



ST. PAUL'S  
PRESBYTERIAN

*Church Planting Pastor  
Search Packet*

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## *Church Overview*

Our great desire at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (SPPC) is to see the triune God of the Bible exalted—from the depths of our hearts to the ends of the earth. We exist for the glory of God and the joy of all peoples. We long to be fruitful in sharing the good news that our God reigns for us in His crucified and risen Son. We want to make and multiply disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ until all things are “filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14). To this end, SPPC is looking for a church planting pastor who shares our deep and wide philosophy of ministry to partner with us and the Central Florida Presbytery (CFP) of the PCA in planting a daughter church with an eye in an area northeast of St. Paul's.

## *Our Vision*

Our *vision* is to see the invisible kingdom of heaven made visible for the glory of God and the joy of all peoples.

## *Our Mission*

Our *mission* is to see this vision realized as we grow in grace and give away our lives in 1) worship, 2) discipleship, 3) community, 4) local missions, 5) global missions, 6) children's ministry, and 7) youth ministry.

## *Church Planting Commitment*

As an indication of St. Paul's commitment to church planting, the Session of St. Paul's passed the following motion on November 28, 2023:

*As part of St. Paul's commitment to the Great Commission, the Session of St. Paul's encourages all members of our local congregation to consider how they may contribute to the strategic priority of church planting. Even though it is painful to see brothers and sisters go, we are committed to giving away our best as the early church did with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 11:19-30).*

## *Deep and Wide*

We often use the phrase "deep and wide" to describe the philosophy of ministry at SPPC. This is a shorthand summary of our vision of God and our mission as his people. When SPPC began in 1991, it was planted with a deep commitment to the first great commandment, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and might (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). The founding members longed to "worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 96:9) "with reverence and awe" (Hebrews 12:28). They wanted to plant a church that would embrace the Reformed and confessional theology expressed in the Westminster Standards, be organized around the ordinary means of grace, and recapture a historically rich form of liturgy. This deep commitment to the glory of God, the doctrines of grace, and the centrality of worship continues to shape us today.

Over the past 15 years or so, SPPC has also grown wide in terms of our commitment to the second great commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18). We strive to outgrow ingrown tendencies and are increasingly engaged within our local community. Church planting is an important part of this expanding effort. We not only long to see more churches planted, but we ourselves long to be changed and revitalized in the process. Our deep desire is for our own hearts to be "wide open" (2 Corinthians 6:11). We hope to learn from the church planting pastor that the Lord sends us and pray that he will help us become an even more loving, evangelistically fruitful, outreach oriented, culturally wise, and hospitable congregation that is "zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14).

In short, our deep and wide prayer for SPPC and for any church that the Lord might use us to help plant is captured in Ephesians 3:14-19 where Paul prays that God's people might have strength to comprehend with all the saints the full breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love and to be "filled with all the fullness of God" (v.19). This deep and wide philosophy of ministry is reflected in our seven-fold ministry model that includes: (1) worship, (2) discipleship, (3) community, (4) local missions, (5) global missions, (6) youth, and (7) children's ministries. These seven major ministry areas are where we invest our time, talent, and treasure.

## *Central Florida*

Like our population, the need for faithful churches in central Florida is exploding. Approximately 1,000 people move to Florida every day, and many of these are settling in the greater Orlando area. Central Florida affords all the benefits of a large and thriving metropolitan area, including a stable local government, a growing economy, excellent Christian schools, cutting-edge hospital systems, and world-class vacation destinations. It's a great place both to raise a family and serve a mission field that is white for harvest.

## *Central Florida Presbytery & the Florida Church Planting Network*

One blessing of church planting in Central Florida is our strong presbytery and well-organized church planting network ([flchurchplanting.org](http://flchurchplanting.org)). SPPC is grateful that all our efforts will not be a "lone ranger" enterprise but will be done in cooperation with the presbytery and church planting network.

# Church Planter Profile

Our ideal church planting pastor is someone with several years of ordained pastoral experience who would be willing to serve on staff at SPPC and develop a core group for 12-24 months before launching a new daughter church somewhere to the northeast.

## *Responsibilities*

As a church planting pastor, on staff at SPPC, this minister's time and energy will be divided between two primary areas of responsibility:

1. Church Planting Responsibilities
  - a. Praying for the gospel to flourish within the church plant's core group and the area where the plant is located.
  - b. Being a servant leader who humbly collaborates with other leaders while spearheading the church planting process.
  - c. Working closely with the CFP and the Session of SPPC until such time as the church plant matures and can be organized into a particular church.
  - d. Building gospel-centered relationships with the core group members and leading core group meetings.
  - e. Preparing the soil for the church plant through community outreach, evangelistic efforts, and relationship building.
  - f. Participating in fundraising initiatives to support the church plant by meeting with individuals and groups to express the vision and need.
  
2. General Pastoral Responsibilities
  - a. Regularly pray for St. Paul's and her members.
  - b. Occasionally assist in worship.
  - c. Occasionally teach in St. Paul's adult education ministry.
  - d. Occasionally preach and officiate the sacraments.
  - e. Assist with various pastoral shepherding needs as assigned by the pastor during a 12-24 month residency.
  - f. Co-chair and champion St. Paul's Local Missions Ministry.

## *Requirements*

1. Maintain an exemplary Christian testimony in humble dependence on the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
2. Meet the biblical and denominational requirements to be a PCA teaching elder.
3. Possess a shepherd's heart, desire to love people and be involved in their lives.
4. Exhibit relational wisdom and discernment in handling difficult pastoral situations.
5. Have proven Christ-centered, expository preaching and teaching skills.
6. Be committed to planting a church that will bear a "family resemblance" to SPPC while being its own distinct and particular church, not a "clone" of the mother church.

## *Application Process*

Those interested in applying may do so by sending a cover letter and resumé to Pastor Justin Borger RE Jim Crandall at [jcrandall1953@gmail.com](mailto:jcrandall1953@gmail.com).

More information about St. Paul's Presbyterian Church is available at [stpaulsorlando.com](http://stpaulsorlando.com).