

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

Mif #: 23011.AC0

Ministry General Information

Ministry Number	23011
Ministry Name	High Bridge Presbyterian Church
Mailing Address	67 High Bridge Church Road Natural Bridge, VA 24578
Phone	(540) 291-2625
Fax	N/A
E-Mail	highbridgepresbyterian@gmail.com
WWW Address	highbridgechurchva.org
Ministry Size	101 - 250 members
Ethnic Composition	
	Black or African American (African Native, Caribbean) 1%
	White 99%

Average Worship Attendance	45
Church School Attendance	30
Curriculum	Young Adults - Feasting on the Word; Young Children - Living in Community, Practice Generosity, Go Tell; Older Kids - Plugged in, Faith Questions
Yoked	False
Presbytery	The Peaks
Synod	SYNOD OF MID-ATLANTIC
Community Type	Rural
Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization Show Statistics	

Information about the position

Position:	Solo Pastor
Experience Required:	0 to 2 Years
Specific Title:	
Employment Status:	Full-time

Language Requirements:	
	English

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

Training/Certificate Requirements:	
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Other Training:	
Brief Church Mission Statement:	

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Raised to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord, we desire to:

Worship God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit;

Love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind, and soul;

Love our neighbors in Southern Rockbridge County, region, and world;

Promote an environment of spiritual growth and discipleship by, "... No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love." ~ Ephesians 4:15-16 : The Message

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

High Bridge Presbyterian Church is an old church with deep family and community roots that values the wisdom and dependability of our older generations, yet welcomes the change and growth that accompanies young families. We believe that our church is currently being called by God to continue sharing our Spirit-given gifts of hospitality, fellowship, and care for children and families, along with growing in our intentional witness and sense of communal mission to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. We support our members and have a tremendous foundation within our existing congregation to build upon and grow. We are especially eager to do so after the trials of the pandemic. We seek to evolve our faith practices for the modern age while still keeping in mind the principals our historic church was built on, such as kindness and a passion for learning about God. Our vision is being lived out by new ways of maintaining connection including live and recorded worship services, weekly e-newsletters, website and social media, and congregational care through cards, phone calls, and visits.

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

High Bridge Presbyterian Church feels our community is a priority and it deserves our care and attention. We currently serve by providing financial, material, and personnel support for organizations including Weekday Religious Education in our schools, Habitat for Humanity, and the local food pantry. We sponsor food drives, provide clothing for local school children, and donate essential supplies to the Lisa House, a shelter for women and children suffering from domestic violence. Our church members deliver Meals on Wheels, work at local blood drives, participate in trash pickups, and deliver Christmas baskets to the less privileged. We provide financial support for the Presbyterian Hunger program, the International Association for Refugees, the Rockbridge Area Relief Association, the Presbyterian Children's home in Wytheville, and the local chapter of Christian Athletes. We have also worked with Mission Next Door, a charity of volunteers who build decks and ramps for handicapped individuals unable to pay for the home improvements. Even our children participate with their "Noisy Can" offering where they collect change and each month they decide what charity it goes to at the end of the year. Finally, we have a scholarship fund for high school graduates looking to further their education. We know God is calling us to develop a stronger sense of communal mission, and we look forward to discovering more ways we can help improve our community and the world.

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

Much like trees need a gardener to prune and fertilize them so they bear more fruit, our church needs a pastor who will help focus and renew our service so we can grow according to God's will. Our pastor should model behavior for our congregation just as Jesus did for his disciples. This person should also challenge, encourage, and inspire us, and teach us to use our unique gifts and strengths to serve God's will. They should be able to bridge the generational gap and help all of us to continue to grow in our faith and become better Christians. Currently, High Bridge has a solid foundation with devoted members of all ages that are eager to work heartily for the Lord (Colossians 3:23). However, our wide range in age demographics comes with the challenge of catering to and capturing the attention of the younger generations while making sure not to leave the older generations behind. Our church needs the spiritual guidance of an exemplary leader to thrive in this ever-changing environment and time.

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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Our Pastor must be called by God to study, teach, and preach the Word of God with clarity and conviction. They should know how to reach a wide range of ages, from young children to teens, parents, empty nesters, and the older population. They should know when it is appropriate to mentor over a cup of coffee or on a porch shelling peas. The Pastor should be able to encourage worship for everyone from an energetic child to a quiet farmer. Our pastor should be compassionate and caring, familiar with Presbyterian policy, and willing to both lead and step back when necessary. They should be able to provide the theological and spiritual word to our members in person as well as through media communications, all in an easy-to-understand and engaging way. We wish for a pastor who can enable and motivate people to serve the Lord in their own ways but as God intended us to. Finally, we want our pastor to become a part of our church family, not just an employee of the church. This includes engaging during potlucks and church events, celebrating members and their families because of accomplishments or grieving with members over a loss, and providing emotional support for the congregation in times of hardship.

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

Our desire is to obtain a full time pastor to nurture our faith in Jesus through worship, fellowship and growth. The major tasks involve the spiritual needs of the congregation. These include:

Ministering the word of God from the pulpit in collaboration with church worship leaders

Administering the sacraments in coordination with the session

Providing pastoral care as needed (including funerals and weddings)

Participating in church functions including the weekly zoom prayer meeting and church fellowship events

Moderating session meetings

Being a liaison between the congregation and Peaks Presbytery

Collaborating and coordinating between our church and local organizations (and other church organizations as well)

Participating in celebrations planned for High Bridge Presbyterian Church,

Supporting the Director of Children's Ministry with planning activities, events and programs, and

Making calls and/or home visits to congregation members who are unable to make it to regular services

Optional Links:

<https://www.highbridgechurchva.org/> - Church Website

Leadership Competencies:

Compassionate

Preaching and Worship Leadership

Spiritual Maturity

Teacher

Communicator

Media Communicator

Strategy and Vision

Collaboration

Interpersonal Engagement

Flexibility

Compensation and Housing: Cost of Living Calculator

Minimum Effective Salary: \$45,000

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Housing Type: Open to Manse/Housing Allowance

References:

Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
Marina Gopadze	528 Mountain Valley Road, Buchanan, VA 24066	(540) 580-6810	Retired Presbyterian Pastor from local church	mgopadze@verizon.net
Rev. Lucy Hughes	125 Boundary Line Lane, Lexington, VA 24450	(540) 817-9812	Local Pastor, Co-worker at local food pantry	lucyjhughe@comcast.net
Alicia Armentrout	1529 Rockbridge Road, Glasgow, VA 24555	(540) 460-4465	Worker with local WRE (supported by our church), f	survivorbc@gmail.com

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 10/06/2022

Self-referral Contact Information

PNC: Faye Worley

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