

Church Information Form/Resume

CIF #: 03971

Church/Organization General Information

Church/Organization Number	03971
Church/Organization Name	FIRST
Mailing Address	509 SOUTH PEARL JOPLIN, MO 64801
Phone	(417) 624-2433
Fax	(417) 624-6494
E-Mail	fpcjoplin@joplin.com
WWW Address	fpcjoplin.com
Church/Organization Size	251 - 400 members
Ethnic Composition	African American 1% Caucasian 98% Other 1%
Average Worship Attendance	166
Church School Attendance	100
Curriculum	The Present Word, God's Politics, Youth Specialties, NIV Standard Lesson Commentary, and others
Certified as eligible for participation in the Seminary Debt Assistance Program False	
Yoked Church	False
Presbytery	JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY
Synod	SYNOD OF MID-AMERICA
Community Type	Small City

Information about the position

Position: Pastor (Head of Staff)

Specific Title:

Employment Status: Full-time

Language Requirements: English

Brief Church Mission Statement:

Centered in Christ...Faithful to Scripture...United in Spirit...Active in Mission

The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. We seek to do this through a variety of mission activities and by nurturing our congregation in Christian love.

We place importance on the worship of God, the ministry of music, the study of Scripture, the Christian education of youth and adults, the fellowship of our people, and service to others.

We are rooted in the Reformed tradition and are committed to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its global outreach.

We welcome all who would join our journey of discipleship and reconciliation.

Brief description of the church/organization's programs or accomplishments:

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42

FPC is a busy place as we work to fulfill our mission.

Our music program is appreciated by our congregation and central to our worship:

- Adult and Children’s Choirs
- Handbell Program for Adults and Children
- Special Holiday Services

Member-led programs include:

- Seven active adult Sunday School Classes and four children’s classes all taught by church members.
- Men’s Bible Study and Morning Discussion Group that have met for over 20 years.
- Sunday Night Intercessory Prayer Group for over 15 years and Telephone Prayer Chain
- Women’s Association/Circles, Bereavement and Wedding Guild
- Stephen Ministry
- Vacation Bible School serving the community

- WOW (What's on Wednesday) Program with meals and programs

Mission programs that focus on the local community and beyond:

- Active First Tuesday Community Lunch for the benefit of the church and community
- Deacon's Christmas Baskets
- Annual Angel Tree party for children of prisoners in our community
- Mission Work Trip for over 25 years
- Tradition of bringing in international missionaries
- Founders of several community-wide efforts such as Joplin Community Clinic (free clinic for the uninsured), Crosslines food pantry, and Children's Haven
- Shoalkirk Retreat Center
- Kid's Stuff Day Care Center

Gifts, Skills and Experiences the congregation possesses to fulfill its mission:

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.” 1 Corinthians 12:4–5

Programs are what we do – our gifts, skills and experiences are the means to accomplish our mission through them.

Faithful service describes our music programs. Our organist has served FPC for 50 years – our music directors (married) have been here for a combined 60 years. We're blessed with soloists and special guests who grew up at FPC.

FPC provides small group experiences for our congregation on Sunday and through the week. We're fortunate to have members who step up as leaders and teachers. Our weekly groups also demonstrate the level of compassion we have for one another. We pray, learn and care for each other in troubled times.

When it comes to mission, we are doers with servants' hearts. Every year mission trip participants use their vacation time to work for others. The Angel Tree List lasts only a few minutes before every name is given out. Members young and old help pack Deacons' Baskets one day and deliver them the next. First Tuesday Lunch is staffed by a dedicated crew that prepares the FPC secret chili recipe and serves nearby office workers and community members.

Success comes when we see God working and join in.

Key theological issues of the church and society that are reflected in the ministry of the congregation/organization:

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

Interpreting God’s Will-This is THE issue for every congregation. We are committed to studying the Bible and applying it to our daily life. There is a healthy diversity in our interpretations of Scripture; yet we agree on the need for lifelong study and discerning God’s will.

Christian Education-Strong CE offerings exist in children’s and adult Sunday School classes and study groups which use both Reformed tradition curricula and frequently tackle topics outside their comfort zone. Our youth program, on the wane for several years, needs attention.

Mission-Our most visible demonstration of ministry is in outreach and the recognition of poverty as a local/worldwide dilemma. We are dedicated to helping those in need locally, regionally and internationally, but struggle to find the appropriate balance between mission efforts and our budgetary limits.

Membership-65% of our membership is over 50. Attempts have been made, with mixed results, to attract younger members by striving to find a balance between traditional and contemporary worship experiences.

Unity-As a congregation that has recently weathered the loss of 20% of its members, we are earnest in our efforts to foster unity within our church family. Redeveloping member leadership skills will be central to this effort.

References:

Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
The Rev. Dr. Mary Newbern-Williams	2150 W. Republic Rd., Springfield, MO 65807	417-883-8033	General Presbyter, John Calvin Presbytery	revmarynw@johncalvinpresby.org
The Rev. Susan Rosenbaum	1702 N. Elm, Pittsburg, KS 66762	620-231-5043	COM Liaison	suz14@cox.net
The Rev. Rodney Peters	612 S. Jefferson St., Neosho, Missouri 64850	417-451-3361	Neighboring pastor, former COM moderator	rodneypeters2339@yahoo.com

Position Description

A. Major Responsibilities:

“Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task”. 1 Timothy 3:1

Our congregation has a vision of what we want in a pastor. We seek someone who can:

- lead worship services...leading includes more than delivering a good sermon...it involves illuminating the Word of God, delivering that Word meaningfully, and coordinating the message with the music staff, the liturgical calendar, and the sacramental schedule;
- lead the Session members (and committees for which they are responsible) and the congregation to a better effort;
- sustain congregants who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or need counseling;
- supervise an energetic staff consisting of program staff, the music team, office and maintenance personnel;
- teach, on occasion, an adult Sunday School or youth class, and direct new member and confirmation classes;
- foster greater commitment to and a better understanding of our neighborhood, local, national and international mission;
- inspire a congregation to share their blessings through gifts of talent, time, and money; and
- balance a personal life with the demands of a congregation our size; a realist who sees a pastoral job description as both informational and aspirational, representing the wants and needs of a diverse group of Christians, and by nature is ever-changing.

B. Characteristics and qualifications needed

“Where there is no vision, the people perish”. Proverbs 29:18

Our next leader must have vision – - our pastor needs hindsight, clear sight, and foresight. Hindsight to understand where we’ve been, clear sight to understand where we are, and foresight to help us get where we need to be in the coming years. Our vision includes someone who:

- will meet, greet, love and nurture us;
- will ultimately consider us to be family;
- possesses skills in leadership development and group building...the future success of our congregation will depend on the renewed development of lay leadership;
- will appreciate the musical gifts of our congregation and meld those gifts into the experience of worship;

- can enhance and build on our heritage for local ministry, international mission, and charitable work;
- recognizes that disagreement is healthy, that you can't please everyone, that difficult decisions sometimes have to be made, and that ultimately the goal is to do God's will;
- can challenge and motivate our congregation to a better effort;
- will use, in a manner consistent with Presbyterian doctrine, those assets which we're fortunate to have: our music programs, our audiovisual equipment, our retreat center, our daycare, and a congregation with ability and talent; and
- will love and pray for us sinners.

If you're this person, or think you can be, let us know. We're ready.

Primary Skill Choices:

Administrative Leadership
Communication (Written / Oral)
Congregational Fellowship
Corporate Worship / Sacraments
Development of New Educational Experiences
Pastoral Care
Preaching

Compensation and Housing: Minimum Effective Salary:\$52,000
Housing Type: Housing Allowance

Geographic Choices: Unlimited

Has the presbytery's Committee on Ministry thus counseled with the Pastor Nominating Committee regarding Equal Employment Opportunity?
Yes

Has the Pastor Nominating Committee affirmed to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?
Yes

Self-referral Contact Information

EP: REV MARY NEWBERN- WILLIAMS	Address 2150 WEST REPUBLIC ROAD, SPRINGFIELD MO 65807
Daytime Phone (417) 883-8033	Office Phone (800) 371-0643
Fax (417) 883-8054	Email revmarynw@johncalvinpresby.org
PNC: Sallie Beard	Address 3104 W. 27th St., Joplin, Missouri
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