



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
SHREVEPORT



2023-
2025

NEWTON B. STOER PASTORAL RESIDENCY

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SHREVEPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, LA, established a pastoral residency program through a generous gift by the Newton B. Stoer Foundation and provides a gifted graduate of a Presbyterian seminary an opportunity to be mentored by FPC-Shreveport staff and members during a 2-year pastoral residency.

ABOUT THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Residents should hold the M.Div. degree and be on track for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Certified candidates may be ordained during their residency. The Stoer Residency committee will partner with the candidate's seminary in the selection process late in the year 2022.

The pastoral resident will serve in several core ministry areas through the term of the residency. To further develop the resident's pastoral competency and servant leadership, he/she will engage in weekly study and theological reflection, be mentored by staff and members, and seek out other initiatives to develop as a collaborative leader. The pastoral resident will also be welcomed into the life of the congregation and larger community by the Stoer Pastoral Residency Committee.

It is an expectation that the pastoral resident will live in the Highland community during the full term of this residency.

This pastoral residency is a unique opportunity to engage in the broad responsibilities of pastoral ministry in a multi-staff congregation with a specific focus on outreach impact, mission partnerships, and tangible outcomes in a particular neighborhood and community. In addition, this pastoral residency offers a Presbyterian seminary graduate ministry experience and ministry responsibilities at a multi-staff church, including specific areas of contribution and focus, and a capstone project to leave a lasting legacy for the residency program and the Highland community. In addition, it is our hope that the pastoral resident will be in the unique position to help shape and creatively develop the program as we seek to implement it.



MINISTRIES THROUGHOUT THE 2-YEAR RESIDENCY

Outreach Ministry/Ministry in the Highland community:

The central motivation for establishing this residency position is to assist the FPC Outreach Ministry and the Stoer Subcommittee to more deeply engage the Highland community and the neighborhood in which First Presbyterian Church is located, and to be a partner to and involved on the ground with renewal and revitalization efforts in the Highland community. Under the supervision of the Pastor/Head of Staff, the Associate Pastor, the Outreach Ministry, and the Stoer Committee, the pastoral resident will build upon existing ministry efforts in Highland (Highland Blessing Dinner, Highland Center Ministries, monthly Highland clergy lunch, CIS/VOA initiative at Creswell elementary school, Step Forward reading program at Creswell Elementary and Stoner Hill elementary). In addition the resident will be expected to further develop and deepen ongoing ministry relationships, and work with the initiatives of the Stoer committee of Outreach Ministry to help create new projects that seek to serve, support, and revitalize the Highland community.



- Goals:**
- 1) Find ways to engage members of First Presbyterian Church in relationships, ministry, and projects that help restore and revitalize the Highland community;
 - 2) Schedule on-site visits with Outreach ministry partners operating in the Highland community to build relationships and learn about what is already happening in the Highland community;
 - 3) Work with AP/Pastor-Head of Staff to plan partnerships, events, programs, and initiatives that seek to engage the FPC congregation more fully with relationships, issues, and ministry in the Highland community. These may be one time events or regular programs with specific goals and outcomes.

Youth Ministry:

The second motivation for this residency program is to provide a consistent staff liaison and point person for youth ministry and youth programs at First Presbyterian Church. The pastoral resident will provide leadership and staff support for all youth ministry and programs, including but not limited to Sunday school, confirmation class, worship, mid-week events, and Sunday evening programs.

The pastoral resident will provide pastoral support to youth and their families, inside and outside the church, in order to support their spiritual growth and create a sense of belonging to the church. The pastoral resident will guide and encourage youth and their families to greater participation in the life of the church and engage youth and their families in mission and in our community.

- Goals:**
- 1) Support youth and their families through Sunday programming, MS/HS Sunday School, lead confirmation class once during the pastoral residency,
 - 2) Support youth ministry and serve as staff liaison to youth ministry;
 - 3) Connect youth ministry with our larger church's mission and particularly with our mission in Highland.



Enrichment & Reflection

Throughout his/her term, the pastoral resident will engage in monthly shared reading, study, and theological reflection on the practice of ministry with the Pastor/Head of Staff, the Associate Pastor, and occasionally other staff members. Shared readings will focus on the areas of ministry the resident is participating in at the time. The pastoral resident will also participate in the midwinter lectures at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Capstone Project During the last six months of the pastoral residency, the resident will propose and lead a project, initiative, or program that represents the knowledge and skills gained during the pastoral residency and that seeks to address a need in a ministry area identified by the pastoral resident and the ministry staff. The pastoral resident is encouraged to develop this project in relation to the primary focus of Outreach Ministry in the Highland community and more deeply engaging the FPC congregation and its members in this ministry.

A WORD FROM RECENT PASTORAL RESIDENTS



Rev. Alexandra Pappas | 2019-2021

Serving as the pastoral resident at FPC Shreveport was an incredible gift as I began my work in the church. The congregation is warm and inviting, they were welcoming and supportive throughout my time as the pastoral resident. This church is also committed to serving both members of the congregation as well as the greater Shreveport community. I had opportunities to engage in mission projects that have been impactful on the greater Shreveport area. Whether it was working to connect the church to a fledgling community center in the Highland neighborhood, or meeting with city council representatives to learn about the needs of our neighbors, there were many different opportunities to consider why missional ministry matters for an entire city, not just a singular church.

I also appreciated the intentional learning and spiritual development that was integrated into the residency program. A successful pastor is not just someone who can plan a well run program event, or lead a smooth worship service, a successful pastor is a person who makes time for the life of the mind and spirit even after you've left seminary. FPC Shreveport understands that and has made that an aspect of the residency program that is enriching and life giving.



Rev. Joe Lundy | 2021-2023

Hello future (hopefully) pastoral residents! I'm Joe, current pastoral resident here at FPC Shreveport. This residency has been super helpful in my formation into a pastor in a space that is ok with learning, and is ready and willing to be a place of growth for new seminary grads. As I have been here I have learned about long term planning of Youth Ministry, how to engage with my local community, as well as plenty of practice leading liturgy for the congregation. This residency has also taught me a great deal about how to proclaim God's word with its many different opportunities here, with the additional Wednesday service being a great resource for finding your own pastoral voice. Both Alex and Will are great pastors who will be able to help guide as you learn and grow in the loving community that is FPC Shreveport. The youth committee here is one of the strongest that I have personally encountered, and has helped me to have a model of a healthy committee that I will always hold with me as I help with committee formation at future congregations I serve. It has been a really great learning experience, and I am positive will make me a better pastor wherever I am called next.

HOW TO APPLY:

The residency is open to candidates who will graduate from any ATS-accredited Masters of Divinity program and who are under care in the ordination process of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Applications or PIFs will be reviewed on a rolling basis through January 31, 2023. You may submit a resume/PIF with cover letter to First Presbyterian Church, attn: Lona Lockard, First Presbyterian Church, 900 Jordan Street, Shreveport, LA, 71101; or email to: LLockard@fpcshreveport.com. For additional information on the residency or our church, please review our materials on our website (www.fpcshreveport.com) or contact the Rev. Dr. Will Scott at: wscott@fpcshreveport.com.



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