

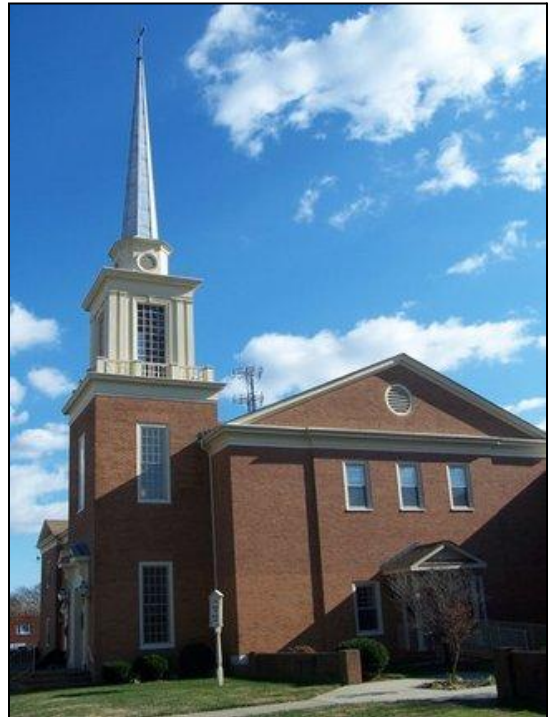
WEST END

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1600 Atlantic St.
Hopewell, VA 23860

INFORMATION PACKET

OVERVIEW: West End Presbyterian Church (WEPC) of Hopewell, Virginia, is seeking a solo pastor to shepherd our congregation. Our next pastor will serve alongside us by exercising his strengths in proclaiming the Word, worship leadership, stewardship, discipleship, congregational visitation, community service, youth work, and other inherent pastoral duties. He should be “a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5), committed to piety that is exercised through a disciplined personal devotional life, well-grounded in Reformed theology, and able to communicate freely with people of diverse ages and backgrounds, preaching and teaching Christ from all of Scripture. The candidate’s beliefs must also be consistent with the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, the Bible itself being our only infallible rule of faith and practice. His personal and professional conduct must be above reproach.



OUR CALLING: To be a God-honoring, Christ-exalting, Holy Spirit-empowered church community of authentic, loving Christians reaching out to all generations with the Gospel declared in God's Word. We actively strive to extend the church to all who sin and need a Savior, mourn and long for comfort, hunger and thirst after righteousness, struggle and desire victory, are spiritually weary and seek rest, are strangers and want fellowship. We uphold the Reformed Doctrines of grace: total depravity, unconditional election, definite atonement, irresistible grace, and perseverance of the saints, as revealed by Scripture alone. We believe in salvation by faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone, and to God alone be the glory. We find great comfort in God's sovereignty and providence. He calls us to Himself.

CHURCH HISTORY: In 1921, under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Depuy, a Sunday School was begun in an old storefront building in Hopewell, Virginia. God blessed this ministry, and in 1924, West End Presbyterian Church (WEPC) was organized, and Mr. Depuy was ordained and installed as pastor.

In 1929, Mr. William E. Hill, Jr., was called to serve in the ministry at WEPC. The storefront was remodeled in 1932. In 1940, a new church sanctuary and classrooms were constructed. At the same time, a separate recreation building was constructed adjacent to the church by the young people of WEPC and with the assistance of young people from other churches in the area. Reverend Hill began a church-sponsored kindergarten in 1949, which expanded to a regional K-12 Christian school. In 1958, Rev. Hill resigned from the ministry at WEPC to devote his efforts to establishing the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship.

In 1958, the Reverend Donald B. Patterson was called to serve as senior pastor at WEPC. He stayed until 1962, when the Reverend Kennedy Smartt came to serve as minister. In May of 1964, while under renovations, a fire broke out, destroying the church building. A new facility was built on the footprint of the old church and serves today as our worship center. In 1972, the congregation requested to be dismissed from the Hanover Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. In 1973, the first General Assembly of the new Presbyterian denomination was held, and the name National Presbyterian Church was chosen. In the fall of 1974, the name was changed to the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Reverend Sam Cappel served from 1977 to 1983. E. Lee Trinkle, III, served from 1984 to 1986. Dr. Robert Wilson served from 1988 to 2001. He was followed by the Reverend Kevin Collins, who served from 2003 until 2011; Rev. Collins was followed by the Reverend Eddie Reed, who left in April 2020. Reverend Eric Dugan became our pastor in 2021 and left in the fall of 2024.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: The actual salary and compensation package is not formally offered until the chosen candidate is approved by the congregation and the church issues a *Form of Call* notification to the chosen candidate, which will occur later on in the search process. The package is predicated upon a chosen candidate's education and scope of experience. To provide you with that perspective, the projected range for our solo pastor position is \$75,000-\$85,000.

When considering moving into the area, there are some things to keep in mind. The following is a breakdown of the cost of living in Hopewell as compared to state and national averages as of 2024. There are several online cost-of-living calculators that allow you to compare the cost of living between two cities. Here is one you might find useful:

<https://www.bestplaces.net/cost-of-living/>.

Cost of Living	Hopewell	Virginia	USA
Overall	79.9	104.2	100.0
Grocery	94.8	99.6	100.0
Health	99.1	103.1	100.0
Housing	49.1	112.9	100.0
Median Home Cost	236,700	343,200	338,100
Utilities	100.2	99.3	100.0
Transportation	84.5	99.4	100.0
Miscellaneous	102.0	113.7	100.0

*100 = National Average

DESCRIPTION OF DESIRED STRENGTHS: While the duties of a pastor are many, our 2024 survey of WEPC's congregation revealed our desired strengths:

Proclamation of the Word: The Word of God is preached with urgency and conviction, bringing it to bear on the changing needs of individuals, the community, and the world. Pastor's sermon preparation time is given high priority.

Discipleship Training: The pastor leads the congregation in an approach to discipleship training that focuses on long-term teacher/pupil (disciple) learning and teaching of the Word, the truth of scripture, and doctrines of faith. Supportive programs at WEPC include New Members classes, Officer Training, Sunday School for children and adults, Women's Bible Study, Small Groups, Sunday Evening Bible Study, and Wednesday evening Prayer Meetings.

Worship Leadership: The pastor and session work to develop a rich worship life and educate the congregation for meaningful participation.

Congregational Visitation: The pastor and church officers develop and carry out a systematic plan for visiting the entire congregation. They give special attention to prospective members and those with special needs, including those who are homebound, and make impromptu emergency room or hospital visits for congregation members in need.

Missions Beyond Community: The pastor and church maintain a heavy role in missions worldwide. The pastor keeps up with currently supported missions and looks for opportunities to support new missionaries if practicable.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (JOB REQUIREMENTS, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES): To fulfill the requirements of the position, the pastor must:

- Possess a seminary degree.
- Preach and teach the Bible and conduct worship services.
- Possess and apply managerial skills and integrate those skills in concert with the internal and external ministries of the church.
- Motivate and train ministry team leaders and demonstrate the ability to perform and train others in performing personal evangelism.
- Participate in Presbytery and denominational activities.
- Pass the ordination requirements in the *Book of Church Order* of the PCA and implement it by the James River Presbytery.
- Adhere to presbytery standards of spiritual standing and credentials, which include embracing the Confessional Standards of the PCA and meeting all other requirements for ordination in the denomination and installation of the church, to include a philosophy of ministry reflective of a *Reformed* world and life view, as expressed in and through Presbyterian heritage and Confession of Faith.

OUR COMMUNITY:

Community: WEPC is located in historic Hopewell, Virginia. It is only 21 miles south of Richmond, Virginia, and approximately 130 miles south of Washington, D.C. Originally City Point (established in 1613), the City of Hopewell was incorporated as an independent city in 1916.

Population of City of Hopewell: **22,962**

Based on Race (Hopewell):

- **43.8% Black/African-American**
- **41.7% White**
- **9.1% Hispanic/Latino**
- **3.5% Multicultural (non-Hispanic)**
- **1.3% Asian**
- **0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native**
- **0.2% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander**

Population of Prince George County: **43,134**

While WEPC primarily serves Hopewell and the surrounding county of Prince George, we also have members living in surrounding communities and an active-duty military post on Fort Gregg-Adams. We hope to increase our engagement in these communities through expanded partnerships with local schools, small businesses, and the Fort Gregg-Adams military base.

MINISTRIES (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL):

Internal Ministries: Discipleship, including Sunday school, Bible study, women's group, children and youth groups, adult nurturing, congregational care, home fellowship groups, hospitality, and music. Our ministry goals within the church are to foster a desire to serve and equip each other for that service. We are a body of believers who serve different functions within the church because of age, gender, talent, and interest, but are united in Christ.

External Ministries: Local and worldwide missions, children's ministries, monetary support through our Deacon's Fund, participation in our local community and the Pregnancy Support Center. As the body of Christ, we are called to proclaim Christ to the world through word and deed and take care of each other. We desire to better serve one another across demographic lines, not merely by creating specific ministries such as the Youth Ministry or the Women's Ministry but also by creating an environment where we engage with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Each year, we look for new opportunities to reach out to schools and families in new ways. We have an opportunity to support our local small business groups in a new way each year. We also want to continue supporting our area's military servicemen, women, and families.

CHURCH DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

The chosen solo pastor will have the support of an administrative assistant and the session. Our current session consists of four elders and three deacons.

- Membership: 88
- Average Attendance: 60
- Adults over age 65: 61
- Adults under 65: 15
- Youth and Children: 12

HOW TO APPLY: All candidates must complete a Ministerial Data Form (MDF). If you already have a current MDF on file at the PCA, it is not necessary for you to request one from us. If you do not have a current MDF on file, ways to obtain one are described below.

1) The preferred method is to request a blank MDF directly from the PCA. To do so, please follow the link below and follow the subsequent procedures regarding completion and submission: <https://www.pcaac.org/pastor-search/pastors-open-to-a-new-call/>.

2) If you prefer to submit an MDF directly to our church, e-mail our pastor search committee at wepcpastorsearch@wepc-hopewell.org or call us at 804-458-6765. Please provide your name, e-mail address, physical home address, and telephone number. We will send you a blank MDF to complete and electronically return to us, or we will mail you a hard copy. When mailing a completed hard copy, please send it to ATTN: Pastor Search Committee; 1600 Atlantic St; Hopewell, VA 23860.

3) If you are a seminary student and do not have an MDF on file but are within your final semester or quarter of graduation, the PCA allows you to submit an MDF to their office. Your seminary's placement office is also a valuable resource for your ministry search.

Inquiries, communications, and MDFs are considered confidential and are not shared outside of our pastor search committee.