

# First Presbyterian Church Jacksonville, Florida

First Presbyterian Church is seeking God's chosen servant to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the people of Jacksonville and its surrounding communities. The Senior Pastor will provide leadership for the weekly worship services, serve as moderator for the Session, be a primary counselor for church members in crisis situations, and perform all other duties associated with this role.

Church Address: 118 East Monroe street 32202

Church Website: <http://fpcjax.org/>

Denomination: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO)

Church Membership: 435

Annual Budget: \$689,000 (2017)



First Presbyterian Church is a downtown church in Jacksonville, Florida, which has served the Lord faithfully in



good times and bad over 177 years. It currently has 435 members of different ages, social and economic positions, and races who live in all areas of the city and beyond. It is a Reformed body which adheres strongly to biblical principles and conservative values. It is also a loving fellowship of believers who make a priority of extending grace as well as truth. It has a heart for evangelism and missions and is committed to serving those in the downtown, especially the lost and least. It feeds the homeless monthly at the Sulzbacher Center, loves the prisoner and shares the Gospel at Union Correctional Institution twice yearly, supports short-term mission trips in the U.S., Jamaica, and beyond,

and more. It cares for its own members through visitations, instruction, prayer, and downright fun! First Pres. seeks to honor and glorify Christ in all it does.

First Presbyterian Church considers itself to be a regional church; however, it also believes that the downtown Jacksonville area is on the cusp of significant residential growth. There are several ongoing residential conversions of high-rise office buildings, and a large, new mixed-use development known as The Shipyards is slated for commencement in the very near future. All of these projects are located near FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, so the church anticipates a considerable opportunity for “neighborhood” growth in the near future.

## Our Vision

To lead the people of Jacksonville into a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ and into an authentic faith community.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." *Matthew 28:19-20* "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." *John 13:35*

## Our Mission

To grow people into fully devoted, spiritually mature followers of Christ. This will happen through learning, belonging, praying, worshiping, and serving. "He is the One we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." *Colossians 1:28* "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." *Micah 6:8*

## Our Values

Qualities we want to embody as we go about our Vision and Mission:

- A Jesus-centered church: Above all, we are a church that seeks to keep Jesus Christ at the center of all we do and say. In Christ we find our life, health, vision, and strength. *II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Mark 12:30*
- Life rooted in Scripture: We believe the Bible is God's Word to us and our basis for understanding who God is and how we are to live lives fully oriented around Him. *Matthew 4:4; II Timothy 3:16-17*
- Relationships formed in community: We value living lives in relationship with each other. We believe Christian community is a necessary context in which spiritual formation occurs. *John 13:35; Hebrews 10:24-25*

Missional Centrality: We believe that the Church was created by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the entire world, including those not in the Church. We therefore value evangelism, missions of compassion, and outreaches toward justice in word and deed. *Micah 6:8; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Matthew 25:34-40; James 1:27.*

## Our Beliefs

At First Presbyterian Church all are encouraged to develop a personal faith in Jesus Christ and to participate in the life of the church.

Even though we do not claim to have every answer, we affirm that Jesus does have all the answers. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." *John 14:6*

Our church affirms the historic Christian faith as revealed in the Bible. Over the generations Christians have affirmed confessional statements that guide and interpret Scripture for the Church. We too affirm the following creeds and confessions: Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, Scots Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, Second Helvetic Confession, Westminster Confession of Faith, the Shorter Catechism and the Larger Catechism.

## What We Believe:

Our Statement of Belief is not intended to be a comprehensive statement of faith but is a summary of essential articles of faith. Statements of faith are always subject to the higher authority of Scripture.

The only mediator between God and all human beings is Jesus Christ our Lord. By His death in our place, Jesus revealed divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt, and making possible our reconciliation with God. *Colossians 1:15, 19-23; John 14:6; Romans 3:25; I Corinthians 12:3; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Colossians 1:15, 17, 20; Philippians 2:5-11; I Timothy 2:5-6*

## Scripture

We believe that God has revealed the truth about Himself and creation in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which are our unique and authoritative guides in faith and action. The sixty-six canonical books of the Bible as originally written were inspired of God, are the Word of God, and are thus free from error. They constitute the only infallible guide in faith and practice, the final and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. *Matthew 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 1:21; II Timothy 3:16-17*

## Trinity

We believe that God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - the Triune God. There are three distinct Persons in one essential Being varying in role and function but one in substance and equal in power and glory. The Triune God is the creator and preserver of all things. Infinite in being and existing eternally, the Trinity is the Alpha and Omega of all that exists in time and space. As such, God is perfect in love and righteous in all His ways, a Being of unimaginable wonder, power, goodness, and love. *Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:13; Romans 5:8; John 14:15-17; Ephesians 2:18*

## Jesus

We believe that God does not intend for sin and suffering to prevail but is at work to redeem and reconcile what He has made. Being estranged from God by our disobedience, we, as sinful people, are incapable of redeeming or reconciling ourselves into a right relationship to God apart from His divine grace.

God has expressed Himself uniquely in His Son Jesus, the second Person in the Trinity. Jesus lived, taught, died, rose, and ascended to the Father for our sakes. The eternally preexistent Son became incarnate without human father by being born of the Virgin Mary. Thus, in the Lord Jesus Christ, divine and human natures were united in one Person, both natures being whole, perfect, and distinct. To provide salvation and fulfill the Father's requirement for perfect holiness, He lived a sinless life, suffered and died on the cross, and rose from the dead three days later. He is our substitute, bearing the punishment for our sin through His suffering on the cross. He ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He performs the ministry of intercession. He shall come again, personally and visibly, to complete His saving work and to fulfill the eternal plan of God.

## Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Triune God, convicts us of our sins and leads us to confess Jesus as Lord. He indwells all believers as the seal of our redemption. He empowers us to obey God's will, to live lives of personal holiness, and to glorify the Father. *John 16:5-8; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26; Galatians 3:14*

## Creation

We believe that creation exists solely because God intended and created it; it belongs to Him; and He has placed humankind on this planet as stewards, with the responsibility to care for and cherish it. *Genesis 1:1; Psalms 24:1*

We believe that all human beings are created in the image of God (Imago Dei), thus giving worth and value to all humanity. Our purpose is to "glorify God and enjoy Him forever" (Westminster Confession). God created Man, as male and female, to be in relationship with each other and in fellowship with Him. We realize our created intent and worth in relational community, both horizontally (with each other) and vertically (with the Trinity).

*Genesis 1:27, 31; Psalms 8:3-6; Ephesians 1:10*

## Sin

We believe that man was created in the image of God to live exclusively for Him, but through disobedience and rebellion fell from his sinless state. This fall plunged man into a state of sin and spiritual death - separation and estrangement from God, self, others, and the created order, and brought upon the entire human race the sentence of eternal death. From this state each person can be saved only by the grace of God, through faith, on the basis of the work of Christ, and by the agency of the Holy Spirit. *Genesis 3:17; Isaiah 1:2-4; Romans 3:23, 6:23; Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:3*

## Faith

Created with free will (the right and responsibility to make choices in life), all of humanity is given the opportunity to respond to the grace, mercy, and love of God as expressed in Christ Jesus. Our faith, itself a gift from God, appropriates or activates to our individual lives the salvation and redemption accomplished by Christ's death and resurrection. Having repented and been saved through grace alone, the believer is accountable before God for living out his/her salvation as a disciple - free from sin, living a life dependent on Him. *Galatians 2:19-20; Romans 3:28, 30; Romans 6:1-11; II Corinthians 5:18-20; I John 1:8-9*

## Grace

We believe that salvation is God's gracious redemptive work through Jesus Christ to reclaim humankind and all creation from sin and its consequences. Salvation is a gift of God's grace received by faith through the work of the Holy Spirit. The righteousness of Christ is credited to those who believe in Jesus as their Savior, resulting in their right standing before God. Salvation does not merely mean an escape from an eternity in hell but a new, fuller, richer life on earth now. As followers of Jesus Christ, we now have the Holy Spirit living in us, leading us into the truth, and bringing forth the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. *Romans 3:23, 5:6-8; Ephesians 1:3-10; Galatians 5:22-26*

## Church

We believe that the Church is Christ's Body, active and alive in the world, and the Family of God. It is composed of those who have repented and believe in the Gospel of Christ. The Church is endowed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit for ministry. This community of faith, under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, is the primary means through which God wants to bring His agape-love embodied in Jesus to a lost, blind, deaf, and hurting world. *Galatians 3:26-28; John 1:12, 3:6; Ephesians 1:5; Galatians 4:5-7; I John 5:1; I Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:7, 12-16*

## Future

We live in hope because God's redemptive purpose will be fulfilled by the return of Christ. At His second coming, Jesus will return for His own and establish His glorious kingdom where love and justice will prevail. Those who are apart from Christ, those who have refused God's plan of salvation, shall be eternally separated from God's presence, while the redeemed shall live and reign with Him forever. *Matthew 24:30-31; Luke 12:40; Romans 8:37-39; Revelation 21:1-8*

This Statement of Belief was approved by the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, Florida, on January 22, 2013.

# **Job Description: Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church**

## **PRIMARY PURPOSE OF JOB:**

The office of Senior Pastor is vital to the life and welfare of this church. The Senior Pastor serves as the leader, the shepherd, resource person, counselor, administrator, and spiritual nourisher for the whole church family. The Senior Pastor sets the example in lifestyle and personal devotion. The Senior Pastor is a role model, the importance of which is difficult to quantify. While a forty-fifty hour work week is anticipated, rarely are the duties and responsibilities accomplished in this amount of time. With these kinds of demands, the Senior Pastor shall take a day per week for personal use, four weeks annual vacation, two weeks for continuing education, and two weeks for conference speaking. In order to facilitate the efficient execution of the above responsibilities, a systematic schedule should be developed reflecting the work style of the Senior Pastor.

Chiefly, the Senior Pastor is charged with encouraging and executing the vision of the church, motivating and equipping the lay leadership, supervising the staff, preaching and leading the congregation in worship, and praying.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- 1) A personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- 2) A demonstrated, consistent practice of the spiritual disciplines of personal prayer and Bible study
- 3) A college degree, graduate degree in theology or work toward such, and ordination in a Reformed denomination (eventual ordination in ECO will be required)
- 4) A demonstrated ability to pastor and care for the spiritual needs of individuals
- 5) A demonstrated ability to communicate effectively as a preacher and teacher of Scripture
- 6) An understanding of both small group dynamics and large group principles
- 7) Active support of the church's ministries such as the Stephen ministry
- 8) Moral convictions and lifestyle which are consistent with a traditional understanding of biblical teachings
- 9) Theological views consistent with the historical Presbyterian and Reformed faith in accordance with Scripture
- 10) Agreement with the vision, mission, values and beliefs of First Presbyterian Church
- 11) Ability to express one's self clearly and to be grammatically correct in writing and speech
- 12) Ability and willingness to express one's faith in Jesus Christ to others and have the demonstrated ability to lead another person to Jesus Christ
- 13) Love of people
- 14) Ability to work well with people and to function well in a team ministry by being open, giving supervision, and receiving care

## **RELATIONSHIPS TO SESSION:**

1. The Senior Pastor will normally moderate the meetings of the Session. The responsibility may be shared with other ordained pastors on the staff.
2. The Senior Pastor will meet as needed with the Clerk of Session and Sessional Committee Chairs.
3. The Senior Pastor will normally train newly elected Elders each year.
4. The members of the Personnel Committee will evaluate the work of the Senior Pastor each year, normally in June-July.
5. The Senior Pastor will normally train/orient the annual Nominating Committee. He serves as an *ex officio* member of the committee.

## **RELATIONSHIPS TO THE STAFF:**

1. The Senior Pastor serves as the head of staff and is responsible for the entire staff. Even so, some professional staff may actually supervise the work of other staff.
2. The Senior Pastor is normally available to the staff from Saturday to Thursday as needed, but Friday is set aside for sermon preparation, study, and writing.
3. The Senior Pastor will often lead the regular weekly all-staff meeting.
4. The Senior Pastor will normally lead and participate in the weekly professional program staff meeting.
5. The Senior Pastor will receive and review the ongoing ministry of the church.

## **RELATIONSHIPS TO THE HIGHER GOVERNING BODIES:**

1. Attends and participates in the meetings of the Presbytery.
2. Serves on one committee of the Presbytery, as agreed upon by the Presbytery and the Senior Pastor.
3. Attends and participates in meetings of the Synod as requested and as schedule allows.
4. Communicates to the Session and the congregation various concerns and issues of interest and importance to the larger church.
5. Encourages the church's denominational affairs council to present and/or lead the Session and/or congregation in one church-wide issue annually.

## **LEADERSHIP**

1. Casts the vision:
  - (a) Under God's guidance, casts the vision for ministry at and through First Presbyterian Church to reach people for Jesus Christ.
  - (b) Refreshes the vision several times a year from the pulpit and at other gatherings.
2. Initiates leadership:
  - (a) Oversees the process for evaluating the church's strengths and weaknesses, goals and objectives, then recommends changes.
  - (b) Coordinates committee work, programs, and ministries of the church to reach people for Jesus Christ.
  - (c) Identifies and equips lay members to lead in various ministries of and through the church.

## **WORSHIP**

1. Prepares and delivers sermons at the regular, appointed times for worship:
  - (a) Spends approximately 15 hours a week reading, studying, praying and writing in preparation for preaching.
  - (b) Preaches approximately 38-42 Sundays a year.
  - (c) Delivers sermons with biblical teachings and values.
2. Suggests and plans special services during the year:

Oversees such services as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, National Day of Prayer, and Christmas Eve.

3. Develops the congregation as a worshipping community:
  - (a) Through liturgy, music, preaching and other creative means, provides for both the leadership and response of the congregation in worship.
  - (b) Trains or oversees training for lay liturgy leaders.
  - (c) Utilizes various visual aids such as banners to enhance color or festivity into the celebration of worship.
4. Administers the Sacraments at the appointed times:
  - (a) Normally serves Communion on the first Sunday of each month, Maundy Thursday, Easter and Christmas Eve.
  - (b) Normally celebrates Baptisms at 11:00 and when communion is not served.
  - (c) Provides Baptismal instruction and counseling before recommendations are sent to the Session.
5. Coordinates music for worship services:
  - (a) Reviews and makes final decisions on all music for worship services.
  - (b) Establishes a smooth working relationship with church musicians to provide for a unified service.
6. Funeral services:
  - (a) Designs and conducts funeral services of members as requested and as able.
  - (b) Shares responsibilities for funerals for non-members with the Assistant Pastor
7. Weddings:
  - (a) Designs and conducts wedding services of members as requested and as able.
  - (b) Provides or directs appropriate pre-marital counseling for individuals prior to wedding.
8. Carries out above responsibilities in correlation with the Worship Committee.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

1. Regular visitation of members and new member prospects:
  - (a) Develops with the Assistant Minister a plan to visit shut-ins.
  - (b) Generally visits new member prospects as requested.
  - (c) Initiates, as opportunities are present, evangelistic outreach visits.
  - (d) Provides regular pastoral contacts with the church's leadership.
2. Emergency and hospital visits:
  - (a) Makes such visits as necessary.
  - (b) When away or on Fridays, has Assistant Minister handle all emergencies.
3. Pastoral counseling:
  - (a) Provides short term counseling (1-3 sessions) as ability and schedule allow.
  - (b) Researches and develops referral contacts.
  - (c) Provides appropriate referrals for those needing long-term counseling.
  - (d) Refers to Stephen Ministers when appropriate.
  - (e) Encourages small group participation by all members.

4. Programs:
  - (a) Serves as resource, as needed, for various programs and activities in the church.
  - (b) Suggests program ideas to help meet church goals and spiritual needs of the community.
  
5. Stewardship:
  - (a) Leads the congregation toward the goal of full Christian commitment of time, talent and money.
  - (b) Personally tithes.
  - (c) Preaches annual stewardship sermon and occasionally a stewardship series.
  - (d) Advises Stewardship Council on both stewardship and fund raising.
  - (e) Coordinates with Worship Committee Chair as necessary.
  
6. Education:
  - (a) Oversees the work of the Discipleship Committee.
  - (b) Teaches Bible studies and classes as schedule allows.
  - (c) Teaches annual Elder training class.
  
7. Evangelism:
  - (a) Develops and cultivates fellowships with the unchurched, as able.
  - (b) Shares gospel as opportunities arise.
  - (c) Equips members of the congregation with the skills to share their faith, as schedule allows.

## **Application Details**

To apply, please send a cover letter stating why you would want to serve as Senior Pastor at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH with your resume, and a brief summary of your spiritual journey to [www.PNC2018@fpcjax.org](mailto:www.PNC2018@fpcjax.org)