Ministry Information Form

First Presbyterian Church
6 Everett Street, Newport, RI 02840
(401) 847-1749
www.fpcnewport.org
“We at FPC love the Lord Jesus Christ, believe in the authority of Scripture and the power of prayer, seek to glorify God by serving Him with hearts of love, hands of fellowship, and by proclaiming the Good News to all.”

The position we are filling is for Pastor (Teaching Elder) at First Presbyterian Church, Newport, RI.

Position: FPC Newport seeks a full-time pastor who loves the Lord Jesus Christ, serves and glorifies God, preaches in a scripturally sound, Bible-based and expository manner, teaches with humility, and is a leader who motivates and inspires the congregation to engage with scripture, make disciples, and serve with joy.

Church Size: 240 (Number of covenant partners)

Average Worship Attendance: 110 (for the year since our pastor left; 145 during the year before his departure)

Church School Attendance: 45 (approximately 30 adults and 15 children under the age of 18)

Leadership structure:

The church’s management responsibilities are delegated to Session Committees whose duties are described in the church’s Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures (BPP) manual. These committees, comprised of two elders in active service and congregational members, meet regularly each month. The standing committees are Worship, Christian Education, Inner Life, Finance and Personnel, Outreach, and Buildings and Grounds.

The pastor is head of church staff and is a member of the ECO Presbytery of the Northeast Coast (not of the local church) and is therefore primarily accountable to that body. He/She is also accountable to the Ruling Elders of the Church, the Session, even as they are accountable to the Pastor. Ultimately the Pastor is accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Church and who called the Pastor into the ministry.

Church staff members provide support to the respective committees, but staff supervision is the pastor’s responsibility.

Staff Positions:

- Director of Music Ministries
  - Part Time
  - Salaried Employee
- Church Secretary
  - Part Time
  - Hourly Employee
- Music Assistant
  - Part Time
  - Hourly Employee
- Director of Youth and Family Ministry
  - Full Time
  - Salaried Employee (currently not filled)
- Christian Education Coordinator
  - Part Time
  - Hourly Employee
- Church Housekeeper
  - Part Time
  - Hourly Employee
Community Profile

Situated in the heart of Newport, Rhode Island, First Presbyterian Church of Newport is surrounded by a vast array of historical sites, sea faring venues and the Ocean State’s natural coastal beauty. Newport is an internationally renowned tourist destination, with a year-round hub of activities and a broad mix of backgrounds via the local population.

Newport, incorporated in 1639, is rich in pre-Revolutionary War history. Moreover, Newport serves as an architectural and cultural showcase for the Gilded Age in America via the mansions along Bellevue Avenue. Newport is replete with all manner of sea-faring history and interests as evidenced in the sailboats, cargo ships, fishing boats and Naval ships that have and continue to call its deep-water harbor home. Large cruise ships visit Newport at various times of the year.

Culturally and recreationally, Newport hosts a number of internationally recognized sailboat races, is the former home of the America’s Cup and provides many activities for local boaters. Newport’s beautiful beaches offer water enthusiasts everything from kayaking and paddle boarding to surfing and scuba diving. There are also wonderful restaurants throughout the city. Music lovers delight in the annual Folk, Jazz, and Music Festivals, featuring world-renowned musicians. Newport also hosts many who come for the yearly Winter, Greek, Italian, Japanese Sister City, and Seafood Festivals. The Redwood Library is the oldest circulating library in America, the International Tennis Hall of Fame has its home here and the newly renovated opera house will open shortly.

Our church is located on Broadway, the main thoroughfare leading into downtown Newport. To the east the population is comprised primarily of middle to upper class Caucasian couples of fifty years and beyond and Generation Y singles. To the west the population consists of a diverse mix of ethnic communities at varying socio-economic and age levels. Scattered among them is a college age population representing those attending nearby universities. Few in our congregation live close to the church, most drive anywhere from 10 minutes to an hour to attend worship.

We have strong ties to the military and their families due to military related industries in the area, members who have retired from the military, and the large Naval Education and Training Center in Newport, which serves to enhance the diversity of the area and our congregation.
Position To Be Filled: Pastor (Head of Staff)

Employment Status: Full Time

Years of Experience Desired: 4 – 6 years experience as Senior or Associate Pastor with preaching responsibilities.

Position Description: The Pastor (Teaching Elder) is called by the Church, through the Session, with the approval of the ECO Presbytery of the Northeast Coast, for the purpose of providing spiritual leadership, pastoral care, and administrative oversight to The First Presbyterian Church of Newport, Rhode Island.

Narrative on the Health of Mission and Ministry

We acknowledge that we are a church in transition, replete with the challenges and uncertainties that accompany change. Our Church has encountered the following in a relatively short period of time: a change in denomination from PCUSA to ECO, the retirement of our pastor of twenty years, the addition of transitional pastors, and a general decline in worship attendance, volunteerism, and giving. In particular, the long five-year process of changing denominations brought a significant amount of tumult and uncertainty. A number of congregants have left FPC due to frustration with the nature and pace of change (too fast for some, too slow for others), the departure of our pastor in 2017, or a combination of other issues. Nevertheless, our Session and congregation have remained strong in the Lord and the power of His might.

Our prayer is that this period of change will be seen as a time of growth, healing, and opportunity, and from it will come a season of regeneration and fresh hope. We seek a pastor, who by the leading of the Holy Spirit, will help us bring to fruition all that the Lord has planned for FPC Newport. We know by faith that God
has such a one in mind. As Jeremiah 3:15 reads: “I will give you shepherds after My own heart.” We seek someone who will bring biblically based expository teaching and have personal interactive contact with members of our congregation, young people, and children. We continue to trust God’s leading as we reach out with hands of faith to welcome the one He chooses as our new pastor.

Some specific areas that offer both challenge and opportunity and speak directly to the health of Mission and Ministry are these:

Challenge: Decline in members due to change, and the uncertainty and hurt associated with change.
Opportunity: A new permanent pastor will bring much needed stability. Members may return and new people will join.

Challenge: An aging congregation with fewer younger members joining or attending.
Opportunity: To be men and women of Titus 2, nurturing the younger generation and attract younger members of our community through our programs and ministries.

Challenge: Unrealized potential in local outreach.
Opportunity: To become more “visible” and involved in local outreach, and to draw people in by first reaching out to them.

Having cited some of our challenges and opportunities, there are also areas in our church that remain healthy. Among these is our music department. We are blessed with a talented Music Director who plays our Casavant Frères pipe organ and leads our choir along with a gifted pianist. We are hoping to restart our bell choir and to expand and utilize the full scope of musical talent available in our congregation. We offer Sunday school for all ages along with men’s and women’s group Bible studies. We also have a newly formed group for our young adults. Events like our annual picnic and potluck hymn sings continue to be a part of the fabric of FPC. Our prayer is that our church can continue to accentuate these healthy vibrant areas even as we reenergize and rebuild in others.

Our beautiful historical church building with outstanding stained glass windows is lovingly maintained. Our new roof has recently been restored in the same manner it was built by the Scottish stonemasons over 125 years ago.
Our Congregation’s Mission Field

FPC’s mission field is globally, statewide and locally focused. Globally through prayer and financial giving, we help support a number of overseas missionaries and mission programs in areas as far reaching as Central and South America, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

Locally we serve our community by supporting and participating in local missions including: Presbyterian Immigrant Ministries, The Boston Project, Gideons International, and Salvation Army. We support student missions through InterVarsity Christian fellowship at local universities. FPC hosts a monthly Soup Kitchen in which our congregation cooks for and serves our guests. Our facility is also used by another local church for this purpose. We have an annual vacation bible school and children from within and outside our congregation attend. We also participate in community events as the opportunity arises. Each year we invite the whole community for an evening of sacred Christmas music as part the Christmas in Newport Program. Our congregation engages in Operation Christmas child and Angel Tree. We have twice hosted the Watoto Children’s choir from Uganda and we host other musical events as available. One of our chief desires as a congregation is to learn how to better engage with and support our local community and missions through outreach.

Our Deaconate is active in many areas including: rides to doctors, funeral receptions, visits to shut-ins and a recorded sermon program. They also provide financial aid, meals, flowers and cards for those who are hospitalized or ill.
References

Name: Lieutenant James Bang  
Address: Salvation Army, 51 Memorial Blvd., Newport, RI 02840  
Phone Numbers: (401) 846-3234  
Relation: Leader of the Salvation Army, one of our local mission partners  
E-mail: james.bang@use.salvationarmy.org

Name: Pastor Bruce Incze  
Address: Arkport Presbyterian Church, 15 Main Street, Arkport, NY 14807  
Phone Numbers: (607) 295-7944  
Relation: Church member from 1997 to 2016  
E-mail: pastor.bruce.apc@gmail.com

Name: Zach Oliveira  
Address: 75 Longwood Ave, Providence, RI  
Phone Numbers: (401) 595 – 6794  
Relation: FPC youth group, now local mission partner serving as Intervarsity staff at the University of Rhode Island  
E-mail: zporiri@gmail.com

How to Apply: Interested applicants should contact FPC Newport PNC Correspondence Secretary, Donald Estes (see below contact information) and submit the following items in confidence via email: 1) A cover letter, explaining your interest in the position. 2) A resume that includes a complete record of your academic and professional experience, including sermon samples or links. 3) A brief statement of faith and an overview of your spiritual journey.

Pastor Nominating Committee Correspondence Secretary Detail:

Name: Donald Estes  
Address: 66 Bliss Road  
City: Newport  
State: RI  
Zip Code: 02840  
Preferred Phone: (401) 864-1904  
Alternate Phone: (401) 847-9244  
E-mail Address for PNC Communications: donaldestes@aol.com