

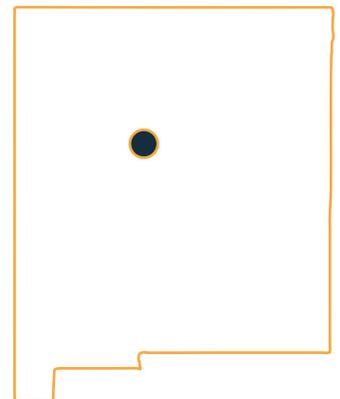


CITY PRES ABQ

PASTORAL CANDIDATE PACKET

CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
210 TRUMAN ST NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87108

CITYPRESABQ.COM





A FAITHFUL PRESENCE OF LOVE
IN THE ABSENCES OF OUR CITY

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ!

Welcome to City Presbyterian Church Albuquerque!

Through these words and images, we are sharing our story and heart for City Pres. This packet is intended to describe who we are, where we have come from, why we exist in our community, and what might unfold in our next chapter. We would love the chance to discuss the ways your story might intertwine with ours in the expansion of being a faithful presence of love in the absences of our city.

We are praying for you and hope you will pray for us as we distribute this packet to represent our church and seek out a new pastoral shepherd. We walk in faith knowing God will provide the right pastor for us and the right place for you as you labor to be a faithful under-shepherd.

In Christ,

The Pastoral Search Committee

Ashley Banegas
Ryan Bobbin
Laura Cobb
Chelsea Collins
Jadyn Edgar
Richard Jackson
David Kim
Paul Stern
Chelsea Warren

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WHO WE ARE

OUR HISTORY

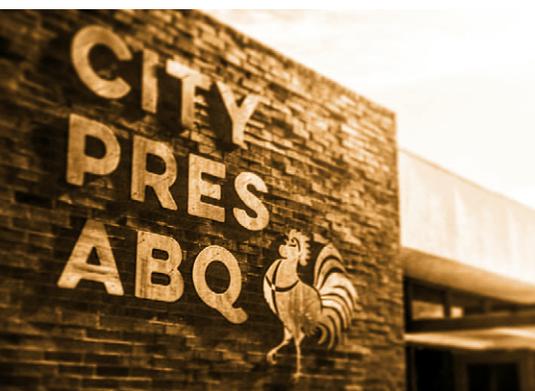
City Presbyterian is a PCA church located in the heart of Albuquerque, NM. The church originated in 2004 as Crossroads Fellowship by church planter and founding pastor, Mike McLaughlin. For its first four years, the church met in a home then in a local school, and finally having an opportunity to meet in a our own space. From 2008 to 2011, the church and its ministries to the city grew.

In January of 2011, the church hired Justin Edgar as Assistant Pastor and Church Planting Apprentice. This same year, the Lord called Senior Pastor Mike McLaughlin to move back to his home state of Missouri. In 2013, we appointed Justin Edgar as our second lead pastor.

We met in a local theater, and grew again in both leadership and ministries, until we were blessed with a leased space allowing for 24/7 occupancy and a greater presence within our current neighborhood. In March of 2017, the church updated our name and mission becoming City Presbyterian Church of Albuquerque: *a faithful presence of love in the absences of our city*. Justin Edgar led our church faithfully until his call in 2023 to serve at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Over the past 20 years - despite seasons of transformation, transition, challenge, and renewal - the heart of City Pres for Albuquerque and the spread of the Gospel has persisted and grown.

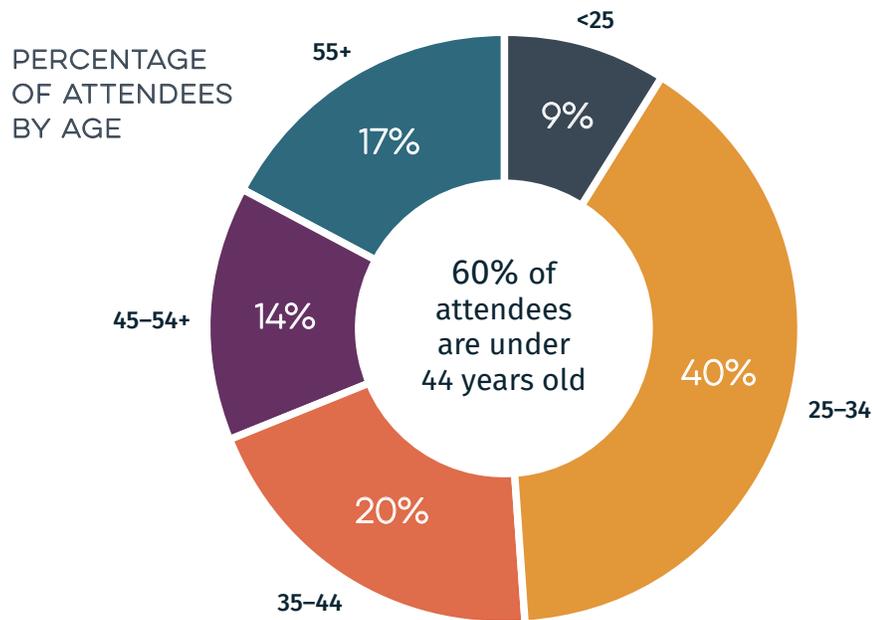
A FAITHFUL PRESENCE OF LOVE IN THE ABSENCES OF OUR CITY



TODAY

City Presbyterian has 98 communicant members and 32 non-communicant members. We average 125 people on Sundays.

Based on a recent survey of congregants, the demographics of City Presbyterian Church are as follows:



OUR CULTURE

Our logo, the Rooster, is an intentional visual reflection of our church's heart and mission of God's grace to sinners. It represents Peter's denial of Christ in Matthew 26:75. Prior to being arrested, Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed. When this came to pass the next morning, Peter remembered Jesus's words and, "went out and wept bitterly." The rooster points to Peter's denial of Christ, but also to his remorse, repentance, and eventual restoration. Jesus also restores us from our denying, deserting, and doubting - giving us hope in the darkness and daily newness of life. The rooster is a symbol of resurrection crowing at the dawn of each new morning and reminding us of the Christian's victory of light over darkness and life over death.

THE ROOSTER POINTS TO PETER'S DENIAL OF CHRIST, BUT ALSO TO HIS REMORSE, REPENTANCE, AND EVENTUAL RESTORATION

City Presbyterian is a church that loves God, loves people, and loves our city. Because of this reality, *we strive to live, speak, and serve as the very presence of Jesus in the absences of our city.* To do this, we must first love Jesus. Second, we should regularly share with others Christ's continued redeeming work in us with honesty and vulnerability.

We attempt to do this by being:

A PRAYING COMMUNITY

We believe that in Christ, God is for us and willingly does impossible things so that He might be glorified. Because of this, we prioritize regular prayer for local, regional, and global needs in our corporate gatherings. We also strive to be a community that lifts one another up in prayer during the normal rhythms of life, whether through our prayer chain email or more organically through our City Group connections. And lastly, we seek to exemplify our reliance on God's provision through our annual gathering of impossible prayer requests. Towards the end of each year, we ask our congregation to share their impossible prayers with the Session so that as a church we can be praying for God to move mightily over the coming year.



COMFORTABLE WITH LIFE'S MESSINESS

While we work to do things in good order and with reverence and respect, we also strive to graciously embrace the reality that kids sometimes make noise and, here in New Mexico, things don't always start on time. We seek to rest in the reality that Christ works powerfully in our weakness, imperfection, and awkward moments.

A CELEBRATORY COMMUNITY

We are a feasting church. We believe in regularly gathering to spend time together to deepen our relationships with one another by sharing in each other's joys and burdens. This creates opportunities for our people to bring unbelieving friends, family, and neighbors into a loving Christian community. While many gatherings are informal, the church officially sponsors celebrations informed by the liturgical-calendar to mark time throughout the year as a community looking forward to the eternal celebration of the saints.

A REDEMPTIVE STORY COMMUNITY

We see God's redemptive plan throughout history as a cohesive narrative in which our individual, city, and community stories play an important part. Just as humanity's story throughout history includes beacons of faithfulness and shadows of brokenness, so too does our community experience ebb and flow. As a story-formed church, we recall, record, and share personal stories of rescue and renewal as a proclamation of God's redemptive work in our lives. Our goal is to walk faithfully with people in whatever season, trusting that Jesus our Savior is willing and able to sustain and redeem His people through every chapter of life. We count it an honor to be able to take part in the grand arc of God's redemptive plan.

WE RECALL, RECORD, AND SHARE PERSONAL STORIES OF RESCUE AND RENEWAL AS A PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S REDEMPTIVE WORK IN OUR LIVES

GATHERING PEOPLE IN AND SENDING PEOPLE OUT

Albuquerque's US Air Force base and strong Department of Defense presence presents the blessing and challenge of transience to our community. These organizations bring many people to Albuquerque for a few years with the knowledge they will then be relocated to their next assignment. We are a body that does our best to embrace this reality by welcoming and working to make transplants feel like a part of our family, knowing that we will soon have the privilege of intentionally sending them out. Loving sojourners well is a challenging and beautiful element of our community.



OUR MINISTRIES



CITY GROUPS

We have four City Groups that meet regularly to fellowship, study, and pray, sharing life's joys, sorrows, and needs in an intimate setting.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our women's ministry provides fellowship and spiritual growth through weekly Bible studies, an annual women's retreat, and social events.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Our men's ministry offers fellowship and spiritual growth for men in the church through a monthly men's gathering and various social events.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our congregation consists primarily of young families with children, so our children's ministry is continually expanding and providing our children growth in their knowledge of Christ and relationship with our congregation. During Sunday services, we have a nursery for infants/toddlers and preschool (which includes a short lesson), as well as a children's church for elementary age children during the sermon. In addition to our Sunday morning classes, we host an annual 3-day VBS each summer.



YOUTH GROUP

The City Pres Youth Group desires to encourage and equip youth in their pursuit of meaningful friendships and in their relationship with Jesus. The ministry meets twice a month for students to hang out, play games, and study the Bible. They facilitate multiple social events throughout the year and encourage youth to invite friends. Our youth group is relatively small, but with the large number of elementary-school-age children in our congregation, it will grow exponentially in the next few years!



MUSIC MINISTRY

We are blessed with many gifted musicians in the congregation led by our staff music director, Brian Whippo. Our band encourages and supports congregational singing for the glory of God alone. We sing a variety of hymns and contemporary songs that are theologically rich, rooted in Scripture, Christ-centered, and specifically designed for congregational worship. These songs are carefully selected to complement the themes of each Sunday and flow with the arc of the liturgy.

CITY PRES'S PEOPLE SERVE ONE ANOTHER THROUGH MINISTRIES DESIGNED TO HELP OUR CONGREGANTS GROW IN GRACE AND LOVE

OUR MINISTRIES



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

City Pres partners with a local organization called Family Promise helping families transition out of homelessness by providing temporary housing, education, and meals. In addition, our diaconate provides physical and financial support to needy members of the church and local neighborhood as well as disadvantaged families at the nearby Hayes Middle School.



REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP (RUF)

City Pres directly supports Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), one of many Christian organizations on the University of New Mexico campus. RUF at UNM began in the fall of 2022, led by Charlie Fiorillo. A handful of students worship each Sunday at the church, and this past Christmas, the church dedicated its annual Christmas offering to RUF.



MISSIONS

City Pres prioritizes global missions work by coming alongside those in our congregation who have been called to this field. Examples of this include praying for and encouraging a family from our congregation that is working towards long-term overseas missions and working with Spiritual Orphans Network (S.O.N.) to send congregants on annual short-term missions.

OUR PEOPLE LONG TO BE A PRESENCE OF CHRIST'S LOVE TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



OUR CITY

For those that have heard anything about Albuquerque, it's usually either Bugs Bunny's wrong turn or a Breaking Bad reference. While Albuquerque is a place with real challenges, it is also one of the most remarkable and nuanced places in the country for those with a heart for where beauty and brokenness intersect. We have a low cost of living, light traffic, diverse neighborhoods, and great weather with more than three hundred sunny days per year.

PERSONALITY

Often referred to as, "The Land of Mañana (Spanish for 'tomorrow'...as in, 'That can wait till tomorrow')," New Mexico runs at a slower pace compared to other areas of the country. Far from the more ambitious pace of the coastal regions and the more genteel formality of America's south, Albuquerque (and much of the state) has a relaxed and earthy demeanor.

As the population and economic center of the state, Albuquerque provides services and amenities to the rest of New Mexico including an international airport, hospitals, a zoo and aquarium,

museums and art galleries, a botanical garden, an orchestra, state parks, the University of New Mexico, and the NM United soccer team, to name just a few.

THE AIR IS SCENTED WITH ROASTING CHILE AND FILLED WITH HUNDREDS OF HOT AIR BALLOONS LIFTING OFF

Albuquerque residents live in high-desert beauty from the Rio Grande to the Sandia Mountains. Canyons, mesas, petroglyphs, ancient ruins, and spectacular mountains beckon in spring and summer. In the fall, the air is scented with roasting chile and filled with hundreds of hot air balloons lifting off at the International Balloon Fiesta. In the winter, snowshoeing and skiing opportunities abound.

Culturally, Albuquerque is surrounded by Native American reservations and centuries-old Spanish land grants, making it a mixture of Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and modern American influences. Since WWII, New Mexico's DNA has been infused with technological innovation and advancements in military and aerospace technology. Many of our members



work at the renowned Sandia National Laboratories. In the past decade, our city and state have also become an active destination for the film industry with multiple studios located here.

Food is a big part of New Mexican tradition. Local pride in all things edible abounds in Albuquerque with top-quality enchiladas, sopapillas, posole, carne adovada, and of course, New Mexico chile. But Albuquerque has more than just Southwestern food. In an eater.com article entitled, “The Best Food Cities to Travel to in 2023,” Albuquerque was distinguished as one of two American contenders in a world-wide field of eleven.

Sitting at the heart of one of Albuquerque’s most beloved historic neighborhoods is City Pres’s next-door neighbor, the University of New Mexico—one of two major universities in the state. UNM can be a difficult place for students to share their faith. In a city so broken, it often feels easier to push away the notion of a loving God and adopt a cynical and self-seeking mindset. However, this brokenness presents opportunities for ministry.

UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Many New Mexicans come from backgrounds of poverty, food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness. This brokenness provides enormous opportunities for mercy ministry for our congregation. While Albuquerque may not be the meth-fueled gangland of “Breaking Bad” that many picture, our city’s brokenness does manifest in relatively high rates of property and drug crime.

Albuquerque’s spiritual atmosphere is informed by Catholicism, Native American traditions, and new-age beliefs. New Mexicans tend to be open to spirituality on individualized and self-constructed terms. This poses unique challenges to those claiming Christian exclusivity.

NEW MEXICANS TEND TO BE OPEN TO SPIRITUALITY ON INDIVIDUALIZED AND SELF-CONSTRUCTED TERMS. THIS POSES UNIQUE CHALLENGES TO THOSE CLAIMING CHRISTIAN EXCLUSIVITY.



OUR PASTOR

CITY PRES IS AN OASIS WHERE PEOPLE COME AND STAY FOR THE DEEP AND RICH COMMUNITY WE HAVE WITH JESUS AND ONE OTHER.

ASPIRATIONS

We are a church that meets people where they are in their faith. We don't have a plethora of programs, which is intentional, but enough for people to find ways to get plugged into the rhythms of church life. And if you need rest, we want to rest with you. We are PCA by affiliation and part of the Rio Grande Presbytery serving the greater Albuquerque area. With these gifts from God, we want to grow in the following ways:

SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP

We care deeply for the spiritual health of our church members and want to continue to be led and shaped by the Word of God. For all who thirst for a deeper knowledge of God, we want to provide them opportunities to study the Scriptures with other believers, seekers, strugglers, and deniers. We want to be a church that equips people from all walks of life to live faithfully and joyfully. We want to strengthen and expand our elder and diaconate base and ensure that our lay leaders feel equipped and confident as they care for and serve our church and our city.

VIBRANT FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY LIFE

The ways in which we have been faithfully present to one another have created a space for genuine relationships to grow within the church and the city. We desire to preserve this unique quality of City Pres, and our aspiration is to learn how to better share this with visitors, new members, and our neighbors. Our Sunday mornings are full of strong gospel content. City Groups provide time and space for fellowship with our brothers and sisters. And so, our desire is to continue these traditions and be an oasis of peace and joy amid life's craziness.



MISSIONAL CARE & CELEBRATION

We love to receive newcomers to City Pres and to our awesome city of Albuquerque. As we grow in our connection to others, in both our church and city, we want to better care for and love people through prayer, hospitality, outreach, and acts of service. We throw parties because we have many reasons to be cheerful, the most significant being that Jesus is with us. God's faithful presence prompts our celebrations to continue to be one of the most missional things we do as a church. Our dream is for City Pres to be a place for people to rest and fellowship as they wish, eventually entering into discipleship with Jesus. Finally, we also want to care for our current building that God has given us an opportunity to purchase and to use it as a resource for serving His people in the city.

CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE MOST MISSIONAL THINGS WE DO AS A CHURCH



PASTORAL PROFILE

City Pres is a church that seeks to love God and others to the best of our ability. We are a highly relational community that wants true goodness for Albuquerque. We don't have many programs and the ones we have are staffed with humble servants. We are seeking a pastor who has strong prophetic and priestly gifts. He will be comfortable sitting with us in coffee shops and helping us work out our faith. He will help City Pres be the beautiful bride of Christ.

PREACHER AND TEACHER

We seek a pastor who will passionately share the gospel with us, lead us in weekly communion so that we are regularly reminded of Christ's promises to us, and teach us to love our brothers and sisters through the sacrament of baptism. We desire a pastor who has a heart for Scripture and shares it with clarity, joy, humility, and holy inspiration. We want him to teach God's Word so that we may receive it for the amazing gift it is and spur us on to mature in our faith. He must walk the talk; he should have a robust prayer life and submit daily to God's guidance. We are a multi-generational church; therefore, the pastor must be comfortable and be able to impart the wisdom and knowledge of Scripture to all God's children, young and old. It is our belief that this type of pastor will equip the members of City Pres to grow in grace and confidence to love their neighbors.

HE MUST WALK THE TALK AND HAVE A ROBUST PRAYER LIFE, SUBMITTING DAILY TO GOD'S GUIDANCE.

MISSION-FOCUS AND BRIDGE BUILDER

City Pres possesses a beautiful heart for service. Be it with local schools, non-profits, or the University, we want to connect and partner in bringing the Gospel to a challenging city. We have struggled with committing to regular outreach. Our young, busy congregation needs leadership and organization to serve our neighborhood. We're seeking a pastor who can be a force-multiplier with a "big tent" mentality inspired by a "big gospel" and a heart for the poor. We seek to improve our relationships with outside ministry partners, other churches, and our Presbytery, discipling our members who are new to the PCA. Furthermore, our church desires to continue to be a receiving and sending church; we are committed to our short-term (and future long-term) missionaries.



HUMBLE SHEPHERD

We seek a pastor who is a humble shepherd and fierce protector of Christ's flock. He should model Gospel vulnerability from the pulpit and in his daily walk with God. He should be transparent with his life so that he will be trusted by his flock. We desire a pastor who possesses a high degree of emotional intelligence, and is therefore relatable and able to interact with people from all corners of Albuquerque. He gently leads City Pres staff and session, reflecting the heart of Jesus. He leads his team of three staff and cares for their spiritual growth and development. As a humble shepherd, he is able to disciple Christians of all ages and is skilled at navigating us through difficult situations, leading us to the light of Christ.

BURDEN BEARING WITH HOPE

Like many other cities, Albuquerque has its challenges. We desire a pastor who is committed to loving the people of Albuquerque be they fifth generation Burqueños or just passing through. Because we believe that the gospel of God's amazing grace changes our communities, we desire a pastor who will be a priest to the pain and suffering of the church body and city dwellers. We want someone who bears the scars of ministry on his back and is willing to endure more for Christ's sake. We are looking for a pastor who exudes empathy for the wide range of social challenges and struggles facing our city, being sensitive in ways that point to the hope we have in Jesus. His empathy should allow him to reach out and love our neighbors, walking alongside them to meet them where they are. We hope for a leader who will dedicate himself to boldly proclaim the Gospel in a city that is, at times, hostile to Jesus. He is willing to bring the Word to bear on difficult and unique cultural issues with wisdom, love, and grace. He should feel called to the beauty and brokenness of His people in Albuquerque.

A PASTOR WHO WILL BE A PRIEST TO THE PAIN AND SUFFERING OF THE CHURCH BODY AND CITY DWELLERS



COMMITTEE PROFILE

ASHLEY BANEGAS

Member for 1 Year

Ashley and her husband Isaac both grew up in the southern part of New Mexico and moved away shortly after college graduation - only to return to be closer to family after the birth and adoption of their son Jack (3). Ashley works remotely as a digital design consultant and works alongside her family to make hospitality a priority - hosting family and friends that come and stay often. Having recently won the "Party Planning Committee" award at the annual Golden Rooster celebration, you can expect Ashley and Isaac to be tending fire pits, making cocktails, and turning up the music at the many City Pres parties to come.



CHELSEA WARREN

Member for 2 years

Chelsea, and her husband, Jeremy, have been a part of City Presbyterian since the Fall of 2017. After living in multiple states before, Chelsea and Jeremy decided to move back to Albuquerque in late 2016, where Chelsea grew up. They were introduced to City Pres by wonderful friends and have stayed ever since. Chelsea serves as a deacon assistant and the City Pres community has been home to her and her family. Chelsea is currently working on her Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and is a Social Emotional Learning Advocate at a small private school. Chelsea enjoys a good cup of coffee with friends, running, traveling with Jeremy, and spending time with their three crazy kids.



RYAN BOBBIN

Member for 1 year

Ryan Bobbin, his wife Stacy, and their four daughters are New Mexico natives and have attended City Pres for two years, becoming members in early 2023. Ryan serves on the worship team and enjoys working with City Pres's youth musicians to help them develop their musical abilities. He's involved in the monthly men's gathering and loves the men's book club he's a part of. He and his family live in Tijeras, NM, a small community in the mountains just a few minutes east of Albuquerque. He and his family enjoy reading, cooking, music, travel, and the outdoors. Rich Mullins is his spiritual hero.



LAURA COBB

Member for 10 years

Laura, her husband Matt, and their 3 children have been a part of City Presbyterian since the summer of 2010. While originally from the southern states of TN and GA, they spent 9 years in CA before moving to Albuquerque and making the southwest their home. She serves on the worship team and in children's ministry and has been involved with women's ministry and care teams in the past. Laura is currently working in the wellness industry as a Licensed Massage Therapist, Exercise Physiologist, and Group Fitness Instructor. She enjoys running the trails in the foothills behind her home, and loves music, reading, and traveling. She is passionate about taking care of others, and shares her family's enthusiasm for soccer and the outdoors!



RICHARD JACKSON

Member for 14 years

Richard is a native New Mexican (4th generation, actually!). He and his wife, Rebecca have been a part of City Pres since moving back to Albuquerque in 2009. They have three children, Will, Julianna, and Robert and a beloved yellow lab named Duke. After spending 16 years in the biotech industry, Richard took over his father's financial services business in 2011. He enjoys New Mexican food, trying new methods for smoking/grilling meats, and finding adventure in the outdoors (skiing, hiking, and fly fishing are among his favorite pursuits). Richard served as an elder from 2012 to 2017, took an extended sabbatical, and in October 2020, returned to actively serving again.



field though he has had recent stints in aerospace and malaria control in Sub-Saharan Africa. He enjoys biking, lots of good food after said biking, walking his dogs, and is a connoisseur of beer and Scotch. Upon occasion, you may find him playing cello to support church worship or playing the psalms at home.

CHELSEA COLLINS

Member for 8 Years?

Chelsea and her family have been members at City Pres for about eight years. She is part of the women's ministry team and enjoys co-leading a women's Bible study. She also volunteers with children's ministry and Family Promise (a ministry to families transitioning out of homelessness). She grew up in East Texas, and attended college in West Texas at Texas Tech. After college she worked as an RUF intern for 3 years at New Mexico State University. This is where she fell in love with New Mexico (and green chile)! She and her husband Josh moved to Albuquerque in 2011. They have three children; Jack (13), Maggie (10), and Max (7). As a family they enjoy hiking and skiing in the mountains of New Mexico and traveling throughout the US. In her free time, Chelsea can usually be found reading a book, hanging out with friends, or playing tennis. She also works as a substitute teacher with Albuquerque Public Schools and loves working with children in the community.



JADYN EDGAR

Member for 13 years

Jadyn has been attending City Pres for over a decade, with her dad being the former lead pastor. She is in her second year at the University of New Mexico and is studying speech and hearing sciences. Jadyn serves at City Pres by helping lead the high school girls' bible study. She is really involved with RUF at UNM, participating in planning and outreach. In addition to being a full time student, Jadyn works part time in retail and loves babysitting kiddos at the church. She enjoys exploring different coffee shops around town, yoga, and reading.



PAUL STERN

Member for 5 years

Paul moved to Albuquerque from Philadelphia in 2018. Originally from Colorado and educated in North Carolina, Paul has worked primarily in the fine-dining and wine industry as a sommelier, server, writer, and manager. He studied classical piano performance at university and serves as a deacon and part of the worship team at City Pres. He has a passion for the outdoors—particularly the wilderness of New Mexico.



DAVID KIM

Member 1 year

David Kim began attending City Pres with his wife and son in June 2022. Though originally from Seoul, Korea, he grew up in Toronto, Canada and spent the last 20 years stateside, mostly in North Carolina. He studied environmental science and aspires to continue working in that



HOW TO APPLY

STEP 1

Please prepare a cover letter, resume, and a response to the following questions. Limit total response to 2 – 3 pages. (Note: applicants must be ordained or ordainable within the PCA denomination).

- What gifts, graces, and experiences would you bring to our church? In those experiences, what is the most energizing part of serving the church?
- What is your approach to pastoral care and counseling within the church community?
- As you have considered this role and researched our church, what stands out about our church that matches your giftings and passions?
- In your approach to preaching, what do you value and what are your aims?

STEP 2

Please use the following format to label all attachments: Firstname Lastname_Resume.
Examples: John Smith_Cover Letter, John Smith_Resume, John Smith_Questions

STEP 3

Send all attachments as PDFs to PSC@citypresabq.com

To learn more about City Pres ABQ,
please visit our website:
citypresabq.com