

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mif #: 03379.ADO

Ministry General Information

Ministry Number	03379
Ministry Name	First Presbyterian Church
Mailing Address	2577 Wickham Drive Muskegon, MI 49441
Phone	(231) 759-1275
Fax	(231) 759-7825
E-Mail	info@fpcmuskegon.org
WWW Address	www.fpcmuskegon.org
Ministry Size	101 - 250 members

Ethnic Composition	
	Asian 1%
	Black or African American (African Native, Caribbean) 1%
	Hispanic Latino/Latina, Spanish 3%
	White 95%

Average Worship Attendance	65
Church School Attendance	41
Curriculum	Varies
Yoked	False
Presbytery	LAKE MICHIGAN PRESBYTERY
Synod	SYNOD OF THE COVENANT
Community Type	Small City

Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization [Show Statistics](#)

Information about the position

Position:	Solo Pastor
Experience Required:	2 to 5 Years
Specific Title:	
Employment Status:	Full-time

Language Requirements:	
	English

Other Language:	
Statement of Faith Required:	True
Clergy Couples:	

Training/Certificate Requirements:	
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Other Training:	
Brief Church Mission Statement:	

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First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon's mission is to nourish minds, bodies, and spirits, crossing boundaries and devoting ourselves to serve in the name and the spirit of Jesus Christ. Rooted deeply enough to risk being reshaped, we will have the courage to continually explore new ways to move in the direction in which God calls us.

What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry:

First Presbyterian Church (FPC) is *a place to worship, a place to belong, a place to serve*, as displayed on a new, digital sign on our very visible Muskegon corner. FPC's vision emphasizes feeding the hungry, crossing boundaries, and education. This vision has been carried out by faithful members and friends for decades, and we continue to operate as a vital part of the body of Christ.

FPC is blessed with spiritual and material resources. Our pastors preach sermons that inspire us to live out our faith in the world. Worship service music alternates between instrumental and voice combos and chancel choir anthems and hymns. Over the years generous members have contributed funds for a pipe organ, a Carillon bell system, renovation of our original chapel, memorial garden, stained-glass windows, and more. We are financially sound in our church operations. Recent capital improvements include replacement of the boiler and roof on our 70-year old facility. We also have a church van for fellowship opportunities and mission trips.

Mission work is central to the ongoing vision of FPC. From serving local meals to sending donations to international advocacy groups, FPC always "shows up" to lend a hand. Housing homeless guests in the Family Promise program, supporting young families with clothing/toy "swaps" and housing a Girl Scout troop demonstrates FPC's vision to serve the larger community in the name of Christ.

How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency:

The economic identity of FPC's community continues shifting away from heavy industry to skilled manufacturing, healthcare, and tourism. Over the years the loss of several large employers in the region is one factor leading to population declines in the city and county of Muskegon resulting in housing, employment, and hunger concerns.

FPC, the only Presbyterian Church in the county, is a PCUSA "Hunger Action Congregation" addressing community needs broadly and individually. The congregation supports Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry, Supper House, CROP Walk, Bread for the World, and Family Promise which offers homeless and jobless families food and shelter. FPC assists established non-profits in Muskegon County including Every Woman's Place, Muskegon Rescue Mission, Love, INC and Mission for Area People. The effort to care for "the least of these" isn't just local, it includes national and international programs including CWS's "Blanket Sunday" and "Souper Bowl of Caring."

Most of FPC members are at or near retirement age, and are willing to spend time and resources to solve community needs. Member and community needs are addressed by additional programs for youth, moms, prayer shawl knitters, Bible study, and a book discussion group focusing on social injustice.

Congregants are friendly, caring, and wander from pew to pew to welcome members, friends, and guests, before and after Sunday service. When someone falls ill, members spring into action with cards, food, visits, and prayer.

How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals:

Our 2015 Vision Task Force recommended these areas of focus: Feeding the Hungry, Crossing Boundaries, and Education. We believe these areas are still vital to our vision of our church's future program development. A pastor who can help us maintain our focus in these areas and generate new ones would be ideal.

The person called to this position will need to be an enthusiastic leader who is able to inspire through presenting thoughtful, currently relevant sermons and nurture deeper relationships with Jesus Christ. By embracing our members and community with a big heart, strong communication skills, and unity, we will continue to build relationships and serve across our different generations, backgrounds and opinions. This is an excellent opportunity to provide strategic leadership to support and enhance our vision as we continue to explore ways to reshape ourselves in the direction God calls us.

Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and or organization:

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We seek a pastor who is rooted with a deep authentic faith and love for God. This person should be loving, happy, compassionate and confident, exhibiting the glory of Christ and lives their call to love God and others by example in their daily lives.

We are pursuing someone who is down to earth, who will empathetically listen to cares and concerns, without being judgmental or unapproachable. Our next pastor must be adept at connecting with our members to provide meaningful pastoral care across generations.

Our next pastor will have a contagious personality with the ability to communicate at a high level to our members and the community. These skills are essential to supporting our vision and encouraging church membership. Enjoying the outdoors would be a plus for the area.

We seek a creative thinker who can bring fresh ideas to the table. He or she should possess the vision to help us navigate the post-pandemic world and be a bridge-builder in balancing the ecumenical diversity of our community.

Our parishioners value a balance between traditional and modern worship styles. Preach sermons that are biblically grounded, with an effective preaching style, which is uplifting, motivating, compelling, thought provoking and Christ-centered.

We need an adaptive leader, while working collaboratively with existing staff and members. Supportive of core values, while identifying weaknesses and leading us into the future with a clear Christian vision.

What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

An ongoing focus of FPC is revitalization and growth of our congregation. One major responsibility of a new pastor is the ability to deliver a compelling, Christ-centered sermon which inspires the congregation. We seek a pastor who can help us focus on community outreach and building excitement about what we are doing. Seeing a friendly, personable pastor on Sundays is critical to attracting new members.

Our staff is comprised of a Community Engagement and Education Director, Office Manager, Financial Secretary, Director of Music, Choir Director, Media Technician, and Nursery Attendants. The pastor should excel in administrative leadership and communication in addition to inspiring the congregation. We have a dedicated, cohesive staff which works well together, but it is important to have a leader who can oversee both administrative and spiritual goals of the church. Strong problem solving skills would be an asset.

FPC has a well-educated congregation which offers multiple opportunities for spiritual learning other than on Sundays. To the extent pastoral attention enhances certain opportunities, it would be expected that the pastor would be an active and willing participant.

Pastoral care is an important component of this role. Visiting and serving communion to shut-ins, checking on the ill and hospitalized, and counseling members are all important tasks. Covid-19 has highlighted the needs in these areas and is an important part of our ministry.

Optional Links:

www.fpcmuskegon.org

www.watchmuskegon.com

Leadership Competencies:

Compassionate

Hopeful

Preaching and Worship Leadership

Spiritual Maturity

Communicator

Public Communicator

Organizational Agility

Strategy and Vision

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Interpersonal Engagement
 Bridge Builder

Compensation and Housing: Cost of Living Calculator
Minimum Effective Salary: \$65,000
Housing Type: Housing Allowance

References:				
Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
Rev. Scott Paul Bonham	300 Lake Court, St. Joseph, MI 49085	(812) 240-6656	Friend/Former Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian	scott.paulbonham@gmail.com
Rev. Andre' Williams	3061 Woodcliff Drive, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444	(231) 903-2661	Friend/Pastor of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist	revawilliams06@gmail.com
Rev. Tim VanderHaar	1201 Jefferson Street, Muskegon, MI 49441	(231) 557-7637	Friend/Pastor of First Congregational Church	tvanderhaa@aol.com

Has the Pastor Nominating Committee and Search committee affirmed its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?
 Yes

Version Track Info: This MIF was last updated on 01/16/2023

Self-referral Contact Information

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