



Christ Presbyterian Church

Nashua, NH

Pastor Candidate Packet
2022

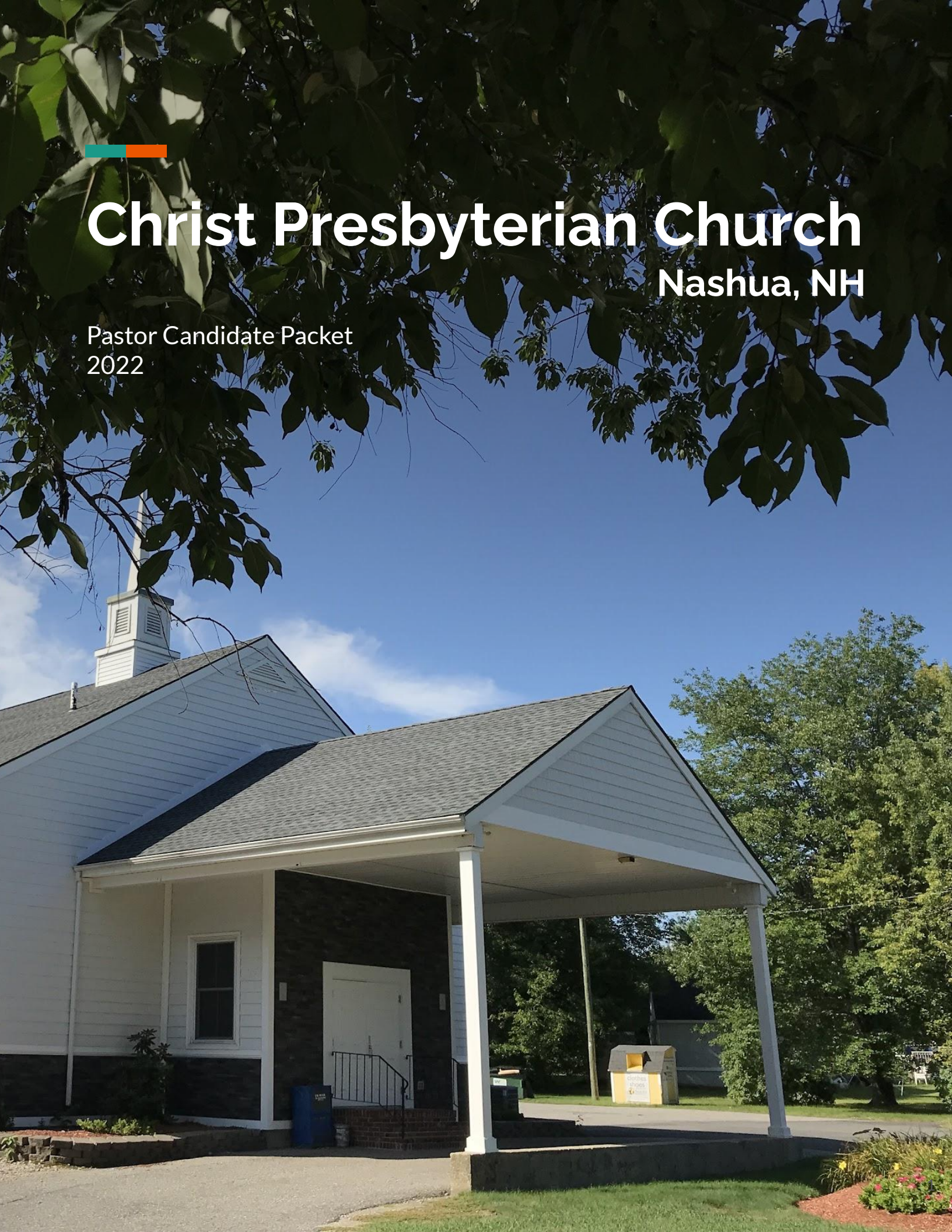




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Executive Overview

Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) is a small New England church of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) that faithfully gathers to worship at a rented church building in Nashua, NH every Sunday. Our membership is involved in various small informal prayer and study activities.

While we have steady attendance and are in a positive financial state, we are eager for a new pastor to come in and help:

- unite our congregation toward a biblical vision for the future of the church,
- establish solid discipleship and shepherding of the congregation, and
- lead us in living out our lives as people of Christ's kingdom within our communities.

Mission and Vision

Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

CPC desires to:

- be a community in Christ, serving the greater Nashua area.
- bear witness to Christ and be a beacon to the lost.
- care for those in affliction, whether in our community or abroad.
- disciple believers at all stages of their Christian walk.
- disciple believers in applying the Gospel in all areas of life, such as vocation, friendship, singleness and marriage, family life, and community.

Greater Nashua Area

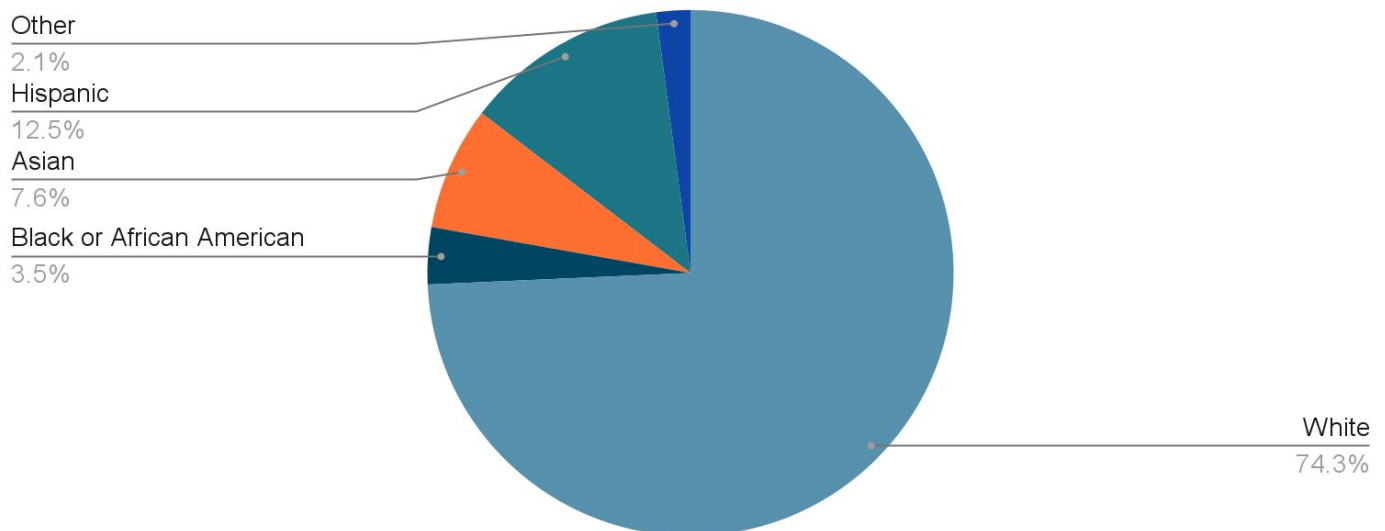


CPC meets in Nashua, NH. Nashua is a city in southern New Hampshire. In the 2020 census, it had a population of just over 91,000, making it the second largest city in northern New England after Manchester, NH. Within an hour drive, our church's families enjoy the ocean, the mountains (hiking and skiing), and Boston. For those who live in New Hampshire, we enjoy no state income tax or sales tax.

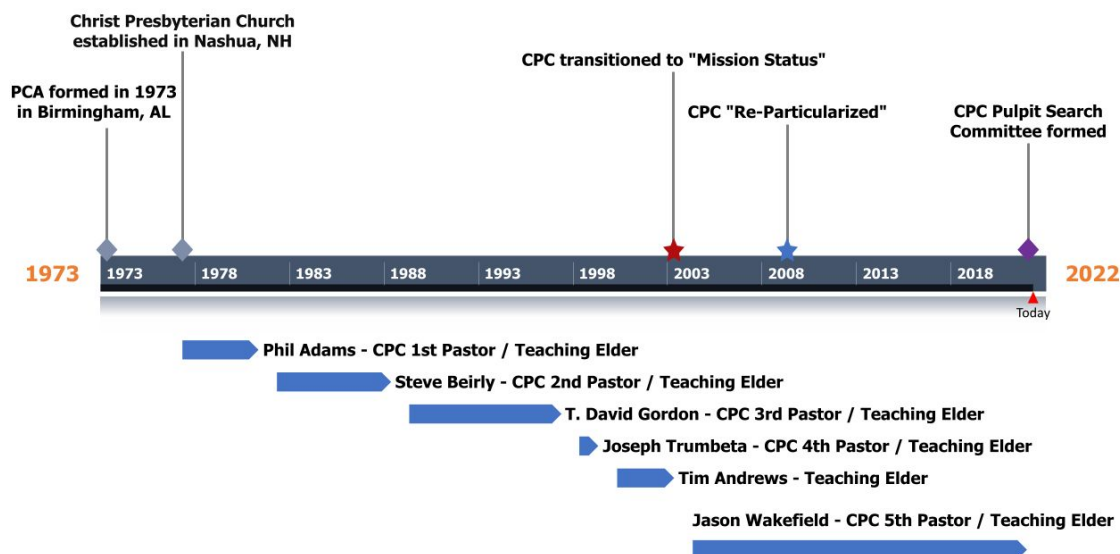
While CPC meets within Nashua itself, our church membership and attendees come from many surrounding towns, including Hollis, Hudson, Merrimack, Amherst, Lowell, MA, Westford, MA, and Waltham, MA.

The closest sister churches within the PCA are in Manchester, NH to the north, Worcester, MA to the south, and Exeter, NH to the east. We are the most southern church in the Northern New England Presbytery.

Nashua Demographics



Our History



CPC is one of the oldest PCA churches in northern New England. It began in the late 1970s, shortly after the PCA was formed in 1973 in Birmingham, AL. As an early church in northern New England, CPC was actually governed directly by the General Assembly (GA), a very rare occurrence. Alongside GA, First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS played an important part in the life of CPC. While CPC started very early, it went through a transitional period in the early 2000s, at which point the church went back into "mission status." Pastor Jason Wakefield came in 2004, and CPC was re-particularized in 2009. Pastor Wakefield served as teaching elder until January 2022, when he felt called to take a full-time role with an international mission organization, Global Equip, that he co-founded in 2011.

Throughout CPC's history, it has met at various locations throughout the Nashua area, including a school cafeteria, a banquet center, a nursing home, and a small rented building. Currently, CPC meets at the Nashua Seventh-day Adventist Church, which we rent for Sunday mornings.

CPC Today



Session

Aaron Brooks
Steve Dolbec
Matt Oquist

Diaconate

Steve Eng
Eric Newman
Mark Snyder
Sam Zhu

Diaconal Assistants

Karen Eng
Danielle Newman

Volunteer Staff

Jenn Oquist

Youth Group Leader

Lucy Warren

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Pat Reichard

Midweek Groups Coordinator

Wesley Allen

Sunday Worship — We seek to worship Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior and the creator and sustainer of the universe, with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Our liturgical service includes responsive readings and prayers, confession and assurance of pardon, hymns and singing, and scripture reading. We typically observe the Lord's Supper on first, third, and fifth Sundays. Our services currently include involvement from all communing members including youth, men, and women (scripture reading, facilitation, offering collection, etc). A sample order of worship is [here](#).

Small Groups — We currently have two small groups, with ~20 members attending regularly. One meets in person, the other online. Additional smaller groups (3-5 people) meet for prayer, discipleship, and Bible study.

Children's Church — Our children's church provides support and teaching to the youngest in our body during our worship service. Children attend a portion of the service and then are released to children's church for age-appropriate teaching. We regularly have Children's Church available through 5th grade.

Youth Group — Our youth group meets biweekly and is made up of 5th to 8th grade youth from the church.

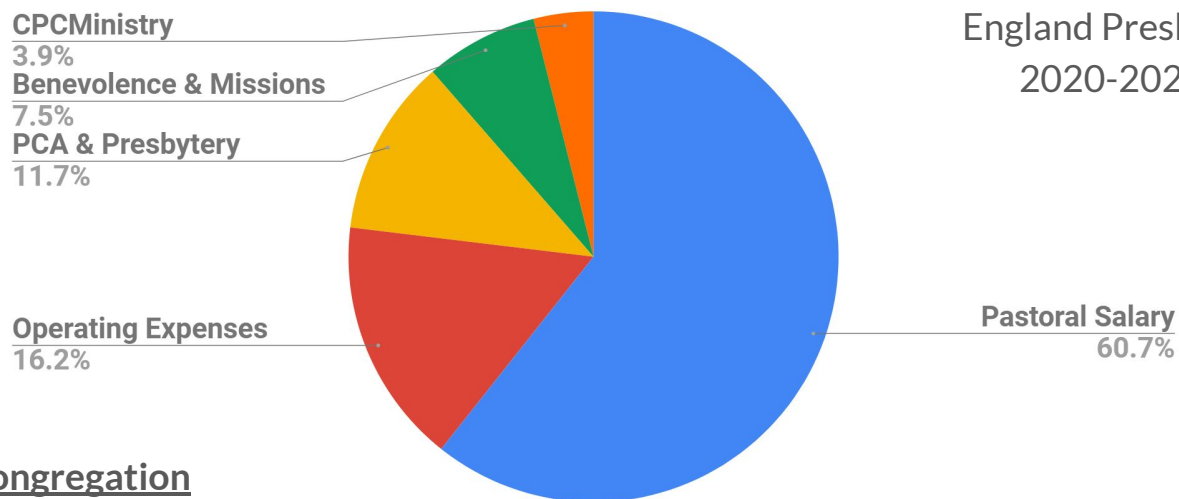
Missions — Locally, our congregation volunteers at Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire and supports local food pantries. Regionally, our congregation supports college ministries in New Hampshire and Vermont as well as church plants throughout New England. Globally, our congregation supports missionaries and missions organizations serving in Central and South America, the Middle East, and central Asia.

Numbers



Finances

CPC is in a steady financial situation with no debts. CPC has been self-sufficient and met our budget for many years. We are looking forward to providing the incoming pastor sufficient compensation to support him and his family. A majority of our income goes to pastor salary. Additionally, CPC contributed 19.2% of our income to various ministries across the PCA and the Northern New England Presbytery in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.



Congregation

The CPC congregation is made up of a diverse group of people—socially and economically—that come from various church and theological backgrounds.

Total membership: 68

Membership Breakdown: 10 families w/ children (25 kids total), 5 couples, and 13 adult individuals

Communicant members: 51

Non-communicant members: 17

Regular attending non-members: 5-10

Regular worship attendance: ~50

Over the past ten years, the church has maintained approximately the same total membership, though the membership makeup has changed (families have left and new families have come). Most of the time, these transitions have been due to families relocating.

Our strength and weakness

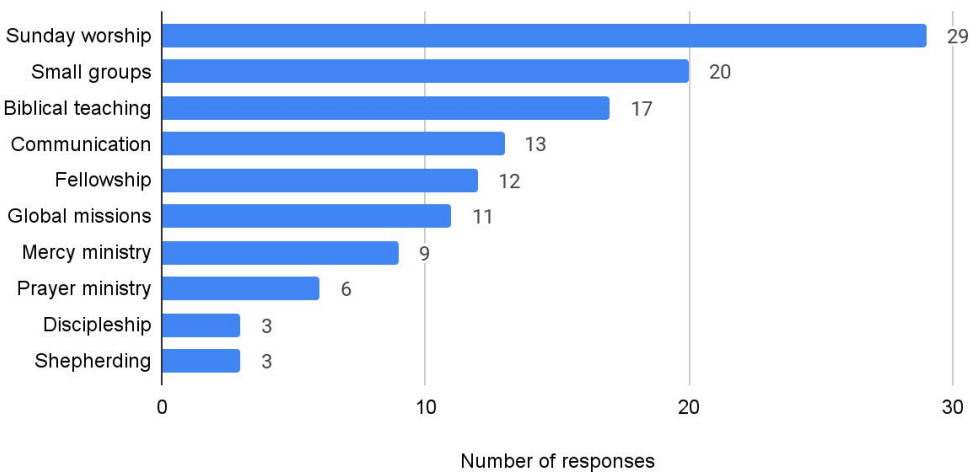


In spring 2022, the Pulpit Committee of CPC conducted a congregational survey about what we do well and what could be changed or improved.

Our Sunday worship services, small groups, and fellowship opportunities help us connect with God and with each other, but we want more opportunities to grow spiritually—through discipleship, shepherding, teaching, and prayer—and to focus outward.

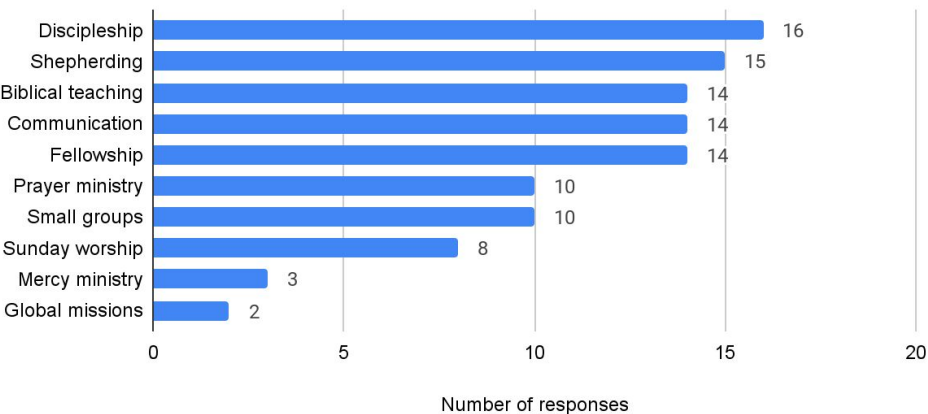
What do you think CPC does well?

34 responses



What do you hope will be different, expanded, or changed with a new pastor?

30 responses



Our congregation desires additional discipleship and shepherding. We desire a pastor to lead efforts in those areas as well as training and equipping the church to build one another up in Christ-likeness.



Future Hopes

CPC and its leadership are looking toward three things in the near future:

- sustain — sustain Christ's flock, particularly during this leadership transition.
- unite — that we may continue to experience and develop in our unity as a church body.
- grow — that we may grow not only in number but also in depth through greater discipleship and teaching, looking forward to a future with a permanent facility to support our ministry.

The present struggles for us likely mirror the struggles for many churches: How do we best live as Christ's church coming out of the challenges of the pandemic? Our church is diverse, with broad representation across social and political viewpoints and background. Our purpose is to unite Christ's church solely under the preaching and teaching of his gospel, pointing his people to Him, and orienting their thinking first and foremost from a scriptural foundation.

Pastor Profile



Summary

We want our next pastor to be a strong preacher and teacher who speaks the Gospel with authority and conviction, has a deep understanding of Scripture to help us apply it to our lives, and is rooted in reformed theology and Biblical theology. He should be passionate about the spiritual development of the congregation and able to help us look outward to serve the local community and the world.

Minimum Qualifications

- Meet the New Testament requirements for the office of teaching elder as listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Ordained or eligible to be ordained in the PCA
- 5+ years of ministry leadership experience (RE, TE, Assistant Pastor, Youth Pastor, Lead Pastor, etc.)
- Masters degree from a theological seminary (MDiv, ThM, MAR)
- Willing to live in the greater Nashua area

Preferred Qualifications

- Ordained in the PCA
- 10+ years of ministry leadership experience (RE, TE, Assistant Pastor, Youth Pastor, Lead Pastor, etc.)
- Masters degree from a Reformed theological seminary
- Married with spouse willing to participate in ministry

Expected Skills/Character

- Have a rich personal prayer life
- Have a heart for evangelism and discipleship
- Be humble and a good listener, willing to learn
- Aptitude for growth in faith and church, able to think long term
- The candidate is expected to preach and teach God's word, as a faithful expositor, drawing relevant connections to Gospel living, without being swayed or distracted by current culture issues.

Responsibilities

As a relatively small church, we have one pastor with no assistant pastors or full-time staff. Although this may sound like all burdens will be on our pastor's shoulders, God has prepared this congregation to volunteer when they are called.

Preaching (2 Timothy 4:2) — Our congregation appreciates our Sunday worship services, and preaching is a critical part of this. Our pastor will be the primary preacher for Sunday morning worship and is expected to be exceptional at exegetically uncovering truths in Scripture as well as challenging and comforting the congregation with these truths. We desire a pastor who can preach in a gospel-centered way and speak boldly from the instruction of the Holy Spirit. When he is not available, he will need to work with the Session on pulpit supply.

Responsibilities (continued)

Teaching (2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Timothy 4:13) — We are eager to learn more about God's word and to transform our lives through continuous learning of God's truth. Our pastor should pursue an active teaching role, interpreting and teaching the Scriptures, theological concepts, the history of the Church, and Biblical views toward current events. In addition, he should provide instruction for church officers, other leaders, and new members.

Discipleship & Spiritual Formation (1 Corinthians 11:1) — Members of CPC want to grow in their faith in Christ. The world we live in challenges our faith and can bring doubt and questions. Our new pastor should help church members grow in their faith; reflect on beliefs, concerns, and doubts; and apply their faith to their lives. The pastor should help the congregation be intentional in our ministries with a renewed focus towards transforming lives through formal and informal discipleship.

Evangelism (1 Peter 3:15) — Christians are called to evangelize, and making the Gospel heard should be our daily work. To advance God's kingdom, our church needs to grow, and evangelism is an important way of doing so. Our pastor should be excited about sharing the Gospel with non-believers, making God's word known, and leading the congregation in this work. He should preach without the assumption that everyone in the audience is Christian.

Local Service (Ephesians 2:10; Galatians 6:2) — There are many needs in the greater Nashua area, and our church wants to grow in our ability to help those around us. Our church supports some local ministries (like food pantries and Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire), and we would like to plan additional regular activities where we can serve our communities. Our pastor should work with the deacons to set goals for our local service initiatives and help monitor the execution of those goals.

Administration — As a small church, we do not have full-time staff and leadership, other than our pastor. With our limited resources, it is vital to allocate tasks to the right person or team. The pastor should have the executive leadership skills to determine how to best distribute tasks to volunteers and church officers and how to make the most of the resources we have. Our pastor should be able to communicate well with the Session, Deacons, volunteer staff, and congregation to avoid any confusion and misunderstanding.

Additional Pastor Duties — Conduct church membership classes and confirmation classes for youth; regularly visit the congregation with Session; do hospital visits; moderate Session meetings; shepherd ruling elders and their families; have active spiritual oversight and leadership of the congregation; communicate the church's vision and goals alongside the Session; potentially lead the church through the process of fundraising and obtaining a building; participate in required meetings/duties/ministries of Presbytery and the GA; work with the Session to communicate information to the congregation as requested by the Presbytery or GA or as necessary; and support work with local community agencies and programs as appropriate.

Apply!

To be considered for the position of Pastor at CPC, please prepare the following items for the pulpit committee:

- Your resumé or curriculum vita
- A cover letter (max 2 pages) to the pulpit committee that includes answers to the questions:
 - Who are you?
 - Why are you interested in exploring the opportunity to pastor our church?
 - What is your philosophy of ministry?
- 3-4 recordings of sermons – preferably across Old and New Testament (files or URLs)

Please submit applications through [our submission form](#).

<http://nashuapca.org/pulpit-committee/>
Direct questions to: pulpitcommittee@nashuapca.org