VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastoral Information Packet

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

9200 Haskell Avenue · North Hills, CA 91343
valleypresbyterian.org

(818) 894-9200



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PASTORAL INFORMATION PACKET

VPC History

Valley Presbyterian Church (VPC) in North Hills, CA, a close suburb of Los Angeles, was established in 1962. We separated from the mainline Presbyterian Church, and formed an unaffiliated Presbyterian Church, and eventually joined the Reformed Presbyterian Church Evangelical Synod, which merged with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) in 1982. From the early years of our ministry, VPC grew to align its doctrine and church government with the Presbyterian tradition and confessions. In this current stage of our life together we have focused on maintaining Christ's lampstand through an emphasis on the means of grace ordered by a more traditional liturgy of Trinitarian Worship.



Our Community and City

VPC is located in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles County. We have great weather and beautiful landscapes, and the beach is less than an hour away. We also are close to various Christian colleges and seminaries (e.g., Westminster West is near San Diego). Most importantly, in Los Angeles County alone, there are 9-10 million people, only 55% who profess the Christian faith. We hope our pastor can lead us to reach out to those who don't know the Lord and help the congregation to embody the gospel in our work and in our community.

Our church worships in its own building, and we are in the process of selling some of our unused property, and, in the near future, using the proceeds to provide additional staffing, support the missions ministry, and refurbish our church facilities. Our membership is multi-generational (kids, parents, and grandparents) and multi-ethnic. New members are drawn to our biblically-faithful sermons, our liturgical worship with its more reverential tone, and our Spirit-led community.

Congregational Distinctives

Liturgy. The divine liturgy is the order of service in which our God meets, justifies, and perfects his people in a holy dialogue enacted through his ordained means of grace.

Evangelism. Evangelism is the heralding and preaching of the Great Commission and call to join the Kingdom of God, represented on earth by the church.

Sacraments. The true presence of Christ in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace. In administering the sacraments, we emphasize that these signs and seals are effectual means of grace. Since the Lord's Supper conveys spiritual renewal, comfort and joy to believers as they commune with the Triune God, VPC celebrates Communion weekly.

The Pastor and the Session. VPC's pastor works with the ruling elders to create a vision for the church, and for their common participation in implementing the vision. The pastor as the Teaching Elder is primarily responsible for the preaching of the Word.

Creedal. The Articles of the Faith, as summarized in the Ecumenical Creeds, together with the Westminster Standards, enable us to bear witness to a faith that has been confessed by the church over 2000 years of history. We value confessional fidelity.

Missions minded. VPC supports the proclamation of the gospel through Missions to North America (MNA) and Missions to the World (MTW).



Vision for the Incoming Pastor

After much prayer and deliberation, our church is hoping that our future pastor may have had 5-10 years of experience, especially 3 or more years as a solo or senior pastor, and that he be characterized by the following attributes:

1. Worship Leader. A pastor who values a more traditional liturgy, and the structure of Reformed worship (Greeting, Professing the Creed, Confession of Sin, Prayer for the Church, the Sermon, the celebration of weekly Communion). We especially hope our pastor can set a reverent tone for worshipping the God who created and saved us.

2. Proclamation of the Word. We look for a pastor who preaches the Word and interprets the Word though a redemptive historical method of interpretation. He applies the Word not only to our personal faith, but the faith of the church and the witness of the church to our society and our world.

3. Spiritual Development of Members. The pastor will pray for and care for the souls of the entire congregation, including the elders of the Session. One avenue for the pastor to shepherd the souls of church members is through his participation in our church's small group ministry.

4. Congregational Visitation. Another avenue for shepherding souls is the pastor, together with the ruling elders and deacons, visiting members in their homes, including caring for the sick.

5. Congregational Fellowship. We are looking for a pastor who will lead the church in fellowship, where we all use our gifts to care for one another, caring and supporting each other.

6. Teaching Responsibility. The pastor as our teaching elder together with the ruling elders will commit himself to catechizing the congregation, designing classes for teaching the congregation, including our younger members. Discipleship requires not only the proclamation of the Word but also faithful instruction of God's people in the whole counsel of God.



Recommended Qualifications for Our Pastor

Ordination: Ordained (or transferable) in the Presbyterian Church in America.

Education: Master of Divinity (or the equivalent) from an accredited seminary.

Theological Conviction: A commitment to Reformed and Covenant Theology. A commitment to the church as the community of salvation.

Experience: Ideally, at least 5-10 years of pastoral experience, with three years serving as a senior or solo pastor.

Character: Demonstrates the character of an elder as described in passages such as I Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, living in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Church Profile

CHURCH SIZE

341

members on roll (communicant and non communicant)

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

155

ANNUAL CHURCH BUDGET

$600,000

ADDRESS: 9200 Haskell Ave.; North Hills, CA 91343

PHONE: (818) 894-9200

WEBSITE: valleypresbyterian.org





Ministry and Community Outreach

At VPC, we believe that God uses the church to educate and sanctify the body of believers. Our elders take responsibility for leading some of these ministries, and ordinary members use their gifts at the church and when we come together in our home small group fellowships.

We have multiple Sunday schools for children and adults. Our children's Sunday school is focused on catechizing our children, and our parents support their children's study of the Westminster Standards, and the Ecumenical creeds, as well as general studies of scripture.

Our small group fellowships are usually led by an elder, and take place at least once a month. Many of our members participate.

We also support the different RUF pastors working at nearby USC and UCLA, and other universities in the area.

World Missions is also a priority for the church, and we support missionaries throughout the world: in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa.

Application Process

Interested applicants are asked to submit **a letter of interest, a resume, a Ministerial Data Form, links to two sermons, and three references.** We also would appreciate **your responses to the following three questions** (one paragraph each is fine).

1. **How would you describe the distinctives of Reformed preaching?**

2. **What do you think is the greatest challenge to the church in America today?**

3. **How would you describe your approach to building a church community?**

Materials should be emailed to the VPC Search Committee at:
VPCpastoralsearch@gmail.com

For any questions, please reach out to our search committee chair Jesse Cook at:
jessecook1646@gmail.com

We are opening our search beginning in November, and we will begin receiving applications at that time. We will review applications on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

We have a total of 7 members on the Pastoral Search Committee: two elders, a deacon, and four communicant members.

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to hearing from you.