

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mif #: 10562.AE0

Ministry General Information

Ministry Number	10562
Ministry Name	Valley Presbyterian Church
Mailing Address	21 West Whisconier Road Brookfield, CT 06804
Phone	203-7752624
Fax	n/a
E-Mail	valleypresct@gmail.com
WWW Address	www.valleypresct.org
Ministry Size	101 - 250 members

Ethnic Composition	
	Asian 3%
	Black or African American (African Native, Caribbean) 4%
	Hispanic Latino/Latina, Spanish 5%
	White 88%

Average Worship Attendance	50
Church School Attendance	7
Curriculum	n/a
Yoked	False
Presbytery	SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND PRESBYTERY
Synod	SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST
Community Type	Town

Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization [Show Statistics](#)

Information about the position

Position:	Pastor Interim
Experience Required:	2 to 5 Years
Specific Title:	
Employment Status:	Full-time

Language Requirements:	
	English

Other Language:	
Statement of Faith Required:	True
Clergy Couples:	True

Training/Certificate Requirements:	
	Interim Ministry Training

Other Training:	
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Brief Church Mission Statement:

Love Grows Here. Valley is a faithful community of believers seeking to do God's will. We are guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are an energetic and friendly congregation drawing from many communities. We value and welcome all and draw strength from our diversity of beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences. We find great joy in our worship in the sharing of music, word, and sacraments. We are committed to educating and growing our youth and offering opportunities and service for growth of all members. We support mission programs locally and throughout the world. Through all this we are nurtured in the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry:

Valley has been seeking to engage in a deeper way in the surrounding communities. This can be challenging in that we come from at least five different area towns. We have supported the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen in Danbury, CT by making sandwiches monthly and some members bake casseroles monthly and some members volunteer weekly. In addition, some members volunteer at the overflow shelter. We have had a practice of "Doing Sundays". Whenever there is a fifth Sunday in a month we take part of the service to support a local organization; making soup packets for the food pantry, dog toys for a local rescue or foot care packages to be distributed to the homeless. We also have members participating in a prison ministry. We would like to find a ministry that all of our members can be involved in on an on-going basis.

In addition to engaging in a deeper way with the surrounding communities, we seek to encourage relationships within our own congregation focusing on intergenerational ministry. We are a diverse group in terms of ages and stages. We have a flourishing adult Sunday School class and a midweek lectionary study. We have an active music ministry including an adult choir, bell choir and seasonal youth participation. Our Music Director, who is a gifted musician, has provided occasional musical offerings open to the community. Our worship services seek to connect people with God and with one another in a creative fashion.

How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency:

Our congregation comes from many local communities. The majority are small towns clustered around a small city in a bucolic setting with close proximity to New York City. What has captured the heart of our church in the past have been needs surrounding food insecurity and meeting the needs of children. We have also supported a refugee family in partnership with a local congregational church. A number of members of the congregation provided transportation of family members to school and work. Others provided babysitting to enable the parents to attend language classes. Those who were engaged in this ministry found their involvement to be very fulfilling. Members have also been involved with the Kairos Prison Ministry. This created opportunities for the congregation to become involved with outreach to the inmates (ex. Providing Bibles, personal communication). During Doing Sundays, we have put together backpacks for area children through the Brookfield Social Services. Session has been more recently seeking a way to connect with a local ministry where we could be more physically connected to those served by that ministry. Making sandwiches and casseroles is a start but there is no actual contact with the people experiencing food insecurity. We are seeking ways to reach outside our walls and make concrete contributions to our communities. Something that we have considered is partnering with Social Services to further support members of the community.

How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals:

As a Session, we were in the middle of a lot of visioning work. We were working to write a succinct "Why Statement" to define clearly who we believe God is calling us to be and that would help us evaluate future ministries and look for opportunities to leverage the spacious lower level of our building. While we were working on this, we were faced with some significant challenges regarding our building which is a modern space with flexible seating. The building sustained considerable damage during a severe storm last May. This displaced us from the building for six months. Within the same week, we suffered an oil spill. During the past year we have been dealing with the effects of these challenges. While many issues are resolved and we are back in our building, the interim pastor will need to assist us with continuing to navigate these waters. At the same time, we are anxious to complete the visioning work that we had started prior to these events and connect with our community to serve. We have had some challenges in the past creating a vision that resonates with the congregation while addressing our need to grow. Our hope is that our interim pastor can help us facilitate change. It will take some work to shift to a more sustainable, outward looking and engaging vision.

Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and or organization:

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We are looking for a person who will faithfully lead us by preaching God's word, encouraging us to engage in ministry in our community and assisting us in addressing the challenges we face as a congregation. We have talked for years about being stuck. We need an engaging and effective leader to help us get unstuck. It would be helpful for our interim pastor to have experience with situational leadership including the ability to effectively manage conflict. We are looking for a pastor who will connect with members of all ages and stages and foster a sense of community. We also hope that the interim pastor will attract visitors and possibly new members. Because of the oil spill, our church faces some financial challenges. It will be important for the pastor to work closely and collaboratively with our Finance and Stewardship Team to assist us with addressing these challenges. Valley is a loving and caring community. We want a pastor who can bring out the best of who we are and help us to increase our community visibility and engagement.

What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

Our interim pastor will be responsible for planning and leading worship with the aid of the worship committee. We had recently moved to seasonal worship planning but with the loss of our pastor and the use of supply preachers that has been put on hold. We are open to continuing with the seasonal structure or returning to a more traditional worship committee as desired by the interim. We would like to continue with our visioning work and work through the process of preparing to call a new pastor. Many of our committees have ceased to function or have had the same membership for many years. The pastor will need to assist us in revitalizing our committees and help us to recruit new members to become involved and infuse committees with new energy and vision. There are some administrative challenges related to the building that will continue following the oil spill and building damage last year. The building damage has been mostly remediated; however, the oil spill will require a multi-year monitoring process. There is an Administrative Commission involved and there will be related work with the AC, the Session and the congregation.

Optional Links:

Leadership Competencies:

Preaching and Worship Leadership

Public Communicator

Change Agent

Risk Taker

Willingness to Engage Conflict

Strategy and Vision

Collaboration

Interpersonal Engagement

Motivator

Self Differentiation

Compensation and Housing: Cost of Living Calculator

Minimum Effective Salary: \$75,000

Housing Type: Open to Manse/Housing Allowance

References:

Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
Jennifer Whipple	160 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804	203-775-1259 ex 308	neighboring pastor	jennifer@uccb.org
David Graybill	357 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897	203-762-2916	retired pastor who is working with us in pulpit su	susangraybill@mac.com

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Susan Olson	n/a	203-623-4115	Yale staff Presbyterian Pastor who works with us o	susankolson@gmail.com
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Has the Pastor Nominating Committee and Search committee affirmed its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?

Yes

Version Track Info: This MIF was last updated on 05/22/2019

Self-referral Contact Information

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