

Pastor: Faith Presbyterian Church

(Presbyterian Church in America)

Introduction:

Faith Presbyterian Church of Bucks County (FPC) is seeking an experienced Christian man to serve as our next solo pastor. Our current pastor, the second to lead the congregation in the church's 37-year history, retired in October 2023, after 18 years of service with this congregation.

Church Description:

FPC is located in Fairless Hills in the southeastern part of Bucks County, PA, and is part of the PCA's Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery. The town of Fairless Hills is nestled in between the metropolitan areas of Philadelphia and New York City. With Washington Crossing Historic Park and Tyler State Park nearby, the area is rich in history and offers access to both urban and rural communities and their varied amenities. Some residents work in locally run businesses while others commute into Philadelphia, New York City and the surrounding metropolitan area.

Our congregation currently has just over 100 communicant members and there are typically about 75 people present for Sunday worship. FPC is a welcoming and joyful congregation of members who care for each other and are committed to loving, encouraging, and supporting our pastor. We are confident our new pastor and his family will develop many new friendships among us.

The church combines elements of traditional Presbyterian/Reformed worship with a contemporary style of music. Sunday mornings typically consist of Sunday school followed by a worship service. We have separate men's and women's Bible studies, weekly home fellowships, young adult gatherings, and a monthly congregational fellowship after the Sunday morning service.

There are three part-time staff members serving the church: the Director of Congregational Care and Connection, the Office Manager, and the Director of Music Ministry.

The session has six active ruling elders with two on a rotating sabbatical. There are five men in the Diaconate with additional men and women serving as appointed assistants. Financially, the church has a mortgage on the building, and congregational giving typically meets or exceeds its fiscal needs. This has enabled a substantial investment in missionary support over a sustained period, which is an enduring passion of the congregation.

Position Overview:

The church's vision for the role of pastor is based on the characteristics found in I Timothy 3 and follows the description given in the PCA Book of Church Order. The primary responsibilities of the pastor will be to lead church worship services and engage in the leading and equipping of others to teach both on Sunday and mid-week Bible studies. We have a strong desire to grow in the area of outreach (both evangelism and service), and we are looking for a pastor who will encourage, equip, and support us in these areas.

Although we have listed many characteristics and ministry areas, we do not expect a pastor to do it

all. We have many volunteers, as well as ruling elders, deacons, and staff who share the load. We need someone to provide encouragement and direction to these ministries. We also expect our pastor to have a balanced “life/work” priority. We would expect to see approximately 40 to 50 hours a week given to the ministry in its various forms, including work with the Presbytery and General Assembly. We realize that some weeks will be very demanding, while other weeks will be less so.

Our Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) identified the following as congregational priorities for our pastor:

- Proclamation of the Word
- Biblical Teaching
- Spiritual Development of Members
- Worship Leadership
- Encouraging the Ministry of the Laity
- Congregational Fellowship

The PSC has identified the following attributes/skill areas as important for our next pastor:

- Godly Character
- Gifted preacher/teacher
- Humble serving attitude
- Good communicator/listener
- Self-disciplined and self-motivated with good time management skills
- Team player, encourages others
- Compassionate; someone who relates to a wide variety of people

Specific Position Requirements:

The successful candidate will bring his experience, training, and ministerial passion in the following areas to meet the general objectives outlined above. The following specific qualifications are grouped by general topics. The basic professional accomplishments must include:

1. At least three years’ experience as a pastor (solo, associate, or senior) of a congregation or other ministerial experience involving preaching and teaching such as missionary work.
2. Ordained or easily able to be ordained within the PCA. See the Book of Church Order 21-4 for requirements.
3. A collaborative leadership style that works well in team settings and, particularly, with elected church leaders.
4. Engagement with Presbytery and the General Assembly.
5. Demonstrated ability to develop community across generations within the church.

As noted above as Proclamation of the Word, preaching skills are considered foundational. Specific objectives include:

1. Consistent preparation and delivery of compelling Redemptive-Historical preaching based directly on the Biblical text, emphasizing the gospel of grace.

2. Preaching that draws our attention to who God is, what He has done (or does), and how we ought to respond.
3. Preaching that is easily understandable, but never shallow or empty.
4. Preaching that ministers to and feeds the congregation.
5. Preaching that is planned, thoughtful, fresh, original, and current
6. Utilizing the entirety of scripture through preaching.

FPC values strong Biblical teaching. Key characteristics of the pastor should include:

1. Strong ability to teach (as distinct from “preach”) the Word, our confessional standards, theology, and church history.
2. Able to help and direct others in their independent Christian education.
3. Able to teach in an engaging way with appropriate application while relating well to those under instruction.
4. Able to mentor other teachers.

FPC values Spiritual Development of Members. Key characteristics of the pastor should include:

1. Commitment to broadly nurturing a culture that embodies Christ’s example of servant leadership and obedient life.
2. Effective spiritual mentoring skills suitable for both families and individuals intended to help them grow in their relationship with the Lord.

FPC values strong Worship Leadership. Key characteristics of the pastor should include:

1. Structuring service to focus on God and facilitate worshipful responses from the congregation.
2. Planning for the worship service(s) to include the preaching of the Word, confession, prayer, responsive reading, sacraments, instrumentals, and singing in an orderly fashion.
3. Coordinating with the Director of Music Ministry and others involved with specific areas (or components) of the worship service.

We seek a man gifted in Encouraging the Ministry of the Laity. Aspects of leadership will include:

1. Desire to guide and develop church staff, lay leadership, and congregants in utilizing their God-given abilities and desires for service.
2. Demonstrated skills in leading church staff and volunteers to accomplish church goals for spiritual growth in the congregation and equipping for ministry, outreach, and evangelism.
3. Able to collaboratively define and refine a vision for church growth with other members of the Session.

FPC values Congregational Fellowship. Key characteristics of the pastor should include:

1. Working with church leadership to develop opportunities for fellowship to meet unmet needs.
2. Encouraging congregation to take advantage of fellowship opportunities that will meet their

identified needs and help them grow spiritually and socially (eg. intergenerational small groups, studies, meals, shared interests, evangelism, etc.).

3. Encouraging fellowship with believers outside the immediate congregation.

Application Instructions:

If interested in pursuing this job opening, or desire to find out more about this opportunity, please contact the Pastoral Search Committee Secretary at pastoralsearch@faithprez.org.

We would like to receive your Ministerial Data Form, your resumé, a listing of three references, three sermon examples (video preferred), and responses to the following five prompts if not included in your other documents:

1. Please describe your relationship with Christ.
2. Please describe how you knew you were being called into Christian ministry and how this has been confirmed by others.
3. Please explain any exceptions you hold to the Westminster Standards, and what difficulties you may have with the current Book of Church Order. Please provide your rationale as part of the explanation.
4. Please describe how your gifting and experience aligns to the job functions and pastoral attributes listed above.
5. Please describe why you feel led to apply for this position.

Please keep your responses to no more than one page per prompt.

We may have additional questions once our committee reviews your initial responses and resume, and we look forward to continuing to work with you regarding this position.