

First Presbyterian Church is a worshipping community of progressive Christian believers in the greater New Haven region. We are a broadly diverse and welcoming congregation, and include people from the city of New Haven and many of the surrounding towns, as well as many from the university communities.

We gather on Sunday morning to worship God, and throughout the week to be about the work of God in the world. We are a part of the Reformed tradition, which means that we value the Word of God in Scripture, and as we understand it in the midst of today's world. In the Word of God read and proclaimed, in music which stirs the soul, in the nurture of children and adults alike, we seek to serve God together.

FPCNH is a theologically progressive church that strives to balance worship of God, mutual caring, spiritual growth, and involvement in service to the world around us. The life of the church is one, and its worship, witness and service are inseparable. In all we do, we seek to glorify and enjoy the triune God who creates, sustains, saves, and renews all life. As a More Light congregation we welcome all people in Christ's name: children and adults, single and married, gay and straight, across all races and ethnicities. Congregants appreciate our active multigenerational community.

Our proximity to Yale Divinity School allows us to mentor and benefit from the gift of student interns. We are overall a well-educated congregation with many diverse interests. We have several colleges and universities in the area and we benefit from those working and attending these institutions.

At this time the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven is seeking a Bridge Pastor as we search for our new pastor. For the past six years, FPCNH family has been led by the Rev. Jocelyn C. Cadwallader. During her leadership we have grown in our faith, expanded our community outreach, and embraced a strong social justice commitment as a faith community.

We are looking for a Bridge Pastor to continue to shepherd our congregation as we transition to a new pastor. It is our hope to find a spiritual leader:

- who is a listener, a good communicator, and someone to continue to love and shepherd us as a congregation
- who is a compassionate, welcoming and exceptional preacher and teacher to reach across generations and make a connection to provide nourishment for our souls both young and young at heart
- who has a passion for social justice and hope for a transformational future built on the bedrock of our unique community here in New Haven and in the greater world
- who will continue to support our work with housing refugee families and being the liaison with our community partners
- who will visit the sick and the infirm, and to provide spiritual and personal counsel and support to them and all who seek such guidance

Overall we are looking for a visible, caring pastor, and spiritual counselor, willing to minister to a diverse congregation seeking expression of faith, comfort in troubles and spiritual growth. A pastor responsible for helping members know, love and support one another, thereby supporting and creating an environment of trust, caring, fellowship and inclusiveness.

## **Staff and Leadership**

As Head of Staff, the bridge pastor will provide strong administrative leadership and support to our church employees:

- Director of Faith Formation
- Music Director
- Church Administrator
- Communications Specialist.

The bridge pastor will implement and execute the annual long-range goals established by the church and session. The pastor will relate to the session as moderator, relate to the congregation in congregational meetings as moderator and otherwise as pastor and to relate to the Presbytery as a continuing member and representative of FPCNH.

Our Session is comprised of 10 Elders and our Stated Clerk leading our church family spiritually. Our Board of Deacons has 6 members supporting the life of our congregation. In addition, the bridge pastor will provide leadership and guidance to our Personnel Committee, Social Justice Committee, Finance Committee, and Property Committee.

## **Employment**

This is a 40 hours per week flexible schedule based on the needs of the congregation and staff.

For housing, we have a manse next door to our church which is available to the bridge pastor or other arrangements can be negotiated.

- Salary will be negotiated within the current budgeted pastor salary
- Benefits to be negotiated
- Moving fees up to \$1000
- Pro-rated reimbursable as indicated in current budget:
  - Continuing Education
  - Professional Expenses

## **Application Information**

Resumes will be accepted through December 15th, 2023.

Please send resumes to [search@fpcnh.org](mailto:search@fpcnh.org)