

Elkin Presbyterian Church Ministry Information Supplement

Elkin Presbyterian Church is a welcoming and inclusive community of faith in the North Carolina foothills. As our Mission statement attests, "Here you can worship God, be yourself, ask questions on your faith journey, and find new ways to serve and grow in the love of God through Jesus Christ. We are committed to living out Christ's teachings of peace, love, and respect for every person in our congregation as well as in the greater community and world. We do this through worship, faith development, supporting each other, and service to others."

1. What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry? Additionally, describe how this vision is lived out.

Our goal is to live out our church's mission statement each and every day. We hope to reach out to everyone, young or old, single or a growing family, to share our joy in serving God through unconditional love and affirming fellowship. It is with an open door, open minds, and open hearts that we invite everyone into our church and encourage everyone who seeks a life of meaning and purpose.

At Elkin Presbyterian Church, we strive to be a dynamic, Christ-centered church providing a place of worship, learning, spiritual growth, and community for all of God's children, fully engaged in outreach embracing all races, ages, and sexual orientations.

Our values shape who we are as a church and guide us in fulfilling our mission and vision through a deep connection to Christ, the Word of God, and our tradition within the Presbyterian Church USA, including:

- Continually seeking a deeper understanding of God's will for us in this world.
- Providing a welcome place of worship.
- Being an inspirational community of faith.
- Fulfilling our call to be Christ-like in our inclusiveness.
- Modeling Christ's love in the world beyond our church building.
- Being good stewards of God's creation.

(Characters: 1185)

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

Our call is two-pronged:

Worship: We strive to be a church characterized as being open to people, nurturing inclusiveness both within and outside the congregation, offering worship services that are vibrant and inspiring experiences. Music plays a vital role in our worship, and we empower all members to use their talents and gifts, musical and otherwise, to respond to God's call. We are looking for a minister who teaches, guides and challenges us with an emphasis on love -- for God, ourselves, and our neighbors. As such, Christian education for children, youth, and adults that deepens our spiritual development is a priority.

Community: Our church has a long history of playing an active role in community service. Members of our church helped organize and implement the recycling program in the town of Elkin 30 years ago, recruited Habitat for Humanity to the Yadkin Valley, and were the driving force behind the Elkin Valley Trails Association, Watershed Now, and Strangers to Neighbors in which we strive to get to know and support our immigrant community. Today, as the town of Elkin re-emerges from the devastation of losing the textile industry and finds new footing in the 21st century, we are looking for a pastor who will continue to lead our mission outreach that serves our congregation and our wider community. We extend outreach to the marginalized and those in need of food, shelter, and spiritual meaning.

(Characters: 1427)

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

As the only PC USA church in Elkin, we have a unique opportunity to communicate Presbyterian values through our actions in the community. We are prominent in our community as a “first church,” but struggling with growth and engaging our membership. Finding the right person to lead our church as we continue to live with the COVID-19 pandemic and balance our role in a changing community is critical.

In October 2021 we hosted, in conjunction with the Rotary Club, a David Lamont concert and workshop on spiritual enrichment and social justice. This program brought together a racially and ecumenically diverse group of people from our greater community. We hope to expand programs like this. We are looking for someone who can energize our congregation and lead by example, continuing projects in this same vein, while providing the motivation and support we are all thirsty for in our spiritual lives.

(Characters: 903)

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

First and foremost, we are looking for someone who is loving, caring, and compassionate. We believe in one God, a God of love and grace. As God is love we are called to love all of creation, all people and all that is, living and non-living. Christ is the center of our church. As such, we are looking for a pastor who also puts Christ at the center of their life, and demonstrates this in their work, and actions.

As we seek to find someone who can help our church fulfill its strategic plan, we look for an engaging personality, someone who is outgoing, friendly, available, and able to inspire others, while also humble. Someone who is intelligent and curious, a role model within the community with a can-do spirit. Someone who has a variety of interests and an ability to think creatively. We seek a pastor who is able to build relationships within Elkin Presbyterian Church and outside the church, engaging in the larger community, but not to the exclusion of our own church’s needs.

Our new leader should empower others to fulfill their calling, and be able to delegate well. Of course, we hope our pastor will enjoy engaging with the youth and children at Elkin

Presbyterian, participate in programs, music, retreats, and mission work, and encourage creative and contemporary music activities in worship and youth programs. Finally, our pastor should have a basic understanding of accounting and finance and be able to promote financial stewardship.

(Characters: 1455)

5. For what specific tasks, assignments and program areas will this person have responsibility?

We are looking for a spiritual leader who will energize our congregation through worship and service. We have a congregation that is already engaged in the community, with many members volunteering time at various organizations, from The Ark homeless shelter to the local schools and everything in between. Mission is an important part of our church life as well, and our hope is to find a pastor who can harness the dedication and compassion for the community and bring that to work within the life of our church. Therefore, we are looking for a pastor who will provide guidance to church committees working to implement our strategic plan and fulfill our mission while helping prioritize our goals relating to church growth and spiritual development.

Sunday morning worship and spiritual growth plays a central role in the spiritual life of our congregation, therefore thought-provoking, meaningful sermons and engaging Christian education are high priorities for Elkin Presbyterian. But the responsibilities of the pastor go well beyond worship services. As the sole pastor, all of the ministerial tasks are a part of this position, including administering sacraments during worship and for homebound, moderating session meetings, serving as head of staff for our office assistant, choir director, organist, and custodian, developing youth programs, counseling prospective new members and officiating weddings, funerals, and confirmation classes.

(Characters: 1448)