

CHRIST OUR HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

<http://christourhopechurch.org/>

Charlestown, RI

Solo Pastor Job Description

September 2024

Introduction:

Christ Our Hope is a small church, in rural Southern Rhode Island. We are seeking a solo pastor to **minister** to us in Word & Sacrament, to **preach** Christ to us, to **teach** us God's Law, to **proclaim** the Gospel to us, to **baptize** our covenant children and new believers, to **catechize** us in the historic Reformed faith, to **lead** us in worship of God according to Scripture, and to **govern** us according to Presbyterian polity.

About Us:

Christ Our Hope ([COH](#)) was planted as a mission church in 2004, becoming the second PCA church in RI. We were particularized in 2009, in the Southern New England Presbytery.

We are a loving congregation of about 40-50 people, with many young families and children. We lease two units of an office [complex](#) on South County Trail in Charlestown, RI, where we hold weekly services and other church activities. Our annual budget is about \$136k. Our worship is simple, with an approximately Genevan liturgy, including OT and NT readings, psalms and hymns, confessions of repentance and faith, etc. (see sample worship guide included on the last page).

Our Session includes three ruling elders, and our Diaconate includes two deacons. The pulpit search committee includes two ruling elders, one deacon and four other members (our third elder is serving in an advisory capacity).

About the area:

Our members live all over Southern Rhode Island (and even farther!). So-called "South County" is a scenic tourist-destination, with farmland, forests and many beautiful beaches. The population of South County is about 180,000. Religious affiliation in RI is Roman Catholic, and even among Protestants, there are few evangelical churches, and even fewer witnesses to Reformed faith and practice. Nearby military facilities cause a regular influx of "transplant" visitors.

About the vacancy:

Our current pastor, Rev. Daniel Jarstfer, has been faithfully serving our congregation since 2014. Recently, he informed us of his intentions to retire from the ministry in April 2025. We are trusting God to provide a new pastor for us.

Contacting us:

To explore this opportunity further, please send your Ministry Data Form (MDF) or other relevant information to Mark Slater, Chairman of the Pulpit Search Committee (cohulpitsearch@gmail.com).

General Qualifications:

This job description is a guideline and is not intended to be confining. Developments within the church may entail new responsibilities, and changes may need to be made periodically as the leadership

works together for the spiritual growth and development of the church.

1. Adheres to and strives to fulfill BCO Chapter 8: The Elder (based upon 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and 1 Peter 5).
2. Able to lead a growing congregation and plan accordingly for its needs.

Specific Responsibilities:

1. Preaching & Teaching:
 - a) Study, preach, and teach God's Word on a regular basis.
 - b) Schedule pulpit supply when away from the church.
 - c) Preach at and preside over all services, unless determined otherwise by the Session.
 - d) Keep abreast of theological, ministerial, cultural, and social issues.
 - e) Teach classes on Scripture, theology and doctrine, leadership, membership, and related subjects to nurture the spiritual growth and development of the church members.
2. Worship:
 - a) Work with the Session in planning and leading worship services while utilizing the variety of gifts within the church leadership and the congregation.
 - b) Administer the Sacraments weekly and in accord with the BCO.
3. Shepherding:
 - a) Set a worthy example to the flock in
 - i. All matters of Christian conduct.
 - ii. Zeal to evangelize the unconverted and make disciples.
 - iii. Maintaining a consistent private and family devotional life with prayer and study of the Word.
 - b) Provide shepherding oversight, along with the Session, for the entire congregation, including small groups and visitation.
 - c) Visit the sick in homes and hospitals; contact inactive members; contact prospective members, inviting them into the community of the church.
 - d) Encourage members to minister to one another in accordance with the unity and love they have in and through Jesus Christ.
 - e) Foster understanding in the church about world and domestic missions, and challenge members to be active in mission work, service, prayer, and giving.
 - f) Perform weddings and conduct funerals as requested.
 - g) Provide regular counseling, primarily within the church but also occasionally to those outside the church as requested.
 - h) Study to improve in preaching, counseling, teaching, and administration.
 - i) Promote leadership development.
4. Leadership:
 - a) Promote the mission and vision of the church among the leaders.
 - b) Provide direction and instruction to those in leadership positions.
 - c) Serve as Moderator of both Session and Congregation.
 - d) Serve as ex-officio member of any Session committees when necessary.
 - e) Recommend ministry opportunities to committees when appropriate.
 - f) Actively participate in and fulfill responsibilities to Presbytery and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America.
 - g) Pursue fraternal relationships with pastors in the area.

5. Administration:

- a) Regularly meet with, oversee, and give direction to the church administrator and ministry leaders as they carry out their responsibilities with the church.
- b) Work closely with and provide guidance to an intern and/or assistant pastor (if one were to be called).
- c) Propose recommendations to the Session regarding staffing needs as they arise.
- d) Perform ordinary pastoral administrative functions necessary for the efficient operations of the church.
- e) Foster a relationship with the University of Rhode Island with a view toward establishing a Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) ministry there.

6. Evangelism and Outreach:

- a) Equip members for effective evangelism; promote church growth in outreach.
- b) Commit to support and encourage participation in local, national, and global Mission.
- c) Support local outreach ministries such as our nursing home ministry.

Sample Worship Guide

We Adore the Lord and Honor Him as King

Call to Worship

Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

Songs of Adoration

Call to Repentance

Confession of Sin

Assurance of the Gospel

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Song of Thanksgiving

The Lord Speaks to Us in the Ministry of the Word

NT Homily

Sermon Text

Sermon Title

Prayer of Response

Song of Response

We Commune with God and One Another in the Sacrament and Collection

Confession of Faith

Prayer of Consecration

Administration of the Bread and the Cup

Grape juice is available in center cup/inner circle for those who cannot drink the wine in faith.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Collection with Singing of Praise

Prayer of Benediction