



First Presbyterian Church

CORINTH, NEW YORK 12822
199 PALMER AVE
518-654-9432

www.corinthfirstpres.org

www.facebook.com/CorinthFirstPresbyterianChurch

Interested candidates should Contact Co-chairs of the Nominating Committee:

Christina VonSeggern

Home: (518) 654-6152

ninadress@gmail.com

Derek Graham

Cell: (518) 321-7724

derekjgraham@gmail.com

A Call for a Full Time Pastor

First Presbyterian Church of Corinth is seeking applicants for a Pastor to serve our congregation, which is located on the southeast edge of the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. We are a member of the ECO Cornerstone Presbytery, a Christian denomination whose theological and organizational heritage springs from the Reformation. ECO is a member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches and the National Association of Evangelicals.

Our church body consists of approximately 130 individuals. We average 70 people at our weekly Sunday morning services. This is a full time position and the Pastor shall perform the required services for a minimum of forty (40) hours per week. Salary and benefits will be negotiated based upon experience and within the guidelines of ECO. Housing will be provided.

History of Corinth First Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Corinth was founded in 1814 and built the present sanctuary in 1873. The church continued to thrive in an early regional industrial center. Corinth was home to a successful and innovative paper mill which became the foundation of International Paper. In 1899 the church built a large Brick House which served as the parsonage until the 1960s, and has also served since as a Parish Hall (until 1985), Sunday School facility, pre-school, and community youth center. In the early 1960s a new manse was purchased next to the church and the sanctuary underwent a major renovation.

A new parish hall wing was added to the sanctuary between 1984 and 1985, doubling our square footage and providing new space for church fellowship meals, a preschool, offices and meeting rooms. Since then the church has added a parking lot and thoroughly renovated and weatherized the Brick House, Sanctuary and Manse through

various projects over the years.

Throughout generations we have maintained an interest in and a commitment to mission. We have kept long-term relationships with missionaries and local pastors in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Malawi, Kenya, Brazil, Nicaragua, Bangladesh, Thailand, Japan, Ukraine and Latvia. We have also sent members on short-term trips to Zimbabwe, South Africa, Malawi, Haiti, Kenya and Nicaragua. Members of our congregation have traveled to do storm/disaster repair work in several states in conjunction with both Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Samaritan's Purse.



In the 1980s we united with several local churches to form the Corinth Community Churches. Working together we prepare and serve a free meal to the entire community in celebration of Thanksgiving. The meal is followed by a community worship service. During the summer this group sponsors a fellowship picnic at the local park on the banks of the Hudson River. A Baccalaureate service for the graduating seniors of Corinth High School is held in June at one of the participating churches on a rotating basis. The Corinth Community Churches also formed and manages a community food pantry and an emergency heating fuel fund. We have been involved in Stephen Ministry.

Over the years, the congregation has emphasized the importance of children's and youth ministry. Apart from a thriving Preschool, both ministries have struggled in recent years. We have a well attended preschool of three to four year olds five days a week. Over the years high school groups have enjoyed a number of overnight canoe trips into the Adirondacks, as well as soup kitchen ministry trips to New York City. Our Sunday School and youth group attendance has been up and down throughout the years. We have experimented with intergenerational youth ministries. It is our desire and goal to have a seamless series of children's, youth and family ministries.

We are a singing and musical congregation! Our church transitioned to blended worship in the mid-1990s with the addition of a worship team equipped with modern instruments. We have added a large screen and rear projection system as well as an up-to-date sound system and mixing board which have also added to the vitality of worship. The screen is used for praise and hymn texts, announcements, snapshot PowerPoints, and sermon video illustrations.

Theological Positions

We have strived as a congregation to maintain both the unity of the church and the truthfulness of the Gospel. After many years of protesting the Presbyterian Church USA's slide away from its biblical moorings we had come to the conclusion that unity purchased by sacrificing truthfulness was not church unity. We felt compelled to find a home where we could focus on what we are, rather than exert our efforts against that which we oppose and the congregation voted unanimously in 2015 to leave the PCUSA and unite with ECO, Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

Corinth First Presbyterian is an evangelical congregation. We are solidly Reformed in theology and polity. We value life as understood through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe in celebrating the sacraments together, including communion once a month. We believe in the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman as God defines it in the Bible. We firmly believe in the glorious promise of John 3:16 and 17 as well as the warning tied with it in John 3:18. We also firmly believe in grace over works as Paul summarizes in Ephesians 2: 8-10.

We identify with the creeds and confessions that we have inherited from those that have come before us in the

faith. Each one of us comes with different gifts, joys and burdens; However, we all share in the same Spirit. We take great comfort in knowing as believers that we are never alone but rather, with our fellow believers, are bound body and soul to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who purchased our salvation with his precious blood. Together our mission is to grow in relationship with God and share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Demographics, Make up of Population, and Ethnic Groups – Culture and Social Status:

Corinth is a small town nestled in the southeastern edge of the Adirondack Mountains on the banks of the Hudson River in Upstate New York. The village was founded in 1818 as a result of commerce on the Hudson River. Today, it is a picturesque, rural community. Corinth’s major employers are small service businesses, restaurants, retail shops and health and beauty salons, the school district, campgrounds and inns. We also serve as a bedroom community for Glens Falls, Saratoga Springs, Lake George and the greater Capital Region of New York State. Within the village, there is a public beach, a theatre guild and a small public library. In addition to the Public school, there are several Christian school opportunities. There are programs for children and adults such as youth hockey, boxing, wrestling, little league, pee wee football, soccer, basketball, ski program, summer playground and field trips, swimming lessons, summer youth theatre, and more. Many residents commute to work in nearby cities such as Glens Falls (13 miles) and Saratoga Springs (13 miles). Corinth is centrally located between NYC, Montreal, and Boston and is well situated for convenient day trips to the recreational areas of the Adirondacks (including those that are right in our backyard), Lake Placid, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

Check out these website for more information:

- <http://www.visitlakegeorge.com/>
- <http://www.lakeplacid.com/>
- <http://www.saratoga-springs.org/>



Local School District:

The mission of the Corinth Central School District, located at the gateway to the Adirondacks, is to spark lifelong curiosity in every student through inspired teaching that builds on the strengths of each student and creative partnerships so that our graduates excel in a rapidly changing world.

- Approximately 1,300 students are enrolled in the District
- The community also offers preschool and post-high school programs for students with disabilities

There are approximately 125 professional educators and 100 instructional assistants and support staff. Over 90% of the faculty have more than five years of college or hold master's degrees; many are leaders in their field and have received local, state, and national honors.

Corinth has a population of roughly 6,300 within its 66 square miles of land area. Less than half of the

population lives within the village limits. The inhabitants of the Corinth area are primarily white, with European ancestry (roughly 95%) although it is not unusual to see other races and ethnic groups within the region. The population is evenly split between male and female. The median age is roughly 40 years old with a pretty even dispersion amongst all age groups. Roughly a third of the population has a post secondary education of at least an associate degree.

The average per capita income is \$24,181. The median household income is \$53,691. This has grown by over 50% since 2000. On average, residents spend 23.5 minutes per day commuting. There is a mixture of “blue collar” and “white collar” within the area. Overall, the Town of Corinth is growing because we are within reach of cities and the housing is more affordable than other towns in the area.

Church Groups and the General Attitude of population regarding church ministries

The overall area is predominantly Catholic, primarily due to the larger percentage of original settlers that were of Irish and Italian ancestry. Locally there is First Presbyterian (that’s us), First United Methodist Church, Corinth Free Methodist Church, Spirit of Life United Methodist, Gateway Apostolic Church, Full Gospel Assembly, Church of the Nations, Faith Chapel Fellowship, Victory Bible Baptist, and Church of the Holy Mother and Child.

Throughout the area, church is not disrespected but most residents haven’t had contact with a church because they were not brought up in one. The older population is very supportive, but for those younger, there is not much interest or participation. In recent years, churches have run VBS together so that there would be enough children. There are very few young families attending our churches. Only a small fraction of the general public is going to church anywhere in Corinth.



Our Congregation envisions the following for ministry:

We want to worship God and discover His plans for our lives.

We want to be rooted in Christ and growing in faith.

We want to grow the body of Christ across all generations .

The majority of our current congregation is well over 50.

We want a thriving ministry to family and youth.

We want to grow a strong and healthy Biblically sound church that does God’s will and becomes an influence in the local community and beyond.

We want to show God’s love in word and actions within our fellowship and out in the community at large.

We want to have an impact so that Christians locally and worldwide are a valued majority, not a misunderstood minority.

We want to study God’s word to be spiritually focused and grounded in Scripture.

We want to study the Bible and use it to shape how we read our confessions.

We want to continue to support local and foreign missions.

We want to be outwardly oriented, helping others according to God’s word.

The expectations of our congregation are that the pastor will:

Fulfill all of the Ministry Tasks as outlined in the "Ministry and Partnership Team Manual of the Cornerstone Presbytery".

Take an active role in leading Bible studies.

Attend and maintain our presence at Community Churches meetings and activities.

Effectively minister across generations.

Likes working with children and has a sense of humor.

Sessions vision for pastoral leadership includes the following:

Pastor needs to have successfully graduated from a reputable Seminary.

Willingness to receive, adopt and be bound by the Essential Tenets of the ECO.

Willingness and ability to become a member, or affiliate member, of the ECO Cornerstone Presbytery .

We want a pastor who encourages leadership in the church.

A pastor who embraces continual growth and has a desire to share knowledge.

Pastor who does not add to or take away from the Biblical message.

A pastor who is comfortable in visiting anyone who needs support and/or encouragement.

What is unique about the ministries of your church?

The ministries of our church are unique in many ways. We are more mission oriented than the average congregation of our size – especially foreign mission. We are solid in our core of beliefs yet flexible in how we worship and how we express those beliefs. We are more than a congregation – We are a fellowship family that supports each other in times of need, both spiritually and physically.

Our congregation only requires the English language even though we have several that speak other languages as well (Including Spanish, Russian, French, and German).

Please provide a cover letter, resume, statement of faith, references, and access to preaching samples.