



## **PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHEAST CHURCH INFORMATION FORM**

The following is an overview of information about our ECO Church:

**NAME:** Central Presbyterian Church

**ADDRESS:** 240 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743

**PHONE:** 631-421-3663

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[pnccentralchurch@gmail.com](mailto:pnccentralchurch@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.centralpresbyterianchurch.net](http://www.centralpresbyterianchurch.net)

**CHURCH SIZE:** Members: 178  
Average Attendance: 106

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$446,039 (2016 actual expenditures)

**MANSE ( X ) NO MANSE ( )**

List current Clerk of Session and contact information and PNC Chair contact info.



**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
“WHERE JESUS IS LORD AND NEIGHBORS ARE LOVED”  
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**Church Information Form: Central Presbyterian Church  
ECO Presbytery of the Northeast**

**1) PROVIDE A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.**

The Second Presbyterian Church, later called Central Presbyterian Church (“Central”), was founded in 1864. Over our 150 years in the center of Huntington Village, we have continued to minister to the needs, both spiritual and physical, of our members, our community and beyond even as our membership has declined. Throughout our history we have always strived to remain faithful to God’s Word and to the essential tenants of our faith. Our beliefs were increasingly in disagreement with the changing positions of the PCUSA even to the point of us challenging our presbytery twice in the denomination’s courts. Our struggles eventually led us to disaffiliate with the PCUSA and to join ECO in 2016. The status of our property remains an unresolved issue.

**2) DESCRIBE THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE AREA WHERE THE CHURCH IS LOCATED, MAKEUP OF THE POPULATION, ETHNIC GROUPS, CULTURE, SOCIAL STATUS, OTHER CHURCH GROUPS AND GENERAL ATTITUDE REGARDING CHURCH MINISTRIES.**

Much of our surrounding area is predominantly white and middle class, but there is also a significant multiracial population with wide socioeconomic diversity. This diversity can be seen at Central in our worship service and all of our ministries. Central is located in Huntington Village, which is the commercial center of Huntington Township. Huntington’s downtown area is a vibrant shopping district by day and is noted for its lively nightlife which includes a popular concert venue, bars and restaurants. We sometimes feel isolated at our location by the materialistic and worldly pursuits of our surrounding neighbors.

In our immediate area there is a wide range of church denominations including Roman Catholic, Presbyterian (PCUSA), Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, Jewish, etc. Central and our fellow churches struggle to compete for the time and hearts of the people against the busyness of life. Typical of most affluent Northeastern US areas, there is a lessening of interest in spiritual things, especially on Sunday mornings

**3) DESCRIBE IMPORTANT THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES EMPHASIZED BY A MAJORITY OF THE CONGREGATION.**

The Central Church congregation stands united in its affirmation that:

-Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only way to the Father

-It is only through Jesus dying on the cross and our acceptance of Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior that we can receive the forgiveness of sin and the assurance of eternal life

- God’s Word is infallible and just as relevant for us today as it was when it was written

-We believe that the Holy Spirit seeks to indwell each one of us as our guide, comforter and conscience

-We believe in the sanctity of human life and the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman as written in scripture

#### 4) SHARE YOUR CONGREGATION'S VISION FOR MINISTRY.

Our vision for ministry is to reach our lost neighbors by loving them and sharing the Good News of salvation. We have come to recognize that our location in the center of a community which appears to have turned away from God is a unique opportunity given to us by God. We also recognize that change in ministry and worship will be necessary to reach the lost. The start-up of a new ministry is being studied which would strive to plant a new church experience within our church facility.

#### 5) DESCRIBE THE EXPECTATIONS OF YOUR CONGREGATION.

With the transition from the PCUSA to ECO, our expectations are that we will go forward into the future with renewed enthusiasm, knowing that we now have a denomination that supports us and shares our theological principles. We expect that God will do great things to transform our church if we seek His will and remain in constant prayer.

#### 6) HOW CAN YOU BEST DESCRIBE THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF YOUR CONGREGATION?

Our dreams are that we can focus on moving forward by reigniting the passion of our congregation to reach out to others in our community for Christ. Our hope is that our church will grow and be revitalized as lives are transformed by the power of the Gospel. We desire to be an exciting destination in our town which can compete with life's other demands and diversions.

#### 7) WHAT IS THE SESSIONS' VISION OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP (DESCRIBE KEY AREAS, I.E. EDUCATIONAL EXPECTATIONS, BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS-PREACHING, LEADERSHIP, RELATIONSHIP BUILDING, COUNSELING, CONFLICT MANAGEMENT, TEAM BUILDING, MISSIONAL OUTREACH, ETC.)

Our key areas are:

- Shepherding and inspiring not only an aging congregation, but people of all ages

- Sound biblical knowledge as well as challenging preaching/teaching that will appeal to all ages, as well as motivate us to grow in our Christian walk and relationship with Christ.

- demonstrating a commitment to reach out to the unchurched in our community

- prepare our congregation to accept change beyond our comfort zone for the sake of God's kingdom

- be experienced in church revitalization or planting

- but most importantly, someone devoted to prayer who will follow God's leading.

8) WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THE MINISTRIES OF YOUR CHURCH?

The ministries of our church are sustained by the willingness of our congregation to serve, even with a limited number of volunteers to lead them. Our youth ministry is one of our biggest outreaches, as most of the children and teens that attend are not affiliated with our church but come regularly and bring their friends. We also reach out to the parents of these children through Mom's groups, dinners and game nights. Our Deacons' ministry reaches out to those in need through visitation, physical and financial assistance, with the love of Christ.

9) DOES YOUR CONGREGATION REQUIRE LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH?

No, not at the moment.

10) DESCRIBE ANY PREFERENCES (NOT INCLUDED ABOVE) BEING SOUGHT FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP.

Someone who can encourage us and inspire us to what we can be for the Lord and to keep us united through this time of transition. We seek a pastor with courage to preach God's truth in our secular culture with a vision for our future.