



SOUTH BATON ROUGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTORAL CANDIDATE PACKET

933 STARING LANE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70810

SBRPC.ORG

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SOUTH BATON ROUGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FORMING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH
GOD'S WORD, COMMUNITY, AND MISSION

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church. We have prepared this packet to help you understand our story, our congregation, our city, and the kind of pastor we are prayerfully seeking for this next season of ministry.

SBRPC is a congregation with deep gratitude for the Lord's faithfulness and a keen awareness of our need for His continued grace. Our story includes growth, generosity, gospel ministry, and meaningful relationships. It also includes difficult seasons that have required honesty, repentance, and renewed dependence on Christ.

As you read, we hope you will see a church that desires to be shaped by the Word, strengthened through the ordinary means of grace, and renewed for faithful witness in Baton Rouge and beyond. We are praying for a pastor who will love Christ, preach the Scriptures faithfully, shepherd our people wisely, and help us move forward with humility, clarity, and hope.

We are praying for you as you discern the Lord's call. We ask that you pray for us as well.

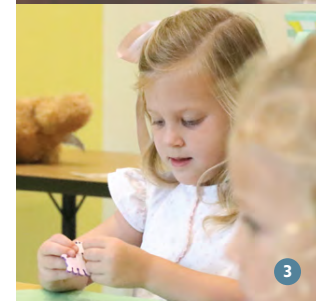
In Christ,

The South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church Pastoral Search Committee

Sarah Corbin (Co-Chair)
Lyle Hitt (Co-Chair)
Andi Deshotels

Zach Hall
Fran Hitt
Jess Johnson

Michael Lipe
Claire Scroggs
David Wernet



WHO WE ARE

OUR BEGINNING

South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church began in 1999 when a core group of local families, many of whom remain part of the church today, gathered in homes for weekly Bible study around a shared desire to see a faithful PCA church established in the southern part of Baton Rouge. The Shepherding Committee of what was then the Southeast Louisiana Presbytery organized the group as a mission work of the PCA and called Rev. J. Scott Lindsay to serve as evangelist and church planter.

In the early years, the congregation met in homes and temporary spaces, including a local gymnastics facility and a vacant music school. The church grew steadily, with much of its early growth coming through college students connected to LSU RUF, many of whom formed lasting friendships, married, started young families, and helped establish the foundation of the congregation. In 2004, SBRPC elected its first elders and was particularized. Over the next decade, the Lord provided additional leadership, staff, and eventually a permanent home. In 2010, the congregation purchased land on Staring Lane, and in 2014, SBRPC gathered for worship in its own newly constructed building for the first time.

A DIFFICULT SEASON

In 2016, Baton Rouge endured a season of public grief and strain, including racial tension that drew national attention and a devastating flood that affected many families across the region. During that same period, an adulterous relationship involving the senior pastor and a lay leader came to light. The Session, together with the Southern Louisiana Presbytery, acted to discipline those involved and sought to care for the individuals, families, and congregation affected.

This was a painful and humbling chapter in the life of the church. The Session provided counseling resources, hosted town hall gatherings, and sought to shepherd the congregation through grief and healing. Many who walked through that season remain deeply committed to SBRPC and to the Lord's ongoing work among us.

WHO WE ARE (CONTINUED)

STABILITY, DISRUPTION AND DISCERNMENT

In 2018, SBRPC called Rev. Nathan Tircuit as Senior Pastor. His early leadership brought stability, renewed confidence in the preaching and teaching of Scripture, and a season of revitalized growth. During this period, the church added pastoral and ministry staff, strengthened children's and youth ministry, and expanded part-time leadership in key areas.

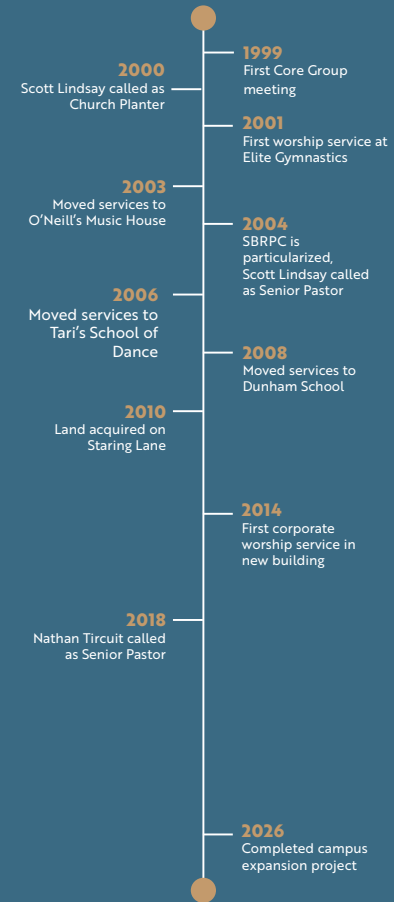
Like many churches, SBRPC experienced significant disruption during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Growth plateaued, volunteer fatigue increased, and underlying gaps in assimilation, communication, follow-up, and leadership development became more visible. Several staff and officer transitions followed, and tensions within particular ministry areas revealed broader needs for organizational clarity and relational health.

In 2025, following a period of reflection and outside support from a Christian-based organizational consulting firm, Nathan made the decision to step down and seek a new call. His resignation marked another significant transition and prompted the church to pursue a clearer sense of shared values, ministry priorities, and future direction.

A CALL TO RENEWAL AND STEWARDSHIP

Even amid a season of transition, the Lord has continued to provide for SBRPC and prepare us for future ministry. In 2026, after more than seven years of prayer, planning, and fundraising, the church completed a major campus expansion designed to better serve our congregation and community. Through a three-year Generosity Initiative, the congregation raised \$2.25 million toward expanded facilities for worship, discipleship, children's ministry, fellowship, and outreach. These improvements give us new opportunities to serve covenant children, growing families, LSU students, and our broader South Baton Rouge community.

The expansion also leaves approximately \$1.5 million in remaining debt, which we are committed to stewarding faithfully. We see this campus not as an end in itself, but as a tool for ministry as the Lord leads us into a renewed season of health, unity, and mission.



OUR CHURCH TODAY

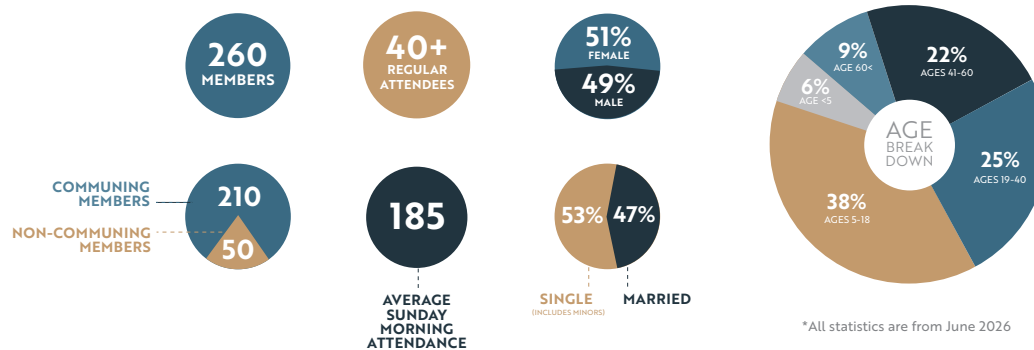
A CONGREGATION ACROSS LIFE STAGES

South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church is a congregation of approximately **260 members**, including **210 communing members** and **50 non-communing members**, with an estimated **40 regular non-member attendees**.*

Our congregation includes a strong presence of young families and covenant children, along with a meaningful number of adults in early and mid-life stages. In recent years, we have also seen an increase in older adults, singles, college-aged individuals, and visitors from previously unchurched backgrounds.

This mix of life stages gives SBRPC a significant opportunity for intergenerational discipleship, pastoral care, hospitality, leadership development, and gospel witness.

SBRPC DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW



LEADERSHIP & STAFF

SBRPC is governed by the Session in accordance with the Scriptures, the Westminster Standards, and the Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America. Our elders provide spiritual oversight and shepherding for the congregation, while our deacons lead in ministries of service, mercy, and stewardship.

Our current staff includes pastoral, administrative, and worship program leadership. In this transition, our assistant pastor, assistant pastor emeritus, part-time worship director, officers, and lay leaders continue to serve the congregation while the church seeks its next senior pastor. Looking ahead, we expect our next pastor to work closely with the Session to evaluate, shape, and build future staff positions that strengthen worship, discipleship, care, and mission, guided by clear ministry priorities, wise stewardship, and confidence in the Lord's provision.

CURRENT STAFF



Rev. Kelly Dotson
Assistant Pastor



Rev. Woody Markert
Assistant Pastor (Emeritus)



Grant Guidroz
Worship Director (Part-time)



Connie Droze
Office Administrator

CHURCH
OFFICERS

8
RULING
ELDERS

12
DEACONS

“When we gather for worship, our hope is that we glorify and enjoy God through singing Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.”
- Grant Guidroz, Worship Director

WORSHIP & MINISTRY LIFE

The life of SBRPC is centered around worship, the Word, prayer, the sacraments, and shared life in the body of Christ. We desire our ministry rhythms to welcome newcomers, form disciples, strengthen families, and send our people into Baton Rouge and the world as faithful witnesses to Christ.



We hope every woman who walks through our doors feels seen, loved, and encouraged in her walk with Christ and in community with other women.

- Anna Hitt,
Women's Ministry
Committee Chair

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday worship is central to the life of our church. Each Sunday morning, we gather for one worship service shaped by a historically Reformed liturgy of Scripture, prayer, confession, assurance, preaching, and the sacraments. The faithful preaching of God's Word has been a consistent strength of our church and remains essential to our formation as a people.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Before worship, we offer Sunday School for all ages, with a focus on deeper engagement with Scripture and thoughtful application to everyday life. We desire this hour to strengthen biblical literacy, discipleship, and relational connection across generations.

HOSPITALITY

Our hospitality team welcomes members and visitors each Sunday, helps newcomers navigate our buildings and programs, and participates in periodic visitor lunches to help people take next steps into the life of the church.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our worship is supported by a dedicated music ministry team led by a part-time Worship Director. Our musical approach draws from historic hymns and modern arrangements that retain rich, gospel-centered theology, seeking to support congregational singing that is participatory, Christ-centered, and aligned with our theological convictions.

WORSHIP & MINISTRY LIFE (CONTINUED)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our children's ministry partners with parents in the discipleship of covenant children. Sunday School is offered beginning at age three, and Children's Church is available during the sermon for children ages 4–5 as they learn how to participate in gathered worship. Our *Summer Nights* program has become a meaningful family-centered alternative to traditional VBS.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Our youth ministry serves junior high and senior high students through gatherings at the church and in members' homes. The ministry is led by committed volunteers and college interns. We have a growing base of students active in the life of the church and see a clear opportunity to deepen authentic relational connections, discipleship, and Christian worldview formation. We hope to add a full-time staff role in this area in the near future.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community Groups meet in homes and provide space for shared meals, prayer, fellowship, and time in the Word. We believe these groups remain an important way our people can pursue connection and discipleship beyond Sunday morning.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Our men's ministry includes small groups and special events that foster relationships and spiritual encouragement. Our women's ministry is supported by a committed volunteer leadership team and includes year-round Bible studies, seasonal gatherings, and events designed to strengthen connection and growth in Christ.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

SBRPC supports and encourages more than 23 missionaries around the world. We also maintain a close relationship with Reformed University Fellowship at LSU, supporting Justin and Carey Helms and connecting with students both on campus and within the life of our church.

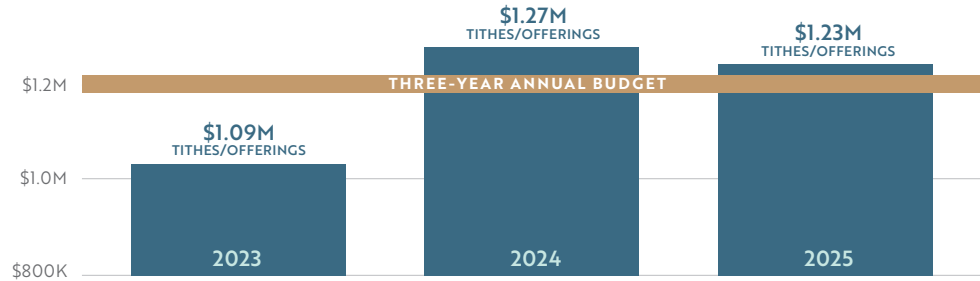
FELLOWSHIP & SHARED LIFE

We value time together outside of formal programming. Annual gatherings such as our Crawfish Boil and monthly Second Sunday meals help the congregation share life, pray together, and build relationships in a more informal setting.

BY THE NUMBERS

SBRPC FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

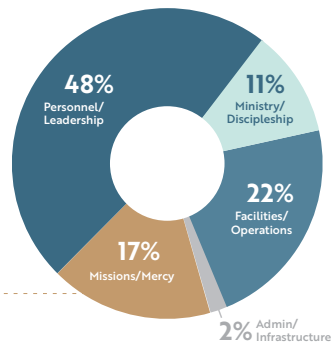
We enter this pastoral transition with gratitude for the Lord's provision and an ongoing commitment to financial stewardship. Our desire is to align giving, staffing, facilities, and ministry priorities in a way that strengthens the church for long-term health and mission.



2026 BUDGET

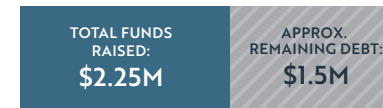
Our annual budget reflects a commitment to faithful stewardship, sustainable ministry operations, and continued investment in worship, discipleship, care, and mission.

Note: 17% of annual budget goes to supporting 23 missionaries or missions organizations



CAMPUS EXPANSION

SBRPC completed a major campus expansion in 2026 supported by approximately \$2.25 million in giving over a three-year period, with about \$1.5 million in remaining debt.



TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$3.75M

OUR CITY

Baton Rouge is a city of deep roots, generous tables, real wounds, and significant gospel opportunity.



A PLACE WHERE CULTURE RUNS DEEP

As Louisiana's capital city, Baton Rouge is a hub for government, education, healthcare, industry, and culture. The city has the energy and amenities of a larger metro area while retaining many of the relational rhythms of a smaller Southern community.

Baton Rouge is known for hospitality, tradition, and gathering. Food is central to life here. Crawfish boils, gumbo, backyard cookouts, long dinners, and local restaurants are not simply about eating, but about belonging. Mardi Gras, local festivals, White Light Night, LSU athletics, and neighborhood traditions shape the calendar and create a strong sense of shared life.

The presence of LSU is one of the defining features of Baton Rouge. On fall Saturdays, the city changes color, pace, and sound. For SBRPC, LSU represents more than the energy of a university town. It is a mission field filled with students, faculty, and a broader community whom we long to know, welcome, and care for with the love of Christ, particularly through our partnership with RUF. As students are discipled and sent out into their vocations, churches, and communities, we see a joyful opportunity to help build the church and grow Christ's kingdom both here and around the world.

Baton Rouge also sits in the heart of Louisiana's Sportsman's Paradise. Within a short drive are bayous, lakes, wildlife refuges, coastal marshes, hunting and fishing opportunities, state parks, and the cultural richness of South Louisiana. Closer to home, families can enjoy the LSU Lakes, the Bluebonnet Nature Trails, Burden Museum and Gardens, and BREC's extensive park system, which provides families with playgrounds, waterparks, bike trails, sports facilities, and community gathering spaces throughout the city.

OUR CITY (CONTINUED)

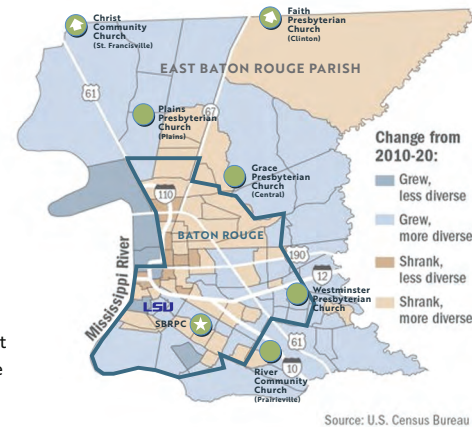
A PLACE OF BEAUTY AND BROKENNESS

Baton Rouge is home to roughly 220,000 residents, while the broader metro area is approaching 900,000 and continues to grow, especially in surrounding parishes. Though growth within the city itself has been slower, Baton Rouge remains a central gathering place for the capital region, drawing people from nearby communities for work, education, entertainment, worship, and shared life. This regional pattern is reflected at SBRPC, where some members drive in from surrounding communities to worship, serve, and participate in the life of the church.

The city's modern identity was shaped significantly by Hurricane Katrina, when many families displaced from New Orleans and the Gulf Coast resettled in Baton Rouge. That season brought new residents, new energy, and new complexity to the region. Despite its growth, Baton Rouge remains relatively affordable compared with many parts of the country, with a cost of living commonly estimated around 8–10% below the national average.

Faith is also woven deeply into the culture of Baton Rouge. With a significant Roman Catholic presence, the rhythms of the city are shaped by traditions that can be felt in everything from Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day celebrations to parish life, school calendars, and restaurants serving fish on Fridays during Lent. Alongside this, many residents are shaped by Protestant traditions and are familiar with the language of church. Yet this familiarity, whether Catholic or Protestant, does not always mean deep engagement with Christ or meaningful connection to the local church.

Families have a variety of educational options, including public schools, strong magnet programs, private schools, charter schools, homeschool networks, and co-ops. SBRPC families are represented across many of these settings, which gives our congregation broad connection points throughout the community. It also means our students are often spread across many different schools, making youth ministry especially challenging but important as a place where relationships, shared identity, and spiritual formation can be intentionally cultivated.



The PCA presence in Baton Rouge is relatively small, and SBRPC is the largest and most centrally located PCA congregation in the area. We believe this gives our church a meaningful opportunity to offer reformed, gospel-centered ministry in a city that needs both truth and grace.

WHAT WE HOPE FOR OUR CHURCH

By God's grace, we desire to grow in faith, hope, and love. The statements below express our hope for the life Christ is calling us to pursue together.

- We want to become a congregation increasingly shaped by God's Word and actively engaged in His mission.
- We hope to be a church that equips men and women to use the gifts God has given them for His glory, for the good of His people, and in service to His kingdom.
- We long to be a church that intentionally moves toward others in love, grows beyond familiar circles, and welcomes people into real relationships.
- We desire to be a people committed to pursuing reconciliation with humility, both with one another and with the world around us.
- We recognize, because of our proximity to LSU, the unique opportunity to invest in students, faculty, staff, and the broader university community as part of our calling to Baton Rouge and beyond.

Our prayer is that our next senior pastor will shepherd us with wisdom, clarity, and courage as we pursue this vision together.



The generosity of our church with members giving of their time, talents, spiritual gifts, and financial resources helps us to support missionaries worldwide, while also engaging in local missions in both personal and tangible ways. - Hunter Moser, Missions Committee Chair

PASTOR PROFILE

This is a hopeful season for SBRPC, as we are seeking a pastor well suited to our church's size, stage, and ministry dynamics.

The qualities below describe that need. Yet, our confidence rests not in any pastor's gifts alone, but in the Spirit's work through the extraordinary power of the ordinary means of grace.

A MAN OF CHARACTER, CONVICTION, AND VISION

We seek a pastor whose life reflects a deep and growing relationship with Christ and who meets the biblical qualifications for church leadership. He should demonstrate humility, integrity, emotional maturity, and accountability in both his public ministry and private life. We desire a leader whose character inspires trust and whose example encourages others to follow Christ faithfully.

Grounded in Scripture and committed to the theology and polity of the PCA, our next pastor should lead with both conviction and grace. He should possess the wisdom to navigate challenges, the courage to speak truth faithfully, and the humility to lead collaboratively alongside the elders and leaders of the church.

We also seek a pastor who can help our congregation embrace a compelling vision for how God can use SBPRC to impact Baton Rouge, South Louisiana, and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We desire a leader who can inspire, unite, and mobilize our congregation around a shared mission and a renewed commitment to making disciples.

PASTOR PROFILE (CONTINUED)

A FAITHFUL PREACHER OF THE WORD

We seek a pastor who faithfully proclaims the whole counsel of God through clear, Christ-centered, expository preaching. He should rightly interpret and apply Scripture in ways that are biblically faithful, theologically rich, and relevant to the lives of our people.

South Louisiana presents a unique culture shaped by Southern Protestantism and a deeply rooted Catholic heritage. We seek a preacher who can understand these dynamics and can thoughtfully apply God's Word to both the opportunities and challenges they present.

His preaching should encourage, comfort, convict, challenge, and equip believers to live faithfully in their homes, workplaces, schools, and communities. Above all, we desire a preacher whose ministry of the Word helps our congregation know Christ more deeply and make Him known more faithfully throughout Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the world.

A SHEPHERD OF THE PEOPLE

We seek a pastor who embraces shepherding as a central part of pastoral ministry. He should genuinely love the people entrusted to his care and demonstrate that love through prayer, encouragement, and faithful pastoral presence.

Our congregation has experienced significant leadership transition over the past decade and is in need of a pastor who is committed to knowing his people and walking alongside them through the joys, challenges, and ordinary rhythms of life. He should be visible in the life of the church, approachable, emotionally mature, and intentional about building relationships across generations, life stages, and ministry areas.

The Senior Pastor should faithfully lead the elders, staff, ministry leaders, and congregation, helping each grow in spiritual maturity and effectiveness in their callings. He should work closely with the Session to cultivate a culture of intentional care throughout the church, equipping elders and ministry leaders to know and invest in the lives of the people entrusted to them.

We seek a pastor who is comfortable in this work—one who willingly invests time with people, listens well, provides biblical counsel, enters into seasons of celebration and suffering, and helps strengthen the unity, health, and spiritual vitality of the congregation.

PASTOR PROFILE (CONTINUED)

A LEADER WHO DEVELOPS LEADERS

We seek a pastor who recognizes that the long-term health and effectiveness of the church depend upon equipping others for ministry. He should be committed to identifying, mentoring, and mobilizing leaders who can serve the church, care for one another, and advance the mission of Christ in Baton Rouge and beyond.

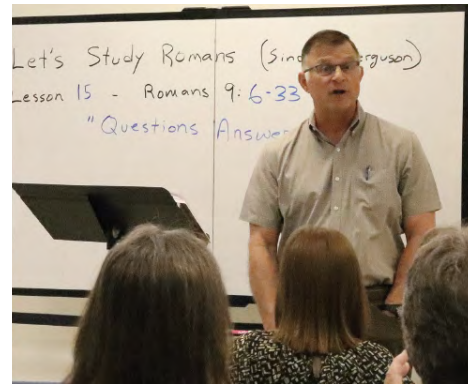
South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church is no longer a church plant, yet we do not possess the staffing and resources of a large church. One of our greatest challenges has been developing and sustaining sufficient lay leadership to support the ministries of the church. We desire a pastor who has demonstrated success in equipping volunteers, developing future leaders, and helping people move from being consumers of ministry to active participants in the work of the church.

Our next pastor should work closely with elders, deacons, staff, and ministry leaders to cultivate a culture of discipleship, shared responsibility, and joyful service. He should be able to delegate effectively, develop future leaders, and mobilize our congregation to serve one another, our community, and the broader mission of the Church.

A LEADER WHO BUILDS FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

We seek a pastor who understands that healthy churches require more than faithful preaching and shepherding. They also require intentional structures, clear communication, and ministry systems that support long-term discipleship, leadership development, and mission.

As a growing church, South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church has reached a stage where sustainable growth depends upon strengthening the organizational foundations of ministry. We desire a pastor who can help evaluate, improve, and build healthy ministry structures that equip volunteers, support leaders, foster accountability, and create clarity throughout the life of the church. Our next pastor should be able to work alongside elders, deacons, staff, and ministry leaders to develop a foundation that allows the church to flourish for years to come. We seek a leader who can help position our congregation for healthy growth, deeper discipleship, and greater gospel impact in Baton Rouge and beyond.



HOW TO APPLY

If you sense the Lord may be calling you to explore this role, please prepare a cover letter, resume (with links to at least two sermons), and a brief response to the questions below.

1. What gifts, graces, and experiences would you bring to SBRPC?
2. What is your approach to preaching and pastoral care?
3. As you have considered SBRPC and Baton Rouge, what about this opportunity seems to fit your calling and passions?
4. How have recent ministry experiences shaped your leadership, shepherding, and dependence on Christ?



Please submit all materials as PDFs using the following naming format:

- FirstnameLastname_CoverLetter
- FirstnameLastname_Resume
- FirstnameLastname_Questions

All applications should be emailed to:
applicants@sbRPC.org.

Priority Application Deadline: August 1, 2026

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee is made up of members of South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church who love this congregation and are committed to prayerfully seeking the Lord's provision for our next senior pastor.



Sarah Corbin (Co-Chair)

Sarah, her husband Brent, and their four girls have been members of SBRPC since moving to Baton Rouge in 2018. She studied at Baylor and earned her doctorate in physical therapy from Belmont. She works PRN as a PT and owns an embroidery business. Sarah serves through hospitality, women's Bible studies, Sunday School, community groups, and RUF.



Lyle Hitt (Co-Chair)

Lyle and his wife, Anna, have been members of SBRPC since 2010. They live off Perkins Road with their two daughters. Lyle has served as a Deacon since 2021, and Anna serves as Women's Ministry Committee Chair. He works in medical device sales and enjoys family, friends, hunting, and golf. Both were student athletes at LSU and involved in RUF.



Andi Deshotels

Andi and her husband, Alex, have been members of SBRPC for over 16 years. They live in South Baton Rouge with their son. Andi serves on the Women's Ministry Team, has taught Children's Sunday School, and helps host and organize Community Group. As an architect, she enjoys creative problem-solving, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

(CONTINUED)



Zach Hall

Zach and his wife, Rebekah, joined SBRPC in 2019 after growing up in Baptist pastors' families. They work in the world of disability and healthcare and have three children, including two internationally adopted children. Zach serves on the audio/visual team and has served on the Missions Committee. He enjoys walking his dogs, reading, and music or podcasts.



Michael Lipe

Michael and his wife, Shelby, are long-time members of SBRPC and were part of the original church plant in 1999. They live in South Baton Rouge and have three children. Michael is a Ruling Elder, serves as COO of a Baton Rouge marketing agency, and enjoys cooking, writing, golf, and outdoor activities.



Fran Hitt

Fran and her husband, Tucker, grew up in Baton Rouge and have been members of SBRPC since 2021. They live in Oak Hills with their three sons and run an industrial bolting company serving Louisiana oil and gas projects. Tucker serves as a Deacon, and Fran enjoys hosting, traveling, and being outside with her boys.



Claire Scroggs

Claire and her husband, Evan, have been members of SBRPC for 15 years. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, she attended Ole Miss and was involved in RUF. They have four children, and Evan serves as a Ruling Elder. Claire serves in children's ministry, women's ministry, and youth hospitality. She enjoys sourdough, Mahjong, and welcoming people into her home.



Jess Johnson

Jess and her husband, Mike, have been members of SBRPC since 2022. They have three sons. A former high school teacher, Jess currently serves her family at home. She and Mike teach Pre-K Sunday School, and Jess has served with youth girls' Bible studies, Women's Ministry. She enjoys BSF, coffee with friends, rollerblading, and theology.



David Wernet

David and his wife, Kayla, have been members of SBRPC since 2015 and have three children. David has served as a Deacon since 2021. He moved to Louisiana in 2010 to serve on Campus Outreach staff at LSU. He is currently a manager for an industrial sales company. A serial hobbyist, his enduring loves are fishing, the outdoors, and hosting families in their home.



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