

Church Information Form (CIF)

First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen
218 Dunellen Avenue, Dunellen, NJ 08812
732-968-3844 www.dunellenpres.org



One church - Two languages - Three worship styles

VISION – Who God is calling us to be:

“A multi-cultural family, growing in faith, connecting people with Christ”

[Explanation of Our Vision Statement](#)

MISSION – What God is calling us to do to achieve our Vision:

- ❖ To WORSHIP God with gladness
- ❖ To LOVE one another as Jesus loves us
- ❖ To GROW as lifelong disciples
- ❖ To SERVE our neighbors in practical ways
- ❖ To SHARE our faith in Jesus Christ with a lost and hurting world

Position Description: First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen desires a pastor who is mature with a deep passion for the Lord, for the Bible, a personal ministry and doctrinal views consistent with those of ECO. Who shall meet the New Testament requirements for office as listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. The Pastor, Head of Staff, as a minister of the Gospel, shall be devoted to the service of Christ and the church; preaching and teaching the Word of God; administering the sacraments; and faithfully giving oneself to pastoral work. The Pastor, Head of Staff will preach at most English (Traditional and Contemporary) worship services and some Hispanic worship services (with translator, if needed), lead the congregation in worship, lead the church to discern God's vision; work with the Session and Deacons; supervise the spiritual and ministry development of the staff; provide pastoral care; and partner with lay leadership to direct church ministries. The Pastor, Head of Staff shall lead the church to fulfill its Vision and Mission statement.

Position to Be Filled:

Title: **Pastor, Head of Staff**

Employment Status: **Full Time**

Years of Experience Desired: **6 years or more**

Required languages other than English: Basic conversational knowledge of Spanish language is desired, or a willingness to take church-funded Spanish courses, to promote cohesiveness and understanding.

Our Current Leadership Structure:

Staff:

- Pastor, Head of Staff (FT) – VACANT (Pastor Jeff Wildrick retired 6/30/17)
- Associate Pastor for Hispanic Ministry (FT) – Pastor Silvio Del Campo
- Director of Worship & Music and Student Ministry (FT) – Karl Geiger
- Church Secretary (PT) – Maria Gramajo
- Sexton (PT) – Maria Aldana
- Parish Worker for Biblical Counseling (PT Volunteer) - Ned Halteman

Leadership:

- Session – 15 Elders, multi-cultural representation
- Deacons – 3-4 Lead Deacons oversee & coordinate all the deacon ministries. All ordained deacons are encouraged to participate in a ministry.
- Hispanic Ministry Leadership Team – key leaders coordinate Hispanic Ministry
- Hispanic Ministry Worship Leader (Volunteer) – Audrey Del Campo Roach
- Ministry Teams/Committees/individually led ministries

Church Size: 257 Covenant Partners (33% Hispanic)

Average Worship Attendance: 217 Total (73 Traditional, 30 Contemporary, 114 Hispanic)

Church School Attendance: Adults (English - 35 / Hispanic - 25), Children (Hispanic - 30)

Theological principles emphasized by a majority of the congregation:

We are a Bible-based church that honors God and glorifies Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our preaching, teaching and worship is based on God's Word, the Bible. We intend to remain a Bible based, Spirit-led church, with Christ-centered messages as our first priority.

CORE VALUES – Commitments that are central to who we are as a church:

- There is one God who has revealed himself in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The Bible is God's inspired and authoritative word for faith and life.
- Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- The goal of our ministry is to transform people into fully devoted followers of Christ.
- The decision to follow Jesus calls us to purity in every area of our lives.
- We believe in the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman only.
- Worship is our joyful response to God's majesty, holiness and love.
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ transcends race, language, and culture.
- We are called to love one another, and love our neighbors as ourselves.
- All human life is sacred from conception to natural death, because we have all been created in God's own image.
- Prayer is the key that unlocks God's power for Christian life and ministry.
- All spiritual gifts are at work in Christ's church, and are given for the common good.
- Every Christian has been shaped by God for ministry.
- Jesus is coming again.

Our Vision for Ministry:

Sessions' vision for pastoral leadership:

- Through preaching and teaching the Word, enable members to define, defend, and share their faith
- Model prayer as a priority in personal life, motivating the congregation to pray
- A Christ-centered spiritual shepherd/counselor to care for the flock
- Help people discover and use God-given gifts/talents in witness and service
- Strong leadership, organizational and conflict management skills
- Foster unity among multiple cultures, ages and language groups
- Develop, equip and empower leaders to serve effectively
- Lead the congregation in growing the church
- Result-oriented follow-through
- Vision-casting for our part in fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandment

Congregation's Expectations:

- Greater unity as a single church family in Christ, sharing between culturally different sub-congregations
- A shepherd who provides pastoral care
- Growth in every service, especially young adults and families with children and youth
- Demonstrate our multi-cultural identity through all-church community projects in the name of Jesus
- Become more effective in assimilating and retaining visitors and members
- Develop and enable members to use their spiritual gifts in ministry, service and leadership
- Prepare future evangelists, pastors, teachers and missionaries to spread the gospel
- To be a light for those who do not know Christ, by showing His love in practical ways!

Narrative on the Health of Mission and Ministry – [Narrative - 2015](#)

Where We've Been – A Brief History of the Church

The First Presbyterian Church in Dunellen was formed on September 5, 1870 when 15 persons were received as members and three elders were installed. The first services were held in the village train station. The church incorporated on May 20, 1871. Land was donated, and the sanctuary was dedicated on January 26, 1872. Forty-one new members were added. Membership peaked near 1,500 in the mid-1970s. At the church's 125 Anniversary in 1995, the church had about 700 members, 42 of whom had been members for over 50 years. As with other mainline denominations, membership has decreased, and currently stands at 257. We have sent people to the mission field, and over two dozen people have entered professional ministry.

During the peak years, the church had a strong Sunday School and Youth Ministry, a large Music Ministry (5 vocal choirs and 3 handbell choirs in mid-80's) with a Community Choir and Concert Series. Prayer has always been vital, including Concerts of Prayer and hosting a National Day of Prayer observance in the adjacent town park. In recent decades, we were known for our community outreach events – Praise in the Park, and an Old Fashioned Christmas in the local theater. Little Disciples Pre-School was a ministry of the church during the 1990's

Our Hispanic Ministry was conceived in the late 1980's, when then Associate Pastor Allen Ruscito & family welcomed a young homeless Hispanic man into their home and family, helping him with basic needs, learning English, finding a job and immigration. A Bible-study was begun in Spanish, and later a Spanish-language worship service was started, with teaching and preaching by nearby Spanish-speaking pastors. The Hispanic Ministry continued to grow with Bible studies in homes or the church, and fellowship activities. Many came to faith in Jesus Christ. Silvio Del Campo, an ordination candidate, took over leadership of the ministry in 1997. He was ordained in 1999, served as Evangelist, and became Associate Pastor in 2013.

After a lengthy period of denominational discernment, First Presbyterian Church joined the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) on 6/26/2012. We were the 14th church in ECO and first in the northeastern US. Pastor Wildrick was the first moderator of the Presbytery of the Northeast. We are excited to be part of this growing movement to build flourishing churches!

Who We Are Now:

Worship: We currently offer three distinct styles of worship on Sundays:

- Morning Service – traditional English-language
- Fusion (since 2013) – contemporary English-language
- Servicio de Adoración – lively Spanish-language

Additionally, we have a Spanish service on Friday nights, with monthly vigils. Worship is supported by Choirs, Handbells, Praise Bands, and Dance Ministry.

Discipleship: Opportunities include:

- English: Adult Sunday School, Bible studies, Fellowship groups
- Spanish: Hispanic Children's Sunday School, Escuela de Formación Bíblica (School of Biblical Formation), Células (Bible study groups), Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry
- Many weekly prayer groups, monthly bilingual prayer time
- Youth Group (combined English/Hispanic, grades 6-12)
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) is our best joint effort between our English-speaking and Spanish-speaking members.

- “Interdenominational Young People’s Conference” in the Poconos - Several of our youth leaders help in running this summer week, and many of our youth see tremendous growth in their faith through this experience.

Local Outreach: Members of FPC have been instrumental in reaching out to meet needs in our surrounding area,

- Founding and strong involvement in Fish, Inc. Dunellen area – an interdenominational food & clothing program (since 1970)
- Initiated and leadership in FISH Hospitality Program, an interdenominational homeless shelter program as part of Family Promise (since 1990)
- The Cellar is a Friday night time for local youth to hang out in a safe environment, and an entry point for our combined (English-Spanish) youth ministry.
- “Fusion” contemporary service (since 2013) – seeking to reach unchurched young adults and families in our community
- Evangelism at local weekly Flea Market
- Taking food, clothing and the Gospel to inner-city neighborhoods

Mission:

- For the past 10 summers, we sent teams to Tijuana, Mexico for a week to build homes and run a VBS with the local children, in partnership with nearby New Providence Presbyterian Church and Amor Ministries.
- Various Central and South American mission trips and projects.
- Active support of nearby Life Choices Resource Center
- Samaritan’s Purse “Operation Christmas Child.”
- Mission support to various local, national and international ministries and missionaries

Facilities:

Our first sanctuary was dedicated in 1872, expanded in 1980 and most recently renovated in 2009, when the chancel platform was opened up to provide more space and flexibility for the variety of worship styles we use. Behind the sanctuary are the administrative offices, a large fellowship hall, and a Christian Education building. Our property also includes two manses, occupied by our two pastors. Our church sits opposite the community park, which is used for concerts, art shows and other special events.

Community Profile

First Presbyterian Church is located in Dunellen, a small town of about 7,300 persons. Dunellen is part of a vast suburban area in Central New Jersey. New York City is 30 miles to the east (one hour by car or train), on a commuter rail line. Princeton is about 30 miles southwest and New Brunswick is 9 miles south. There is strong support for local government and school activities by the community.

The median age in Dunellen is 7% lower than New Jersey. The population of Dunellen in 2015 was 47% white, 27% hispanic, 17% black and 9% other. Dunellen school students (2016-17) were 38% white, 44% hispanic, 12% black and 6% asian. Expanding the radius, the 2015 population of Dunellen and immediate portions of the surrounding communities (Green Brook, Middlesex, Piscataway and Plainfield) was 38% white, 29% hispanic, 24% black, 7% asian and 2% other. Approximately 61% of households speak only English and 28% speak Spanish.

The Estimated Median Household Income in 2015 was \$76,179 while the average income of the state was \$72,222. The average income is significantly higher than the 2011-2015 U.S. average income of \$53,889 (in 2015 dollars).

There are many churches within the area, encompassing a wide variety of Christian denominations, synagogues and other religions. We serve several communities within about a 5-mile radius of the church.

The Dunellen Public Schools serve students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. As of the 2016-17 school year, the district's three schools had an enrollment of 1,154 students. The 2015-16 number of classroom teachers (on an FTE basis) is 96 classroom teachers, for a student-teacher ratio of 12:1. Schools in the district (with 2016-17 enrollment data from the NJ Department of Education Statistics) are John P. Faber School (grades PreK-5; 540 students), Lincoln Middle School (6-8; 259) and Dunellen High School (9-12; 355).

In the surrounding areas there are numerous educational institutions. The local colleges are Rutgers – the State University, Middlesex County College and Raritan Valley Community College as well as Pillar College (Evangelical). There are three theological seminaries within 30 miles: Princeton Seminary (Presbyterian), New Brunswick Seminary (Reformed), and Drew Seminary in Madison NJ (Wesleyan-Methodist).

The area has access to many hospitals and emergency centers, among them, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, a premier teaching center. Our area offers the State Theater of New Brunswick, Rutgers Stadium, McCarter Theater of Princeton, Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ Performing Arts Center in Newark, PNC Bank Arts Center, Raritan Valley Community College Theater and numerous concert venues. The Meadowlands Sports Complex is a 45-minute ride and the NJ Shore is as close as 30-40 minutes away. Dunellen has easy access to mass transportation as well the interstate highway system.

Our Denomination – ECO: The Covenant order of Evangelical Presbyterians

Much information about ECO is available at <http://eco-pres.org>. Follow these links to download copies of ECO's Theology document (which includes a list of essential beliefs and description of the core values) and its Polity document. We have been part of the Presbytery of the Northeast, which multiplied in July, 2017 into three new presbyteries. We are now in the Northeast Coast Presbytery, which includes northern NJ, metro NY and New England.

References: Interested pastors may contact the following persons who know our congregation:

Name	Dr. Bob Whitesel (DMIN, PHD)
Address	Professor of Missional Leadership Wesleyan Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University 4201 South Washington Street Marion, IN 46953-4974
Phone	765-677-1038
Relation	Mission Study Consultant
E-mail	bob.whitesel@indwes.edu

Name	Pastor Jeff Ebert
Address	1307 Springfield Ave New Providence, NJ 07974
Phone	908-665-0050
Relation	Pastor of Presbyterian Church at New Providence – ECO neighbor
E-mail	jeff@pcnp.org

Name Pastor Donald Feuerbach
Address PO Box 12
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Phone 908-647-0340
Relation Pastor of Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church – ECO neighbor
E-mail donf@libertycorner.org

Name Pastor Fernando E. Jensen
Address 3714 Marietta Way
Saint Cloud, FL 34772
Phone 407-655-9385
Relation Longtime friend of our Hispanic Ministry, teaching/training resource
E-mail fernandojensen2000@yahoo.com

Compensation: The Personnel Committee, in partnership with the PNC and with the approval of the Session, will negotiate the terms based on years of service and experience level, and in alignment with the ECO Minimum Terms of Call requirements.

Housing Type: Manse (4-bedroom center hall colonial, adjacent to church)

Forward resume to: pnc@dunellenpres.org

or mail to: **First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen**
Attention PNC
218 Dunellen Avenue
Dunellen, NJ 08812

Pastor Nominating Committee Chairperson:

Elder William (Bill) McFarland
218 Dunellen Ave., Dunellen, NJ 08812
Phone: 732-968-3844
Fax (church): 732-968-1702
E-mail Address for PNC Communications: pnc@dunellenpres.org

Clerk of Session:

Elder Suzanne Geiger
218 Dunellen Ave., Dunellen, NJ 08812
Phone: 732-968-3844
Fax (church): 732-968-1702
E-mail Address for PNC Communications: pnc@dunellenpres.org

Appendix 1 - [Mission Study Report – 2017](#)

Appendix 2 – [Pastor Head of Staff Job Description](#)

Endorsements

Pastor Nominating Committee

Will DuFur

Date 8/24/17

Signature

Clerk of Session

Suzanne W. Deegen

Suzanne W. Deegen

Date 08/24/17

Signature

Presbytery

[Signature]

John W. Culp
MPT

Date 08/23/17

Signature