

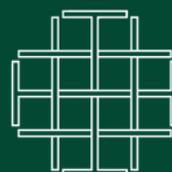


BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

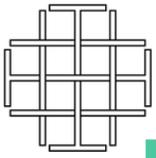
607 Harvard Street, Oak Park, IL 60304

www.blvdpres.org

pastoralsearch@blvdpres.org



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Thank you for taking the time to learn about Boulevard Presbyterian Church. As you read, we hope you not only understand what we do, but also sense who we are and how God is at work among us.

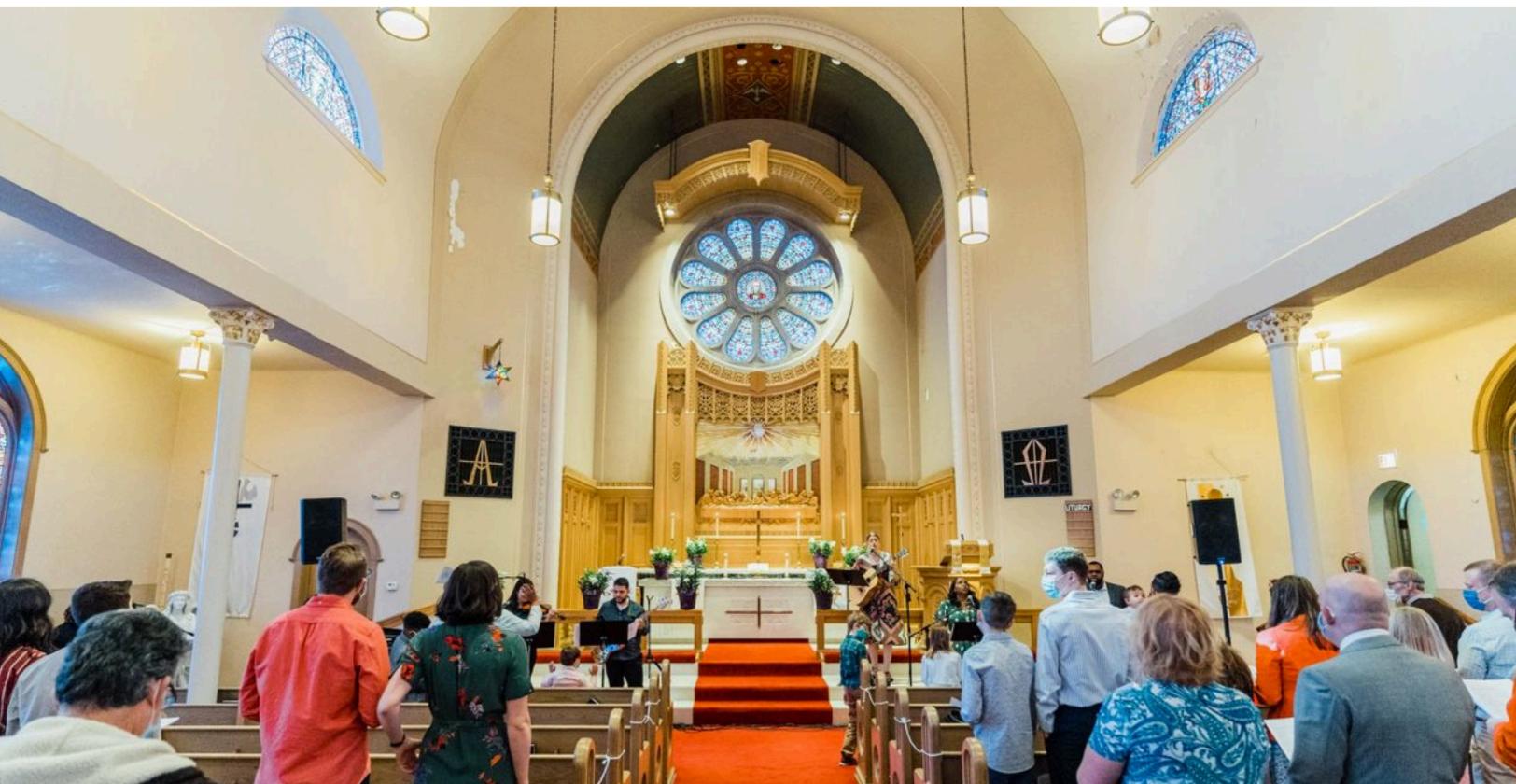
Boulevard is a young congregation, planted in 2017 in Oak Park, Illinois, a diverse community just outside Chicago. From the beginning, we have sought to be shaped by the life and love of Jesus Christ, growing into His image and reflecting His grace to our neighbors and beyond.

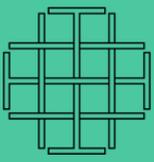
We value genuine relationships, shared life, and thoughtful engagement with Scripture. We care for one another, worship with joy, and follow Christ with conviction and humility. Strong lay leadership and collaboration have been central to sustaining and guiding our church.

As we enter a season of pastoral transition, we are prayerfully seeking a solo Pastor who has a deep personal faith in Jesus, who desires deep connection with the congregation, can articulate and lead with clear vision, teaches God's Word with theological depth and pastoral warmth, and partners closely with elders in shared ministry.

This packet is an invitation to discernment. We hope it offers a clear picture of who we are and helps you consider whether Boulevard may be a place for you to serve and grow. We trust that God is already at work in this process, and we look forward to seeing how He may be leading—both you and us.

Grace and peace,
Boulevard Presbyterian Church





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About Us

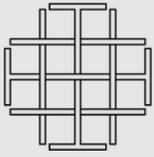
Mission

Boulevard exists to proclaim and embody the good news of Christ's redemption and renewal. We seek to make this gospel visible by making disciples, loving God and neighbor, and joining Christ's work in our lives and communities.

Vision

Our vision is grounded not in what we can accomplish, but in what God has promised to do through Christ. We trust that the God who has redeemed us is making all things new, and we long to see that renewal take root in our church, our neighborhoods, and our world.





Our History

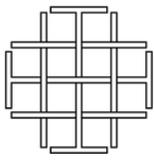
FORMATION 2017

Boulevard Presbyterian Church was planted in Oak Park, Illinois in 2017. Our mother churches – Covenant Presbyterian and Lincoln Square, both in Chicago – began considering a joint church plant in 2015, and concluded that they were led toward a strategic plant in the near-western suburb of Oak Park. In addition to our central focus on the gospel, the church was planted with an emphasis on cross-cultural ministries with the adjoining Austin neighborhood of Chicago. An Assistant Pastor at Covenant, Jeff Schneider, was appointed to lead the church plant as its founding Senior Pastor.

In September 2016, a group of around 25 adults and almost as many kids began meeting every other week to pray and plan for the launch of the new church. For the ensuing months, the launch team worked through the vision and values of the new church, including principles for outreach, worship, discipleship, and community building. The launch team also chose a name for the new church: “Boulevard” to reflect the straight path of the gospel but also the literal Austin Boulevard that stands at the boundary of Oak Park and Chicago. Austin Boulevard illustrates the separation between two contrasting communities - economically, culturally, and racially - that share this border. The team saw God provide new people, a gifted and diverse staff, finances, a worship space to rent, and a strong sense of connection to each other. The church was formally launched in September 2017.

GROWTH 2018-2020

While the pandemic year of 2020 was one full of challenges for many, including Boulevard, it was also a significant year of growth. Through online and outdoor services, the church unexpectedly grew in regular attendance, and at the end of the year the opportunity presented itself to purchase a historic building. Since March 2021, Boulevard has met at our own 100+ year old building at 607 Harvard Street in Oak Park, which we subsequently opened up to share space with several other congregations and community service organizations.



Our History

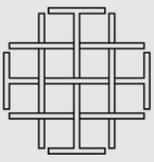
CONTINUITY
2021-2025

After meeting for 5 years, Boulevard was particularized as an independent congregation in the Chicago Metro Presbytery in October 2022. The last 3-1/2 years have been rich in growth as a Jesus-loving community. Our size has remained stable, seeing the departure of some members and the arrival (and birth) of others with a continual influx of new life.

TRANSITION
2026

Today we maintain the feel of a recent church plant: nimble and ready to adapt, as God directs us to grow and change following the departure of our founding senior pastor in January 2026.





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Our Location

Community Setting

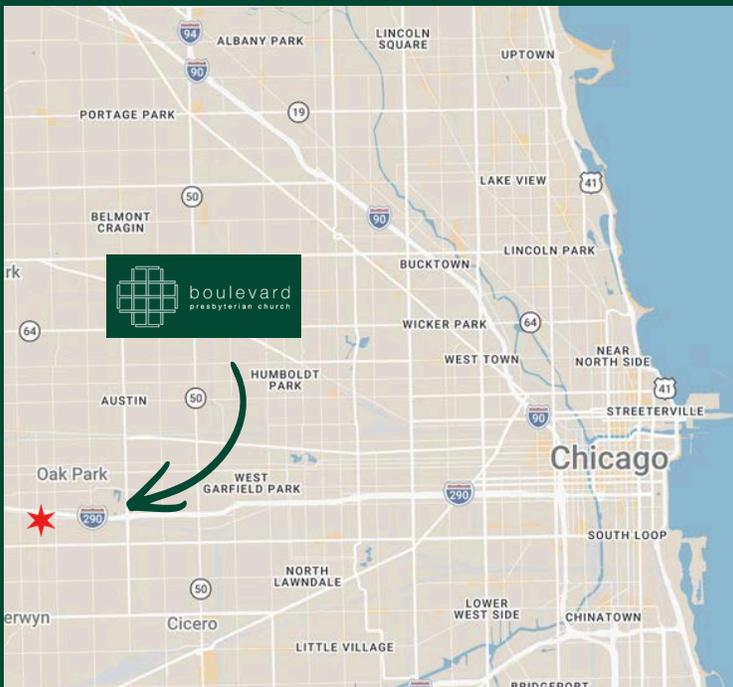
Boulevard is located in Oak Park, Illinois, a vibrant and historic village bordering Chicago. The community is diverse, highly educated, and family-friendly, blending small-town charm with urban energy and easy access to the city. Oak Park is largely post-Christian, yet we sense a genuine spiritual hunger and openness to thoughtful engagement with the gospel. A number of thriving, biblically grounded churches have successfully been planted in our community in recent years, though Boulevard is unique in its strongly Reformed understanding of the gospel.

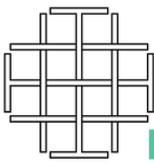


Oak Park Demographics

Oak Park has a long history of cultural and political engagement. Grounded in biblical principles, we embrace ways that our faith can be expressed to care for the less fortunate. As these practices align with the goals of many others in our broader community, we are able to cultivate community partnerships that allow us to share the gospel inspiration for our engagement. In the process, we are able to take advantage of our historic building; we host a well-used community fridge, a community store primarily serving local immigrants, and share our space with two other congregations (non-PCA). Additionally, we have developed extensive relationships with neighboring congregations and local non-profits.

Our Village is also a very desirable location for young families moving out of the city to find a little more space and strong educational opportunities for their children, or recent retirees moving close to grandchildren. Our location brings a natural stream of potential new members, with whom we actively seek to connect.





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Boulevard Demographics

Congregational Identity

Boulevard is a warm and community-oriented congregation made up of those who are passionate about following Jesus. Our congregants come from a variety of Christian, non-Christian, and post-Christian backgrounds. Many members of our congregation have not previously worshiped in a PCA church, and only recognize the ways that Reformed theology enriches their faith by its fruit in their lives (we are unapologetically Reformed, but we do not expend much effort expressing that distinction in our ministry work). What binds us together is a thoughtful and engaged commitment to loving and serving our Lord together. Our members primarily live in Oak Park and the surrounding Chicago neighborhoods of Austin and Galewood and the suburban communities of Berwyn, River Forest, Forest Park, and Cicero. Our congregation does, however, draw from a larger radius within both the city and suburbs.

Generational & Cultural Diversity

We are also a multigenerational congregation that includes both families with young children and individuals and couples in their retirement years, alongside married and single individuals at all stages of life. Throughout the history of our church, children have played a special role in the life of our congregation as we've sought to carve out genuine places of belonging for them in worship, education, and fellowship. While we are no longer as racially diverse as we were in our earlier years, we remain committed to welcoming and celebrating a diverse community from all ethnic, socioeconomic, and generational backgrounds.

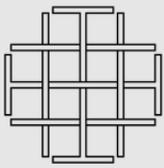
Our Membership

Congregants who consider Boulevard their church home:

Adults: 90 | Children and Youth: 50

Average Weekly Attendance:

Adults: 60 | Children and Youth: 40



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Leadership



Session

Anand Christopher
Greg Miller
Bill Scholtens

Deacons

Todd Kuna
Grace Muller
Denise Scholtens
Ben Watt
Jonathan Zenz

Shepherding Team*

Michael Atella
Tommy Atella
Sarah Laribee
Angela Koh

*appointed by Session to
assist with congregational
spiritual care

Staff

Tiffani Boerio
Ministry Director

Timothy Abbatacola
Preaching Coordinator

JoAnna Lee
Director of
Worship and Music

Sarah Vander Laan
Director of
Children's Ministry

April Perry
Office Administrator

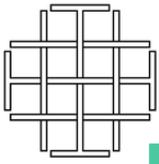
Vacant
Director of
Youth Ministry

Leadership in the church is a strong partnership between paid staff and lay volunteers.

Over the life of the church, we have only had a solo Pastor, and seminary students or recent graduates who have served as Pastoral Interns.

While we currently have no Pastoral Interns, several former interns are members of the congregation and regularly preach.

It is worth noting that two current staff positions were recently added to cover many of the pastor's responsibilities during the interim, under close Session supervision.



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Our Future

Whatever direction Boulevard takes during our pastoral transition, we will remain tethered to Jesus and his gospel as the center around which everything else moves.

We are Christ-centered, distinctively Reformed in theology, presbyterian in government, and “catholic” (universal church) in identity. We see ourselves first as part of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, confess both Reformed and ecumenical creeds, and we draw forms of worship and music from across church traditions. We are intentionally diverse in musical genre; we celebrate a semi-liturgical style of worship; and we involve the full membership in helping to lead liturgy on Sunday mornings, while still seeing the pastor as the primary leader of our worship. We value the giftings and callings of men and women in the church and have creatively found ways for women to be integral in diaconal and care ministries while embracing a complementarian perspective. These are all central characteristics of our community, and are likely to remain in place as we move ahead.

At the same time, we recognize that God has placed us in a unique time and place in his kingdom and we seek to adapt and follow his guidance for how to express his kingdom in ways that glorify him and draw others to him. In the near term, we hope to build up our already-strong Community Group ministry (~40% of the congregation are currently in a group), better equip our congregation to engage winsomely with non-believers, and to maintain our focus on hospitality and genuine care for one another. We also sense a unique opportunity to increase our congregants’ skills in engaging in difficult conversations and conflict resolution. We are in a growth mindset. While we expect a new pastor to help bring fresh vitality and skills to Boulevard, we are not waiting until a new pastor arrives to become more and more the congregation that God calls us to be.

We will consider our ministry successful if the people who attend the church are continually growing in spiritual maturity, if our community exhibits care for one another and for the community around us, and if others are drawn to Jesus because of our people and our work. We look to Christ alone to do all of this through us, as we rely in faith on his grace, and learn how to communicate his unchanging grace in the context of our community and the world around us.

Our new pastor will be a man who is equally excited about the church we desire to be. We trust he will exhibit a tender and humble heart with an unwavering commitment to growing in Christlikeness: both his own and ours. We look forward to learning more about you as we continue to seek God’s direction for Boulevard.



Could you be called to Boulevard?

Please send a resume and
cover letter to:

pastoralsearch@blvdpres.org



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