

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

**Mif #: 02582.AA0**

**Ministry General Information**

<b>Ministry Number</b>	02582
<b>Ministry Name</b>	Community House Presbyterian Church
<b>Mailing Address</b>	120 Parkhurst Street Pittsburgh, PA 15212
<b>Phone</b>	412-321-3900
<b>Fax</b>	
<b>E-Mail</b>	info@communityhousepgh.org
<b>WWW Address</b>	www.communityhousepgh.org
<b>Ministry Size</b>	Under 100 members
<b>Ethnic Composition</b>	
	Black or African American (African Native, Caribbean) 4%
	White 96%

<b>Average Worship Attendance</b>	29
<b>Church School Attendance</b>	4
<b>Curriculum</b>	In house arts based curriculum.
<b>Certified as eligible for participation in the Seminary Debt Assistance Program</b>	False
<b>Yoked</b>	False
<b>Presbytery</b>	PITTSBURGH PRESBYTERY
<b>Synod</b>	SYNOD OF THE TRINITY
<b>Community Type</b>	Urban

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

**Information about the position**

<b>Position:</b>	Solo Pastor
<b>Experience Required:</b>	2 to 5 Years
<b>Specific Title:</b>	
<b>Employment Status:</b>	Bi-vocational (able to provide employment through outside partnership)

<b>Language Requirements:</b>	
	English

<b>Other Language:</b>	
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<b>Statement of Faith Required:</b>	True
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<b>Clergy Couples:</b>	
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<b>Training/Certificate Requirements:</b>	
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<b>Other Training:</b>	
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<b>Brief Church Mission Statement:</b>	
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# Church Leadership Connection

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

At Community House Presbyterian Church, we believe that there is no understanding of life or of scripture without interpretation. We choose to interpret in the light of Christ's life of radical inclusiveness and generous action. We tear away the labels that are created by society to degrade and disenfranchise others. We stand firm in our commitment to be a loving and open community that welcomes everyone to the table of grace, peace and light. We embrace and celebrate diversity, responding to the love of God that welcomes people of every race, culture, sexual orientation, and worldly condition. We believe that the presence of God in the world is realized in our actions for love and justice. We proclaim, celebrate and share the gracious love of God which we experience in Jesus Christ, embracing God's diverse family as we remove barriers to becoming one in Christ, by welcoming and including all of those of God's rich tapestry.

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

Community House Presbyterian Church (CHPC) sees itself as:

- A place of welcome, belonging, hospitality, diversity and inclusion.
- A church that nurtures progressive Christian spiritual depth.

These two aspects of our core identity are linked by a theology based on God's invitation to an all-inclusive banquet table. (We focus our worship and small group practices on an "at-onement" communion table in contrast to an "atonement" altar.)

We live out this vision through:

- Intimate worship, shared meals, and small group gatherings – with an informal tone and strong aesthetic sensitivity.
- A worshipping community that includes straights, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, a variety of income levels, and blended families (which we define in a complex, open-ended way -- mixed-rationally, GLBT, or any combination of people who create a household together.)
- Preaching, worship and participation that is interpretive, thoughtful, informed, incarnational, existentially-relevant, and inclusive of many voices.
- An intentionally inclusive and prophetic "welcoming statement."
- Modest, but ongoing support for a community homeless shelter.

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

CHPC is an urban congregation, active for 187 years on Pittsburgh's North Side. We are currently small, financially fragile, highly-talented, and predominantly (not exclusively) white and 55+ in age. We draw members from a wide geographical area, including North Side neighborhoods (46%), city-wide (21%), and the broader metropolitan area (33%).

In light of our limitations and possibilities, we see the most authentic, promising role for our next chapter of growth as serving a broad geographic community (while welcoming near neighbors) in three intentional ways:

- **Providing nurture and spiritual context for diverse families** (including blended families as described above.)
  - Offering active welcome and support that moves beyond traditional identity labels (which are becoming less and less relevant in a fluid, multicultural world.)
  - Providing creative, progressive Christian education.
- **Serving as home for "spiritual refugees."**
  - Providing healing, community, and a framework of spiritual support for those who may consider themselves "spiritual but not religious" or who may have had unfulfilling religious experiences elsewhere.
- **Supporting and sustaining individuals committed to action for love & justice.**
  - Providing a space of spiritual reflection, challenge and renewal plus a community of supportive fellow-worshippers – as individuals pursue a variety of callings in the world.
  - Serving as a visible, collective voice for major issues of love/justice, on a periodic basis.

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

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It is CHPC's hope that the person in this position will:

- Provide energetic, nurturing, non-hierarchical leadership that “sees our light” and helps our congregation move authentically into a new chapter of growth, service, change, and sustainability.
- Provide thoughtful, inspirational, existentially and personally-relevant preaching to nurture progressive, Christian spiritual depth – and to attract/welcome new members.
- Articulate the multi-faceted, non-traditional mission, broadly outlined in response to Question #2, for the congregation and relevant constituencies.
- Nurture, attract and inspire congregational talent to advance that mission and creatively adapt it over time.
- Facilitate a continued sense of community and belonging as our small congregation grows, changes, and continues its transition from prior pastoral leadership with a 34-year tenure.

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

The ideal candidate is a "Progressive Christian" who has spiritual depth and the ability to effectively communicate that faith perspective through preaching and personal presence – responding with wisdom and discernment to life's inevitable struggles and emerging possibilities. She or he should be warm, compassionate, authentic, enthusiastic, and aesthetically attuned.

Together, we will face some difficult challenges – growing while retaining a sense of intimacy and belonging; changing without losing the best of our current culture; and becoming more intentional about a multi-faceted service mission (see Question #2) that will likely evolve over time. This will require a leader with purpose, vision, energy and initiative. But it also requires the sensitivity, flexibility, empathy and imagination needed to work effectively in a small, talented, independently-minded congregation, comprised of members from diverse religious backgrounds.

We don't expect our pastor to “do it alone.” Community House is a place of welcome and mutual support. With our new pastor's help, we hope to enter a new chapter of congregational life -- where we will thrive, grow, radiate and serve – together.

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

The person in this position will have responsibility for:

- Preaching and providing deeply-meaningful spiritual leadership.
- Providing worship, mission and organizational leadership – as the congregation adapts, grows and evolves.
- Coordinating congregational talent to facilitate:
  - Meaningful small group experiences.
  - Communications and social media networking.
  - Creative, progressive Christian-education.
  - “Invite-able” events that attract and welcome potential members.
  - Peer-to-peer congregational care.
  - Partnerships with other organizations that might support the congregation's mission.

Coordinating the work of part-time paid staff: Congregational Coordinator, Music Director, and Christian Education Director.

### **Optional Links:**

[communityhousepgh.org](http://communityhousepgh.org)  
[facebook.com/communityhousepgh](https://facebook.com/communityhousepgh)

### **Leadership Competencies:**

Hopeful

Preaching and Worship Leadership

Media Communicator

Change Agent

Entrepreneurial

Organizational Agility

Strategy and Vision

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Collaboration
Interpersonal Engagement
Motivator

<b>Compensation and Housing: <u>Cost of Living Calculator</u></b>
<b>Minimum Effective Salary:</b> \$26,500
<b>Housing Type:</b> N/A

<b>References:</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Numbers</b>	<b>Relation</b>	<b>Email</b>
Rev. Brian Wallace	Pittsburgh Presbytery 901 Allegheny Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212	412-323-1402	Staff Liaison North Branch Congregatio ns	bwallace@pghpresbytery.org
Rev. Janet Edwards	1117 South Negley Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217	412-302-3827	Worshipping Pastor/Frien d of CHPC	revjanetedwards@gmail.com
Rev. Robert French	500 Tripoli Street Apt. 409, Pittsburgh, PA 15212	412-231-1513	Worshipping Pastor/Frien d of CHPC	revrfrench@gmail.com

<b>Has the Pastor Nominating Committee and Search committee affirmed its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?</b>
Yes
<b>Version Track Info: This MIF was last updated on 02/22/2018</b>

<b>Self-referral Contact Information</b>	
<b>PNC:</b> Richard St. John	<b>Address</b> 731 McCaslin Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217
<b>Daytime Phone</b> 412-860-4566	<b>Office Phone</b> 412-421-1566
<b>Fax</b>	<b>Email</b> richard.stjohn@verizon.net