

What We Believe

We seek to be a family of faith where humility is genuine, significant life change is expected, spiritual growth and transformation is celebrated, and prayer and worship are central. Our hope is that we serve in a place that is not about us, except to help us be our best as we love, serve and influence the world around us.

We find a diversity of beliefs among our members and those who attend our church. As a Presbyterian church we find the roots of our faith in the Reformed Tradition and we work out the details of our faith in connection with each other looking foremost to the authority of God's Word to us revealed in Scripture.

We are also a member congregation of the Fellowship Community, a network of churches and leaders called together to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ by growing in Christ's likeness, living by God's word, and joining in God's mission in the world.

Narrative Questions

1. The Presbyterian Church of Toms River strives to achieve balance of a loving and inclusive community that affirms the authority of Scripture and the transformational power of the Good News. We are a regional church where faith works and people belong, located on the Jersey shore in the eighth largest township in New Jersey. In our 165 years of ministry, we have reached out to an area that has changed from a small community to a recreation destination with one of the nation's largest retirement populations and one of the state's largest school systems.

Amidst these changes our congregation has maintained a focus simple and profound – encouraging people to grow in Christ. We seek to be faithful to Scripture and confessions while being innovative and diverse in ministry and mission. We strive for both fidelity and freedom, maintaining continuity with the Spirit's past work and obedience to the Spirit's present calling.

The church has addressed differing views on the denomination's position changes with regard to ordination standards and the definition of marriage. While many members are in agreement with the Staff and Session in seeking to maintain the historic Reformed understanding on these matters, others still disagree. We continue to work together as a family of faith.

2. Through weekend church schools and 8 other regular programs, we touch the lives of 1200 children and youth each year. There are 12 choirs and instrumental groups that fill our new music wing with glorious sound. Two hundred and fifty 2-5 year olds fill our Westminster Nursery School with art and energy.

But statistics can't capture a week of watching God work at PCTR. On Mondays, adult discipleship classes and youth groups encourage biblical literacy and personal direction. On Tuesdays, the facilities fill with elementary age children learning eternal lessons and adult leaders turning committees into missionary communities. Throughout the week, teenagers create a loud, life-changing clamour, choirs rehearse, worship teams prepare. On Thursdays, recovery groups promote healing and the Sanctuary Choir sings God's glory.

On weekends, we welcome members and seekers to discover the living God through song and sermon, confession and silence, praise and thanksgiving, generosity and intercession, and study and interaction. We regularly have four worship services.

Every weekday our Mission House, the "House of Hope," houses three ministries (the Hope Center, Hope Sheds Light, and The United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties) bringing love and hope to the vulnerable and seekers in need.

Beyond the local community, PCTR is called to serve several missions in the greater region and the global community. PCTR actively supports Urban Promise, as well as Villages in Partnership in Malawi, Africa.

3. The Associate Pastor of Community and Congregational Care will lead the people of PCTR in expressing the heart of God within the congregation and into the community. This individual will develop community relationships and partnerships, discern the spiritual and human needs of our diverse population, and promote social righteousness and general welfare. This servant of God will mobilize and equip others to be ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and will teach with compassion, empathy, and a passion that is contagious. The Associate Pastor will develop caring relationships where restoration, renewal, and transformation can happen.

4. We are seeking a servant who lives a life of joyful dedication to Jesus Christ, fed by worship, gladdened by relationships and inspired by prayer. This individual will be filled with hope, walking with others through the joys and pains of life and helping them see a way through the chaos and complexity. We are looking for a person who knows how to collaborate with teams and is adept at getting things accomplished in a large congregation. The right candidate will seize the opportunity to connect people of different generations, cultures, worldviews, and theological positions. The Associate Pastor will know how to equip others to use their spiritual gifts in the service of God. To thrive in this role, this person will be bold and courageous in his/her witness to the world, humble in his/her service to others, and compassionate and loving in his/her relationships.

5. The Associate Pastor will mobilize and equip a committed people and inspire a shared vision for caring ministries such as:

- Congregational care ministries
- Stephen ministry
- Deacons
- Homebound ministry
- Hospital visitation
- Nursing Home visitation
- Grief Share
- Outreach
- Prayer ministry
- Other support groups

Additionally, the Associate Pastor is called to lead in the development of new community care ministries, reaching out to a diverse population of need. In partnership with staff and laypersons, the Associate Pastor will lead in worship regularly. Based on gifts and calling, this individual may preach up to 12 times per year. S/he will celebrate faith milestones with church families, provide support and encouragement to those in need, and connect with the hearts and minds of members of all ages.

Leadership Competencies

THEOLOGICAL/SPIRITUAL INTERPRETER

Compassionate
Spiritual Maturity

COMMUNICATION

Communicator

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Advisor
Entrepreneurial
Strategy and Vision

INTERPERSONAL ENGAGEMENT

Interpersonal Engagement
Motivator
Flexibility
Self Differentiation

References

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