

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mif #: 02888.AG0

Ministry General Information

Ministry Number	02888
Ministry Name	First Presbyterian Church
Mailing Address	407 Walnut Street Leavenworth, KS 66048
Phone	913-682-6891
Fax	N/A
E-Mail	arlene@fpclvks.org
WWW Address	www.fpc-lvks.org
Ministry Size	Under 100 members

Ethnic Composition	
	Hispanic Latino/Latina, Spanish 2%
	White 96%
	Other 2%

Average Worship Attendance	50
Church School Attendance	15
Curriculum	Internally developed and varies depending on program.
Yoked	False
Presbytery	HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY
Synod	SYNOD OF MID-AMERICA
Community Type	Small City

Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization [Show Statistics](#)

Information about the position

Position:	Solo Pastor
Experience Required:	No Experience
Specific Title:	
Employment Status:	Full-time

Language Requirements:	
	English

Other Language:	
Statement of Faith Required:	True
Clergy Couples:	True

Training/Certificate Requirements:	
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Other Training:	
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Brief Church Mission Statement:	
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We will *love* God with all our being and our neighbors as ourselves. We will *nurture* a vibrant congregation *growing* in faith and *servicing* the Lord in our church and community.

What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry:

Oftentimes during worship, when the congregation is standing to sing a hymn, we can hear the familiar shaking sound of Mellow the Service Dog as he rises for the hymn. It is a reminder that all living creatures, including Mellow and his companion, a military veteran, seek to be in a welcoming and safe space.

Embedded in our mission statement are the verbs *love, nurture, grow, and serve*. Embedded in our congregation are retired and active-duty military members, grandparents, foster parents, gay and lesbian couples, activists, spiritual sojourners – all seeking to embody God's love in an oftentimes conflicted and hurting world. We seek to live out our mission as a small beam of light in North Leavenworth, a crossroads of many people, where we create a safe space to bring our questions, listen to each other, and listen for God's still small voice.

We seek to live out this mission as we *love* God and neighbor; *nurture* our life in the Spirit together; *grow* in our capacity to be an expansive community of welcome; and *serve* Christ as we journey with Christ. We welcome ALL into our church family: young and old; wealthy and poor; liberal and conservative; all sexual orientations; and all races and cultures.

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

The people of Leavenworth are diverse - long-time Kansans; newer community members; international travelers; active and retired military personnel. Our community includes a large stable population, along with an ever-changing and transient component at the same time.

While we are an aging, mature congregation, we are in the midst of an evolving youthful population. With our maturity comes life lessons of relationships and love. We are called to share this *love* by being a stable and welcoming church community for those passing through and our permanent residents, all needing a place to grow and feel authentic relationships.

We *love* our community and working with other churches/organizations that provide a place to sleep for the unhoused. We provide food with monthly community meals - *love* is the smell of cooking and the sound of laughter. We are “backpack buddies” and provide food for children in need and a small, but well-used food pantry.

Our members use their talents, chatting, while knitting items for the sick, those aging out of foster care, and those in need of a prayer shawl. A couple in our congregation took on Zoom and the taping of sermons to keep homebound members part of the worship service during the pandemic.

We *love* through our free community concerts - filling the sanctuary with neighbors, sounds of the city flute choir and other musical talent. And the *love* of God is expressed by small groups studying the word, listening to the spirit and growing in discipleship.

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

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We are searching for a partner willing to roll up their sleeves with us and help focus our mission and vision on our journey forward. There are many talents each member brings to the church family. We have demonstrated a strong willingness and determination to provide direct mission *service* along with financial support, even during the COVID pandemic. Our members are highly educated and spiritually fed - *served* by positive, thought-provoking worship services that include a strong music program. This allows our members to take God's work into the week wherever they go *servicing* God in their daily life.

There has been an honest movement in our church toward being an inclusive congregation. We seek a pastor who will help us continue this walk by sharing theological support, guiding thoughtful study of mindful discipleship, and encouraging the realistic use of members' time, talents, and treasures. We strive to be a friendly church family which feels like home to members and others who have passed through our doors. We need someone who will walk with us and share our discernment as we question and explore where God is leading us to *serve* in this post COVID, electronically influenced world.

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

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Our former pastor was in full Halloween costume and opening our church doors to young “trick or treaters” and our interim pastor participated in the church’s annual Halloween community concert by performing in a “duet for two cats” - a song consisting of one word - “meow”. These are examples of key characteristics that work for our church – welcoming, outgoing, and versatile; compassionate, *nurturing* and a good listener, but at the same time has administrative leadership and guidance skills.

We also want our pastor to be someone our members may turn to for counsel and for support during trying times, including in their homes or in medical care facilities as appropriate.

We would like our pastor to be a strategic thinker with a vision, in partnership with the church leadership, that will navigate us through our challenges and those experienced by organized religion in general.

Other desirable assets include strong communication, especially in preparing and delivering an effective sermon, and a solid understanding of the importance of technology and social media in the promotion and marketing of our church.

We seek a pastor who will help us serve our community and those who need a “family” of caring people - someone who sees the “inside” person, not only the outer covering. Reaching out to other churches in the community who are also attempting to lend a “helping hand” will be important for our pastor.

We welcome someone who can help us *grow while growing* with us.

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

We look forward to being inspired by our pastors' sermons and leadership! Your energy and ideas will help lift up and grow the congregation. Your work with our Session and its programs will cover all key areas of administration, worship, education, and mission/outreach. The deacons are a joyous group working on member care, meals, and shepherding. The Session members and deacons are hard-working, dedicated, and capable, which will ease the work of the pastor. Your input is needed to guide the worship committee and other committees. Members and others associated with the church will look forward to spending time with you during identified office hours.

Specific tasks and assignments include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

- Plan, prepare and direct worship services coordinating with the Worship Committee,**
- Provide counseling and spiritual leadership directly to church members and their families, including in home or at other facilities,**
- Guide the mission and outreach programs of the church and participate in activities, when possible,**
- Advise the Session and its committees regarding the church's educational programs and curriculum,**
- Provide administrative leadership for the church, including participation in Committee meetings as time allows,**
- Provide information to the personnel committee regarding performance of staff**

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Our community is diverse, with a large military population (Fort Leavenworth) and a college. We are within the Kansas City metropolitan area and near the Kansas City International airport

Leavenworth, Kansas | (leavenworthks.org)

<https://www.lansingks.org/>

<https://home.army.mil/leavenworth>

<https://www.visitleavenworthks.com>

<https://www.leavenworthcounty.gov>

<https://www.visitkc.com>

<https://www.marc.org>

Leadership Competencies:

Compassionate

Preaching and Worship Leadership

Spiritual Maturity

Public Communicator

Media Communicator

Advisor

Change Agent

Strategy and Vision

Collaboration

Interpersonal Engagement

Compensation and Housing: Cost of Living Calculator

Minimum Effective Salary: \$52,000

Housing Type: Housing Allowance

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References:				
Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
Joyce Kirk	1415 Normandy Drive, Burlington, NC 27215	913-683-4050 (please emai	Former member who recently relocated to be near fa	joyceannkirk@gmail.com
Tim Soule	14305 West 123rd Street, Olathe, KS 66062	785-248-1443	Former pastor who retired while at First Presbyter	johntsoule@yahoo.com
Sister Vickie Perkins, Founder, Interfaith Community of Hope (Leavenwo	4100 South 4th, Leavenworth, KS 66048	913-530-4535	First Presbyterian Church of Leavenworth supports	vperkinscl@gmail.com

Has the Pastor Nominating Committee and Search committee affirmed its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?

Yes

Version Track Info: This MIF was last updated on 02/13/2023

Self-referral Contact Information

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