

First Presbyterian Church Eufaula, Alabama

Position: Solo Pastor – Installed

For additional information or questions please contact:

Steve Hawkins, Chair
Pastor Nominating Committee
First Presbyterian Church
201 N. Randolph Ave.
Eufaula, Alabama 36027

334.695.6598 (mobile)
shawkins@eufaulachamber.com

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Mission / Vision Statement

Nestled in the heart of Eufaula, a city known for its rich tapestry of history, culture, & breathtaking Southern landscapes, First Presbyterian Church stands as a beacon of faith & community. Eufaula, with its charming blend of historic antebellum architecture, boasting over seven hundred structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places, & the natural beauty of 45,000 acre Lake Eufaula, provides a picturesque setting for a mission rooted in the essence of knowing and sharing Christ.

Our mission, "**Seeking to know Christ and to make Christ known,**" encapsulates the church's core aim of deepening faith while actively spreading the message and love of Christ within the community and beyond. This mission resonates profoundly with the spirit of Eufaula, a city that prides itself on its close-knit community, heritage, and a deep sense of belonging among its residents.

In aligning with Eufaula's values of tradition, community, & hospitality, our church not only seeks to foster a deeper understanding & relationship with Christ among its members but also aims to extend this warmth & fellowship to all. First Presbyterian embodies its mission, serving as a spiritual home that welcomes everyone, encourages growth in faith, and contributes positively to the collective spirit of Eufaula.

In essence, FPC, is more than a place of worship; it is a community pillar that thrives on making Christ known through acts of love, service, and fellowship, reflecting the town's enduring charm & warmth.

Duties and Expectations

As the solo pastor of a small church, our prospective pastor should expect to provide traditional, Biblically-based preaching and teaching along with administration of the Sacraments of the Church. Effective communication with our congregation should be provided via in person contact, telephone, text, email, and through our weekly newsletter and website. Other tasks and assignments include, but are not limited to: Moderating Session, developing relationships with congregants, providing counseling, visiting homebound/hospitalized and offering Communion opportunities to those members, assisted by a member of session. We seek a pastor who will provide loving and genuine pastoral care to those experiencing significant life events/crisis, etc. Our pastor should be involved with the committees of the church to provide guidance and to assist in goal/strategy setting related to church affairs. Finally, it is our wish that our pastor becomes immersed in our community, dedicated to growing our congregation, participative and active in our Presbytery, and is committed to lead our congregation & community through a strong Christian example.

Addendum B: Tasks, expectations, duties, supervision, assignments, and responsibilities for the position

As the solo pastor of a small church, our prospective pastor should expect to provide traditional, Biblically-based preaching and teaching on Sundays and Wednesday WOW. This will include administering the Sacraments of communion, baptisms, and when requested, to officiate weddings and funerals. As head of staff, our pastor will also moderate and conduct the training of our Session. Effective communication with our congregation should be provided via in person contact, telephone, text, email, and through our weekly newsletter and website. Other tasks and assignments include, but are not limited to: developing relationships with congregants, providing counseling as needed, visiting our homebound and hospitalized and offering Communion opportunities to those members, assisted by a member of session. Moreover, we seek a pastor who will provide loving and genuine pastoral care to those experiencing significant life events/crisis, etc. Additionally, our pastor should be involved with the committees of the church to

provide guidance and to assist in goal/strategy setting related to church affairs. We desire for our pastor to be comfortable with collaborating with church staff and volunteer leaders in ministries of the church. Finally, it is our wish that our pastor become immersed in our community, dedicated to growing our congregation, participative and active in our presbytery, and is committed to lead our congregation and community through his/her Christian example.

MDP Narrative Questions

NQ1: How would you describe the congregation's/organization's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

FPC Eufaula's vision centers on deepening relationships with Christ and actively sharing His love with others. This dual focus strives to nurture spiritual growth among our congregation and by extending a hand of service and outreach to our community. By emphasizing the importance of knowing Christ, the church cultivates a garden of faith & understanding, encouraging members to exemplify Christian values in our daily lives.

The commitment to making Christ known drives the church's outreach efforts. Through local and global missions, church sponsored community activities, and community service projects, FPC Eufaula aspires to be a beacon of hope and love in our community. This very basic outreach effort hopes to plant seeds of faith, compassion and growth across the community. We hope that our pastor, through residing and becoming immersed in our community, will actively embrace and take a leadership role in advancing this focus on outreach and church growth.

The impact of our vision is multi-faceted: it works to enhance spiritual renewal for individuals, strengthen community bonds through service, grow our local church community, and promote a culture of kindness and compassion. As FPC lives out its mission, it could lead to a broader transformation, where the values of the Gospel become woven into the fabric of the community, resulting in impactful change. In essence, our mission of "knowing Christ and making Christ known" offers a path to a more connected, compassionate, and faithful community.

NQ2: What is the nature and context of the community in which your congregation lives out its mission/vision? How will you address the emerging needs that are impacting your community?

Our community is at the heart of our Church's mission and vision, to seek Christ and to make Christ known, and we strive to achieve this through active engagement & care within our congregation. We are dedicated to supporting/addressing the emerging needs that impact its well-being.

Ours is a small, yet vibrant congregation passionate about contributing to the betterment of our town. Recognizing the need to engage the larger community, we embrace our responsibility to provide opportunities for our congregation to use their unique talents to be impactful on our community.

A community-oriented church, we actively support various local initiatives and projects. Our facilities are regularly utilized by: Eufaula Art Scene, a local Boy Scout Troup, The Eufaula Pilgrimage, Dapper Scrappers, et al. We also host an annual low country boil for the community each June. FPC serves as a distribution point for Christ Child Circle, providing food & supplies for those in need. Through the Can Cross ministry, we collect food/essential items for the St. James Episcopal Church food bank. Moreover, we provide candy to the children of our community on All Hallows Eve. One of our most beloved initiatives, The Giving Fence, allows individuals to leave new/gently used items for those in need to take. This platform has fostered a spirit of giving and taking care of one another. We are committed to being relevant and impactful in our community by addressing the emergent needs affecting its well-being.

NQ3: How will this call help complement the responsibilities of other staff/volunteer positions, and the life of the congregation/organization, so that you may accomplish your short and long-term goals for ministry?

We seek a pastor with strong leadership skills to harness the strengths of our greatest asset, our congregation. Our current staff and committee leaders are dedicated to their roles and program-related aims. However, we believe that a new pastor will bring fresh ideas, guidance, and enthusiasm to effectively serve our church and community. Our desire is to be challenged and led towards personal and collective growth while staying

true to our mission of seeking Christ and making Christ known. We recognize the importance of shared ministry between pastor and congregation and have outlined the following expectations for our future pastor:

- Be immersed and engaged in the Eufaula community
- Lead worship with engaging and biblically-sound teachings
- Provide guidance and support to our committees
- Collaborate effectively with our staff, ministry team, and volunteers
- Develop a strategic outreach plan to increase attendance & improve financial support for the church
- Encourage and guide our mission programs

In return, the session, staff, and congregation will offer our support and cooperation in the pastor's ministry, assist in meeting their goals and needs, and provide financial support through the terms of call. We will also provide regular feedback through annual performance reviews and keep open lines of communication. Together, we can make a positive impact on our community while working towards our short and long-term goals of growing our congregation and sharing the message of Christ.

NQ4: Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have, to lead the congregation towards the vision and mission established.

The ideal candidate for the position of pastor must possess outstanding leadership qualities, excellent organizational skills and a strong theological background, providing the congregation with Biblical examples and applying them to real-life scenarios. We ask that political opinions remain absent from the pulpit. Additionally, effective communication is crucial, and the new pastor must be able to communicate with all members of the church, whether it be addressing disagreements, providing guidance on spiritual matters, or

leading the church and its people. Our pastor must also possess a compassionate heart for both the members of the church and the surrounding community.

In terms of Outreach, our new pastor should prioritize visiting and calling upon those who are homebound, sick, or have experienced a loss. It is also essential for them to minister to the elderly members of the congregation (through visitation, administration of Communion to homebound members, etc.) while strategizing and leading members in ways to increase our numbers and grow our church.

A deep knowledge of the Bible is a must for the new pastor, and he/she must apply this knowledge in all teachings. He/she should also actively participate in church programs and be immersed in and involved as a part of the community. These skills are paramount to the effectiveness and success of our effort to seek Christ and make Christ known.

NQ5: What areas of ministry do you expect the person called to be responsible for? Share specific tasks, assignments, and programs.

The solo pastor of our small church must be prepared to fulfill a variety of General Areas of Responsibility, including Preaching, Teaching, Counseling, Pastoral Care, Outreach and Evangelism, Worship & Education, Committee Guidance, Staff Administration and Supervision, and Missions Guidance & Planning. He/she will also be responsible for the administration of Sacraments according to the traditions of the reformed church. Examples of these areas of responsibility include leading worship services, conducting studies, and administering the Sacraments with spiritual and energetic leadership. Our pastor must also offer pastoral care through regular visitation to homebound, hospitalized members, and those in need of spiritual, physical, and emotional support. Additionally, our pastor will provide guidance to our missions programs, such as the Can Cross Ministry, The Giving Fence, Church Community Facility Use, and Living Waters for the World Ministry in the Dominican Republic.

Effective communication skills, both verbal and written, are essential for our pastor's role. It is important that he/she deliver sound, Biblical teachings, prioritize/lead our outreach efforts, and provide support for new members, session training and meetings, and confirmation classes. Through his/her immersion into our community of faith and through maintaining a presence in our larger community, we will look forward to our pastor's exhibition and proclamation of Christ's love through his/her personal example.

