

## **Exeter Presbyterian Church (PCA)**

### **United in Christ, Worshipping God, Making Disciples, Nourishing Souls in the Hope of the Resurrection**

“He who is noble plans noble things, and on noble things he stands.” (Isaiah 32:8)

The church is called to worship God the Father through the Son by the Holy Spirit. This worship fosters genuine love for God and our neighbors as we work alongside others to glorify Him, find joy in Him, and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). Our vision is to see lives transformed through the gospel and to spread the love of Christ in all we do.

### **Who We Are**

We are a community of New Englanders united in Christ, living out our calling in every sphere of life as we earnestly watch and pray for the fullness of God’s Kingdom. We express this through:

- Worshipping the Triune God
- Making and nurturing disciples of Jesus
- Encouraging and equipping believers for service and obedience in faith

We also participate in and desire the flourishing of the historic Christian church throughout New England and across the globe.

Located in southeastern New Hampshire, Exeter Presbyterian Church is blessed with members from diverse backgrounds across the NH Seacoast region, northeastern Massachusetts, and southeastern Maine. Given this large geographical area, we strive to intentionally build Christian relationships of friendship, support, and accountability as we seek to honor God in both our local church and the broader Christian community.

### **Our Story**

Thirty years ago, in February 1995, Teaching Elder Steve Magee began a Bible study in his home with the goal of planting a church in Exeter, NH. A small, diverse group met weekly, and over time new people joined, catching the vision. Months later the group had grown to 25 adults and children, and we began Sunday evening worship in the Magee’s basement. Our first, small offering was fully dedicated to missions. Missions has remained a priority of our church.

Some months later, by God's providence an opportunity arose to purchase a building in downtown Exeter. With help from the PCA and the Methodist Church (the seller), we bought the property. In June 1997, we ordained four elders and became a particularized PCA church.

In November 2003, our historic building burned down—a total loss. Thankfully, no one was injured. While the region mourned the loss of this landmark, our congregation responded with faith, “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord.” (Job 1:21) That night we worshipped in a nearby Lutheran church, and the following Sunday we moved to our current building, graciously leased, and later sold, to us by the local Catholic Church. The fire gained regional and national attention, opening doors to share God's grace, which led more people to join us.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we resumed in-person worship on May 24, 2020. Unlike many churches, we experienced no significant conflict and maintained unity as a church family. A number of brothers and sisters from other churches in the area that were closed down joined us. It was a time of growth and great joy as we were able to once again join together in person to worship our Lord and Savior. Little by little “through many dangers, toils, and snares” we continued to grow with many blessings along the way, until we come to where we are today, having grown from just a few to nearly 150 members with 5 elders and 5 deacons.

## **Ministries of EPC**

*Italics indicate new or re-emerging ministries.*

### **Worship Ministry**

- Traditional and historic, governed by the Word, focused on the ordinary means of grace: prayer, singing psalms and hymns, reading and preaching the Word, and sacraments (weekly Lord's Supper).
  - Sunday Morning Worship
  - Sunday Evening Worship

### **Teaching Ministry**

- Sunday School for All Ages
  - Adults
  - Children
    - *Pre-readers*
    - *Early Readers*

- Communicants
  - *Teens – Philips Exeter Academy Outreach*
- Women’s Bible Study
- *Men’s Bible Study – needs revitalization*
- Bible Survey & Theology Class
- Outreach through Adult Education

### **Discipleship Ministry**

- Trail Life USA & American Heritage Girls
- Connections – for new members and those exploring Christ
- One-on-One/Small Group Discipleship – limited opportunities currently
- *Home Fellowship Groups – prayer, care, learning, and service; aimed at multiplying, building friendships, and fostering Christian community*
- *Trusted Referrals/Directory – guiding congregants to specialized services (e.g., Celebrate Recovery, The Nathan Project) rather than creating new ministries*

### **Mercy Ministry**

- Diaconal Care – within the congregation
- Outreach Committee – beyond the congregation
- GriefShare

### **Leadership Groups and Development**

- Session
- Diaconate
- Officer Training
- *Home Fellowship Group Leaders*

### **Our Near-Term Goals**

Lord willing, we will continue to grow, but we are nearing the capacity of our current building. Though our congregation has aged, we’ve recently been blessed with several families with young children, prompting us to expand our ministries to serve them better. For the past two years,

we've hosted Trail Life USA and American Heritage Girls, serving youth from our church and the region. Both groups are growing and are significantly crowded in our current facility. We are actively exploring options to expand our building.

As we've grown, it's become harder to know one another well, and our leaders face challenges ministering to everyone as effectively as when we were smaller. We recognize the need to adapt our approach, fostering small groups and one-on-one ministry throughout the congregation to better serve our EPC family.

Our congregation increasingly desires to engage our community and evangelize through service and sharing God's Word. While we're not planning specific programs now, we hope for a pastor who will support these efforts by counseling, teaching, and informing us about opportunities to serve and share the gospel.

Over the next three years, we expect Exeter Presbyterian Church to undergo significant change as we look to expand our building, bring on additional elders and deacons, adjust our budget to fit our needs and goals, and to enhance our ministry approach with emphasis on: community, education, and worship. These steps will set a clear direction for spiritual growth and to connect meaningfully within and beyond the church.

## **Contact Information**

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## **Please include the following items in your response:**

1. PCA Ministerial Data Form (MDF)
2. Current resume
3. Testimony of faith and call to the ministry
4. Three (3) sermons (links)