

Job Description

Interim Pastor, Friendship Community Presbyterian Church

Church Mission and Character:

Founded 60 years ago as a mission church of Pittsburgh Presbytery, Friendship Community Presbyterian Church has been an intentionally cross-cultural church with a deep concern for being the presence of Christ for the low-income diverse neighborhoods of West Oakland/Oak Hill. "Following Jesus Christ, we make disciples and love our neighbors in cross-cultural fellowship."

Our worship service reflects the diversity of the congregation in its music (hymns, from both Black Baptist and traditional Anglo sources, as well as contemporary Christian (CCM) and Black Gospel, its lay participation, its preaching styles, its liturgy, and its emphasis on compassionate sharing of prayer requests.

Our lay leadership is strong. Our membership has been holding basically steady at about 100 members, approximately 60% white, 40% African-American. We have steadily offered adult small groups, youth ministry, and programs of outreach to the neighborhood and beyond, including bi-annual trips to Haiti, and a neighborhood outpost called "The Corner," diagonally across the street from the church. The church neighborhood's demographics are changing, as long-time homeowners sell to landlords renting to an influx of university students. The former Allequippa Terrace public housing community has become Oak Hill, a mix of Section 8 and market-rate (mostly student) housing.

The church recognizes that it needs to come to a new understanding of how its 60-year uniquely defining mission will be reinterpreted in this changing neighborhood setting.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Serve as Moderator of Session and Congregation, upon appointment by the Presbytery.
2. Lead worship and preach at regular Sunday worship services and special services, providing for substitute preachers as needed, with a strong intentionality toward racial and gender diversity.
3. Coordinate with (volunteer) music leader and other lay leaders to create weekly orders of worship and bulletins (order of service) to ensure well-planned and meaningful worship services with broad lay involvement.
4. Officiate at sacraments, weddings, and funerals.
5. Assist the congregation in the interim tasks of: Celebrating the church's 60-year-long history, providing for nurturing and redevelopment of lay leadership, providing for smooth transition of pastoral leadership, preparing for welcoming a new pastor, strengthening and continuing ties with the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly

6. Provide administrative leadership to staff, new staff, session, and committees and lay volunteers.
7. Be available as a resource person for staff: The Corner Director, Youth Director (currently vacant), bookkeeper, secretary, and custodian, as well as for lay leaders who volunteer to lead Sunday school (youth and adult), adult small groups, church committees (Stewardship, Personnel, Worship/Adult Discipleship & Training, Youth, Mission & Evangelism, Fellowship & Care, The Corner).
8. Lead the congregation in reaching out to the community and in performing its ministry of reconciliation, healing, promoting justice, and sharing the good news of the Gospel.
9. Call on the sick and homebound, as well as those who have decreased their regular church attendance and new visitors.

Compensation requirements are subject to Pittsburgh Presbytery's minimum terms of call.

To apply, please contact:

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