

## Demographic section

Ministry Number: **TBD**

Ministry Name: Banner Elk Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: PO Box 158, Banner Elk, NC 28604

Phone: 828-898-5406

Fax: 828-898-7615

Email: office@bannerelkpresbyterian.org

WWW address: www.bannerelkpresbyterian.org

Ministry size: 196

Ethnic Composition: 194 white,  
1 Middle Eastern/North African,  
1 Hispanic/Latino-a

Average Worship Attendance: 162

Average Church School Attendance: 40

Curriculum: Ages 3-7: Cokesbury Kids Bible Story Basics

Junior/Senior High: Sparkhouse re:form Ancestors series

Adults: Bible Study, various books, videos, mission speakers, Stephen Ministry

Yoked: False

Presbytery: Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Synod: Synod of Mid-Atlantic

Community Type: Small Town

Position: Solo pastor

Experience Required: 5+ years

Specific Title: Pastor

Employment Status: Full-time

Language requirements: English

Other language: N/A

Statement of Faith required: True

Clergy Couples: False

Training/Certificate Requirements:

Other Training:

## **Narrative questions (1500 character limit)**

### **Brief Church Mission Statement:**

Calling all people to a personal acceptance of and a growing relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

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

Banner Elk Presbyterian Church's mission is to be an inviting and engaging environment for people of all ages and walks of life to grow in their love for our Lord and expand their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe this vision begins in the sanctuary, and we want our worship services to be strong and Bible-focused, and for our pastor to lead us spiritually towards Christ.

One of the most exciting things about our church is our congregation's love and support of each other through our fellowship activities. We host frequent meals and activities to build relationships between our church members. We truly view ourselves as a family, and hope to continue to embrace and support each other through our Christian journey, through both congregational care and pastoral care.

We seek to continue to lift and support our congregation, both young and old. We wish to be inviting, promoting, and supportive of young families, and build strong, meaningful youth programs. We also wish to sustain and support the older members of our congregation by providing meaningful worship and spiritually uplifting adult educational opportunities.

Missions are vital to the ministry of BEPC. We believe community outreach is one of the most important things we do as a church. We place high importance on meeting immediate needs in our local community, providing volunteers and financial and material resources. It is imperative that we continue our community outreach through our many missions.

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

Banner Elk Presbyterian Church lies nestled in the mountains of Western North Carolina at 3,700 feet in the town of Banner Elk. Our beautiful stone church is situated within the confines of Lees-McRae College, with which it shares a strong Presbyterian legacy of more than 100 years. We also have a strong relationship with the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

We are a warm and caring congregation, going out of our way to welcome people. Our members seek Biblically sound sermons and inspiring music. Although some congregants are retirees, many work actively in the community; we also have a large number of affiliates. We are proud of our preschool program, but feel a strong urgency to build a successful youth program and connect with young families. We want to grow in our ministry and service to others, as well as in membership.

Missions are vital to us, both at home and with our sister church in Guatemala. Some of the many local missions we support and actively work with include Feeding Avery Families, Yellow Mountain Enterprises, and Habitat for Humanity. We strive to provide 15% of our annual church budget toward missions and usually exceed this goal.

We are proud to offer many other church activities, including men's prayer group and women's luncheons, church picnics, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Comfort Makers, Stephen Ministry, chancel and handbell choirs, Permanent Funds Ministry, and our annual Kirkin' O' the Tartan service celebrating our roots and our diversity.

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

Our congregation is a delightful mix of people with a varied range of backgrounds, education, income, age, and life and career experiences. Our members are active in committee and volunteer roles, and expect and desire to be involved in our church missions. We are a talented group of people with many gifts, and we know that to accomplish our ministry goals, it takes all of us.

We want a pastor who will unite us in our efforts to do God's work, motivating and mentoring us to accomplish our goals. Our pastor needs to be able to identify our talents, help cultivate them, and guide us in the best way to use those gifts in line with our mission and vision. We need a dedicated leader who demonstrates and inspires collaboration within our church.

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

Banner Elk Presbyterian Church seeks a pastor who will inspire us with spiritual and engaging sermons, preaching God's word in a way that will motivate us to be better Christians and lead us to a closer walk with Christ. We want to hear messages that will not fade from our minds after church dismisses, but will stick with us as we go about our lives.

Our pastor should have a strong faith and a genuine, true love for our Lord that is evident to anyone who looks. We want a leader who can confidently guide us forward through our turbulent and divided world, showing us how to address obstacles with grace and care. We need someone who is compassionate and empathetic to the needs, fears and pain of others; who has the wisdom and ability to nurture and encourage as needed.

We need a minister who is adept at managing the many moving parts of a church, and who can recognize, understand and navigate the dynamics of the church. This person should be a clear and effective communicator, listening actively and responding meaningfully. We need someone with a strong sense of purpose to help Session make confident and thoughtful decisions that will keep our church's future on track with our vision and goals.

We want a pastor who is able to read people, and build and develop trusting relationships with members of the church and community, connecting on a personal level. Our pastor should be able to use these connections to guide and motivate others to use their gifts to serve and glorify God.

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

- Plan and lead meaningful worship coordinating with Music Director and Worship Committee
- Coordinate and participate in pastoral care, home visitation, homebound communion, and in collaboration with Stephen's Ministry
- Collaborate with Session's Membership Committee on new member recruitment and orientation
- Serve as Moderator of Session
- Lead new officer training

- Lead Confirmation program
- Conduct funerals and weddings
- Attend various committee meetings
- Support programming for church-wide events that include a Monthly Breakfast, Lees-McRae Spaghetti Supper, Kirkin' O' the Tartans, Summer Picnic, Consecration Sunday, Hanging of the Greens
- Participate as a Member of Presbytery Western North Carolina
- Head of staff

### **Optional Links:**

<https://bannerelkpresbyterian.org/>  
<http://www.townofbannerelk.org/>  
<https://www.presbyterywnc.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/bannerelkpresbyterian>  
<http://averycountync.gov/>  
<https://feedingaveryfamilies.org/>  
<https://www.ramsrack.com/>  
<http://www.averycofh.org/>  
<https://www.averyschools.net/>  
<https://www.bannerelk.com/>  
<https://www.lmc.edu/>

### **Leadership Competencies**

Compassionate  
 Preaching & Worship Leadership  
 Motivator  
 Spiritual Maturity  
 Hopeful  
 Communicator  
 Organizational Agility  
 Strategy and Vision  
 Interpersonal Engagement  
 Decision Making

### **Compensation and Housing:**

**Minimum Effective Salary: \$60,000.00**

**Housing Type:** Housing Allowance

### **References:**

Rev. Dr. Tee Gatewood  
 Jane Richardson  
 Rev. Leslie Piper  
 Rev. Dr. Cameron Murchison