



Dear Brother or Sister in Christ:

We hope this finds you well in your season of discernment. Our purpose in writing is to provide a little more context about our pastoral search, including some additional information about FPC and our community.

Our Pastor Nominating Committee was elected in September 2020 and has 7 current members. Our committee is seeking candidates for a full-time lead pastor.

First Presbyterian Church is a downtown church in Ashland, Ohio, a community with a population of approximately 20,000 people. Ashland is home to Ashland University, a church-affiliated university with both undergraduate and graduate divisions. Downtown Ashland is experiencing significant revitalization, including new businesses, restaurants, and more. Ashland is approximately one hour from both Cleveland and Columbus, both of which offer plentiful cultural experiences, museums, and shopping.

Our congregation currently has 145 members, which is an accurate reflection of those who are active members. Prior to the pandemic, our regular Sunday attendance hovered around 75-80. Since we reopened in July 2020, it has been more common for 25-40 to attend in person and another 15-20 online. Our Sunday worship service starts at 10:00 am and is livestreamed.

One of the ministries we are most proud of is our Chinese Church, which is led by our CCO (Coalition for Christian Outreach) staff partner. This ministry meets in our church building on Saturday afternoons for worship and a shared meal. Chinese Church attendance has averaged between 10-15 people per week during the pandemic. Recently we have been more intentional about integrating Chinese Church members into all areas of church life, including our Deacon Ministry, worship leadership, and the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Like many other aging churches, in recent years we have lost brothers and sisters who were faithful and beloved members of our congregation. The pandemic has presented us with other challenges we could not have anticipated. Even with these difficulties, we have so much hope for the future. Our love for one another, community witness, and shared history are not in vain. God's work here has only begun.

Our committee invites you to send your PIF and other materials to our PNC Chair Justin Dew, whose email is [dewjustin1@gmail.com](mailto:dewjustin1@gmail.com). You may also email materials to the church directly: [office@ashlandfpc.org](mailto:office@ashlandfpc.org). We look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Pastor Nominating Committee – FPC Ashland*

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