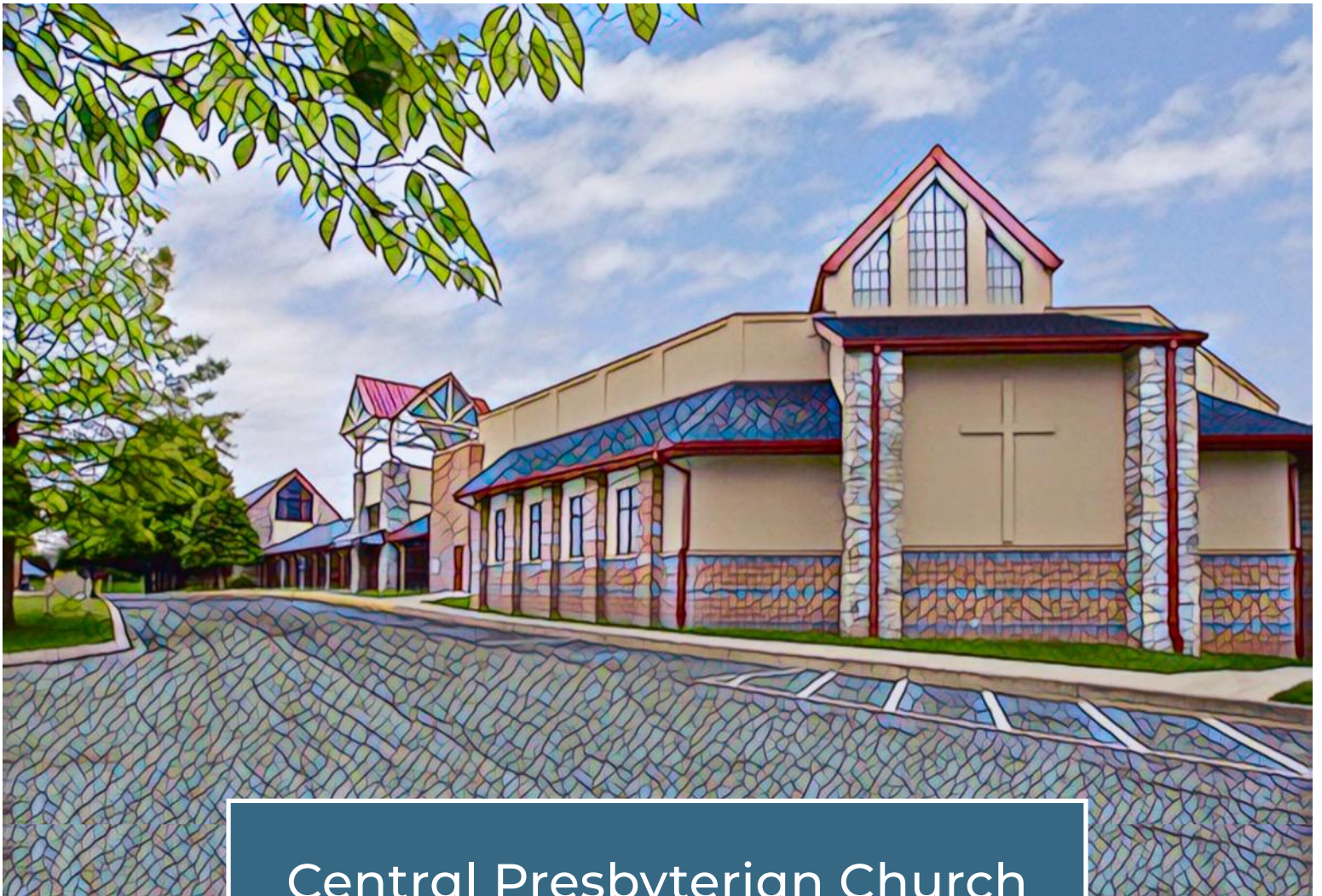


CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ministry
Information Form



Central Presbyterian Church
Towson, Maryland

The mission of Central Presbyterian Church is to move people toward Christ by being a community of faith that loves, encourages and equips people in Christ, sending them out to serve.



Narrative Questions

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

Central has a vision for flourishing in our placement as a well-established, gospel-preaching, Presbyterian congregation in a busy suburban community, within a half hour to an urban center and many academic and medical institutions. For us, this means being an authentic Christian community where a person, of any background, can find a sense of belonging and nourishment for their relationship with God. We joyfully pursue the call and challenge to manifest God's kingdom in how we follow God, love each other, and transform the world around us.

Our church offers biblical Christ-centered teaching, creative and dynamic worship services that reach a broad range of age groups and worship styles, and thoughtfully designed ministries that care for our congregation through all life stages. We also have a long tradition of outreach in missions both locally and abroad. It is a key component of our vision that our ministries connect our regular attenders to the gospel, a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, and inspire them with the joy of serving Him in the world. We believe that the Holy Spirit uses active Christian ministry to transform our hearts, and grow us as Disciples of Christ. We therefore aspire to encourage each of our regular attenders to acknowledge Christ as Lord, grow in the grace and love of Christ, and discover and use their spiritual gifts.

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

Central has a longstanding commitment to meet the spiritual and social needs of our community. The demographics we particularly excel at are caring for the children and youth in our congregation and surrounding neighborhoods. Our church's preschool has a well-established ministry in the area and our middle and high school ministries have successfully reached and discipled both church and non-churched youth.

On a broader scale in the last 20 years, we started a contemporary service while maintaining a traditional service, established a nonprofit serving the needs of the AIDS/HIV community, and planted a church in Baltimore City.

A few years ago, a churchwide discernment process led us to focus on three areas of growth: **discipleship, community, and reaching our adjacent neighborhoods**. We resolved to grow our connection as a church family, provide more opportunities for spiritual transformation, and evangelize our surrounding communities. In response, several "neighborhood hubs" sponsored events and we produced two marriage workshops. Momentum slowed when our head pastor announced retirement, and the pandemic required that the strategy for how to accomplish this be reexamined. Central remains committed to be a transformational community that makes an impact in the greater Towson area. We want to build upon our pre-pandemic vision, and we are eager to discover a fresh mission after assessing the needs of the congregation and surrounding communities.

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

The Sr. Pastor will guide the church in the accomplishment of its God-given mission by providing spiritual and organizational leadership through preaching, strategy implementation, and the development of lay leaders and staff.

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

Experience

- Five years in a large church setting with demonstrated experience in organizational and institutional leadership.
- Ordained in the PC(USA) or shall have met all criteria for ordination.

Spiritual Vitality

- Commitment to a vital life of faith as evidenced by personal spiritual disciplines.
- Demonstrates biblical knowledge and understanding of theological context.

Communications

- Preaches effectively and with relevance by connecting scripture, faith, discipleship, and mission to everyday life.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with a passion for working with people across a range of views, needs, and life stages.

Vision

- Strategic and holistic thinking with the ability to create implementation plans and delegate responsibilities to others.

Organizational Leadership

- Contributes to a positive workplace and Church culture by working collaboratively and making decisions in a collegial environment.
- A shepherding posture with the ability to equip, enable, and motivate others.
- Energetic, enthusiastic, organized, and willing to take on challenges.

Character

- Demonstrates personal integrity, discernment, and humility in decision-making and interpersonal interactions.

For what specific tasks, assignments, and programs areas will this person have responsibility?

Preaching and Worship

- Upholds the spiritual life of the congregation through preaching. Preaches on a rotating schedule, sharing preaching duties with the associate pastor and occasionally lay leaders and staff.
- Oversees planning for worship services with a specified team, demonstrating appreciation for a variety of worship styles and formats including virtual and in-person engagement.
- Officiates weddings, baptisms, and funerals.

Strategy Implementation

- Orchestrates the movement of the church toward a shared vision. Develops specific strategies to implement the church's vision for:
 - **Evangelism**, with a focus on outreach to congregants' neighbors, networks, and the next generation; includes mission partnerships.
 - **Discipleship**, directing the training of congregants of all ages toward personal spiritual formation.
 - **Community**, overseeing the creation of relationship formation opportunities for congregants in all life stages.
- Provides pastoral care by developing and leading a team of dedicated lay ministers. Carries out direct pastoral care as situations warrant.
- With a specified team, develops and administers overall church budget.

Development of Lay Leaders and Staff

- Disciples and trains lay leadership on the session, ensuring consistency of vision and providing guidance on developing the next generation of leaders.
- As the Head of Staff, will mentor, provide feedback and training, set appropriate goals, and develop staff in their areas of giftedness.

These are the top leadership competencies that Central is looking for.

- Preaching and Worship Leadership
- Spiritual Maturity
- Public Communicator
- Change Agent
- Strategy and Vision
- Collaboration
- Interpersonal Engagement
- Motivator
- Personal Resilience
- Self-Differentiation

To explore this opportunity please send a cover letter, CV, and statement of faith to: pastoralsearch@centralpc.org for review.