. He is a native of Michigan and received his Master of Divinity degree from Westminster Seminary California. Jeremiah and his wife Melissa have four children.



**Gary
Gunnerson**

*Ruling Elder,
Director of
Ministry*

Gary was ordained as one of our first elders at CPC in 2009. He and his wife, Susan, have one adult child and two grandsons. Gary has been active in ministry at several different churches before coming to CPC.



**Mike
Dewit**

Ruling Elder

Mike was ordained as one of our first elders at CPC in 2009. He received his MATS from Westminster Seminary and lives in Hemet with his wife Kristin. Their two adult children are full-time college students. Mike currently works as a clinical social worker with the California Department of State Hospitals.



**Lew
Castle**

Ruling Elder

Lew was ordained as one of our first elders at CPC in 2009. He is a native of California and is a retired firefighter. Lew and his wife, Barbara, have two adult children and eight grandchildren.



**Izzy
Avila**

Ruling Elder

Izzy was ordained as an elder in 2019. He and his wife have three adult sons and three grandchildren. Izzy is retired from the U.S. Navy and served as a deacon at one of our sister churches before relocating to the Temecula Valley. He is currently leading the Youth Group at CPC.

Church Life

Our Leadership – Deacons and Staff



**Dennis
Kabuye**

Deacon

Dennis grew up in San Diego and has been married to Krystal for 11 years. They moved to the Temecula Valley in 2013 and became members of CPC.

They have 3 children ages 5 to 10. Dennis is part of the diaconal and serves as part of the church setup team. Dennis and Krystal live in Menifee.



**Daniel
Vazzana**

Deacon

Daniel was born and raised in Southern California and has been in Temecula for 35 years. He and Lisa have been married for 24 years and they have 4 children. Daniel has worked for Abbott Laboratories for 25 years with roles in manufacturing, supply chain and program management. He and his family have been part of CPC since 2005, and in 2019 he became a deacon.



**Ed
Madrid**

Deacon

Ed Madrid was born in Oceanside, CA. He has been married to Susan since 1985 and they have seven children and five grandchildren. He was born into the Catholic faith but has been in the PCA since 2008. He runs EM Estate Management and lives on a small ranch in Aguanga, CA. In his very spare time, Ed enjoys motorcycle riding and gardening.



Mary Gaffney
Administrator



Angela Jensen
Bookkeeper



Arie Van Weelden
Pastoral Intern





Church Life

Pastoral Search Committee



**Drew
Oliver**

Drew has been a member of CPC since 2020.

He lives in Murrieta with his wife of 4 years, Maddie, and is father to Tina and Jack. Prior to joining CPC, he earned an MDiv from Westminster Seminary California and has served in various capacities at his local churches. He and his wife run a non-profit in Honduras.



**Beth
Recio**

Beth has been married to Ruben Recio for 45 years.

They have two children, a daughter and a son, and five grandchildren. Beth and her husband became members of CPC in 2021. Beth has been a church administrator and business manager for a church in Poway, CA. for 23 years.



**Jim
Marsh**

Jim was born in Barberton Ohio but has lived most of his life in Southern California. He and his wife Sheryl of 41 years raised and home schooled their 2 children. Jim retired after 24 years with the fire department. He and Sheryl have been members of CPC for 17 yrs., have been involved in various ministries.



**Susan
Madrid**

Susan has been a member of CPC since 2013. She and her husband, Ed have been married for 39 years and have seven children, five of whom are adopted. Susan has enjoyed homeschooling their children for 32 years. Susan serves on the Women's Ministry Council as a board member and treasurer.



**Tim
Padilla**

Tim is a California native. He's been married to April for 10 years, and they have 2 daughters. They began attending CPC in 2017. Tim has attended reformed churches since 2005. At previous churches he's served on overseas missions and led long-term small groups. Tim works as a sommelier at a local winery.



**Gene
Rivera**

Gene has been married to Julie for 28 years and has 4 children ages 15 to 25. Gene comes from a non-denominational background but started attending reformed churches in the early 2000's and has served in various ministry roles for 25 years. Gene and Julie started attending CPC in 2019.

Also on the search committee...

Mike Dewit – Elder

Lew Castle – Elder

Daniel Vazanna – Deacon

Dennis Kabuye – Deacon

Where We Live



Welcome to Temecula, an historic, family-friendly town surrounded by vineyards and sweeping vistas of rolling hills and mountains. Temecula is known as Southern California's Wine Country, boasting award-winning wines. [Outdoor recreation](#), [entertainment](#), and an emerging and evolving [culinary scene](#) are some of the happenings that make Temecula a great place to live. Temecula is centrally located in southern California near all the major cities, one hour from San Diego and Orange County, and 1 ½ hours from Los Angeles. The beach, the mountains, and the desert are all within a one to two-hour drive, but you don't have to leave Temecula in order to experience Southern California life.

Temecula

Population - 112,194

Average Household income - \$109,659

Median Age - 35

Average Rent - \$2,490/2 bedroom apartment

Average House Price - \$700,000



Where We Live

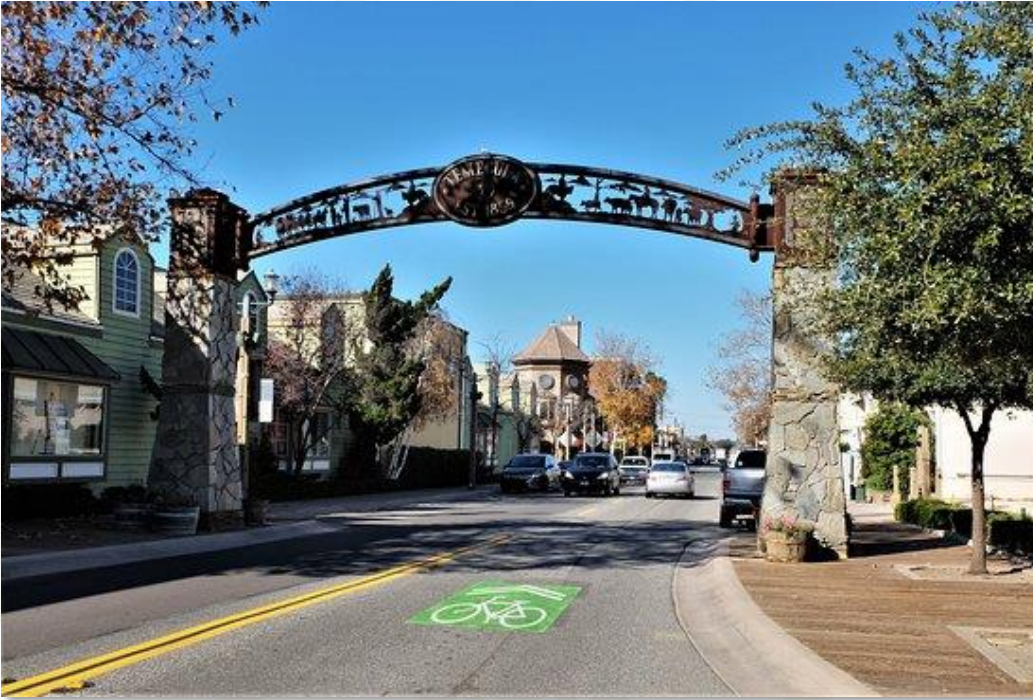


With our year-round pleasant climate, Temecula offers a dynamic list of outdoor activities. Hiking, fishing, bike trails, parks, and horseback riding are favored ways to enjoy outdoor life. The [Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve](#) is a popular spot to view wildlife, walk an interpretive trail, explore hiking trails, and view historic structures. [Vail Lake Resort](#) prides itself on being California's #1 largemouth bass lake situated on 11,000 acres. Horseback riding in the vineyards, hot-air balloon rides, and vintage car shows are not uncommon sights.

If you are a golf enthusiast, then tee up at one of Temecula's premier golf courses. Many awards and distinctions have been given to courses throughout the region making Temecula courses some of the best to play in Southern California. There are over 40 community parks in Temecula for family enjoyment. And bicyclists can explore over 22 miles of trails and 45 miles of bike lanes.



Where We Live



Temecula Valley has a unique variety of shopping opportunities from the beautiful Promenade Mall to our historic Old Town to our weekly Farmer's market. More than 170 name-brand specialty stores are located in the Promenade Mall along with restaurants and a multi-screen movie theater. In Old Town Temecula you will find great restaurants, specialty boutique shops, antique stores, historic buildings, and outdoor art. Homemade goods and locally grown produce fill the weekly Farmer's Market.



Where We Live



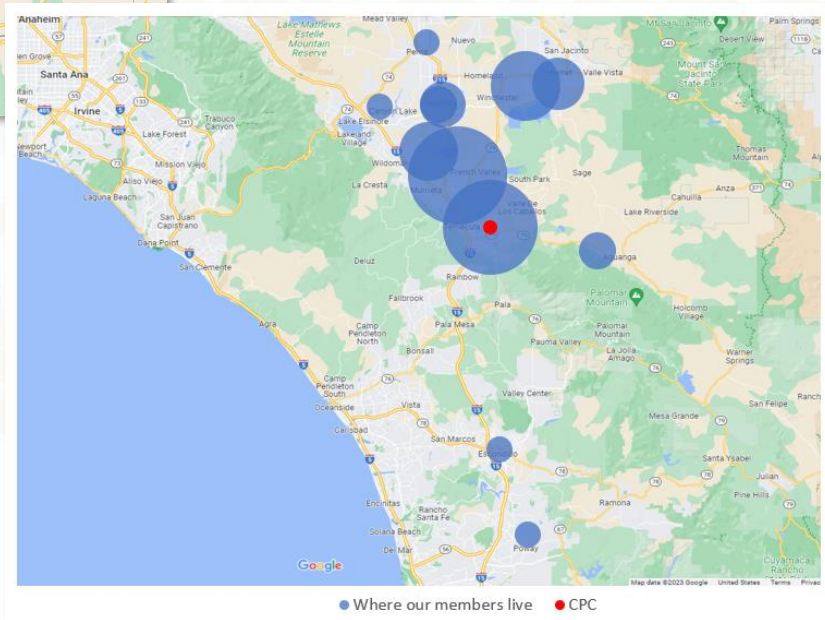
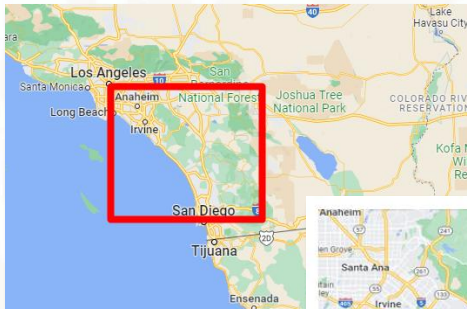
Temecula has award-winning schools and higher educational opportunities. Temecula Valley Unified School District is the highest-performing school district in Riverside County. In 2009, California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) opened a satellite campus in Temecula in partnership with the City and Temecula Unified School District. The campus originally opened with an emphasis on nursing programs and has continued to expand to other disciplines. In 2018, Mt. San Jacinto Community College acquired a 350,000-square-foot facility in Temecula to expand the college's offerings and provide quality educational programs to students.



Where We Live



Temecula enjoys all the amenities of city life while still being committed to the small-town atmosphere that its residents value so highly. Although it began as a bedroom community, it now has all the elements to make up a healthy, safe, and engaging community.





Application Process

We want to get to know you, your heart, and your life with Christ. If you desire to pursue this opportunity, please submit the following to mdewit@christpca.net. You are welcome to reach out with any questions in advance. All inquiries and submissions will be kept confidential.

- Cover Letter
- Resume w/photo
- PCA Ministerial Data Form*
- Completed, typed out responses to the questionnaire
- Links to 3 recently preached sermons

Please answer the following questions:

- Tell us something about your life and ministry to help us understand you and your application.
- What do you see in this Christ Presbyterian Church packet that has caught your attention as a possible fit for you?
- Do you think you (and your family, if married with children) would be a good cultural fit in Southern California? What concerns do you have about living in this area?
- What is your administrative experience leading a growing church?
- How would you evaluate the health of the PCA as a whole?
- What books have most influenced your preaching, pastorate, and personal life?

Please use the following format to label all attachments:

FirstnameLastname_Resume. Examples:

- JohnSmith_CoverLetter
- JohnSmith_Resume
- JohnSmith_MDF
- JohnSmith_Questionnaire

Thank you for your interest in CPC. We look forward to getting to know you better and hearing about your heart for the gospel and advancing God's kingdom. Our Pastoral Search Committee will confirm receipt and review of your materials. If they would like to schedule an interview, a committee representative will contact you.

*PCA MDF form can be found here- <https://www.pcaac.org/pastor-search/pastors-open-to-a-new-call/>

Any candidate being considered will be asked to have a Live Scan.