



Church Leadership Connection

Connecting | Discerning | Calling

Ministry General Information

Ministry Name	Presbytery	Synod
Market Square Presbyterian Church	Carlisle	The Trinity
Email	Preferred Phone	Website Address
gwendavelehman@comcast.net	717-645-0360	https://www.marketsquarechurch.org
Mailing Address	Alternate Phone/Email	Community Type
20 S 2nd St, Harrisburg, PA 17101- 2040		Small City
Congregation or Organization Size	Curriculum	Average Worship Attendance
401-650 members	Elementary Age: Feasting on the Word Multiage curriculum and Family Prayer Breakfasts with a brief lesson. Youth: Sermon topic discussions. Adults: 'Adult Forum' (social justice, Bible Study, etc.) and occasional program series such as 'Lunch n' Learn' (theology & Bible); 'Difficult Conversations about Race', and 'Reformed Reader' book discussions.	130
Church School Attendance		
30		

Intercultural Composition

Released Date

White: 85%, Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian: 10%, Black/African American/African: 3%, Middle Eastern/North African: 1%, Hispanic/Latinx: 1%

1/5/2025

Information about the Position

Position Requirements

Position Type(s)

Language Requirements

Head of Staff

English

Experience Required

Statement of Faith required?

5 to 10 Years

Yes

Specify Title / PT Work Hours (if applicable)

Are you open to a clergy couple?

Pastor

No

Employment Status

Full-time

Ministry Requirements

Church Mission/Vision Statement

To proclaim and live the Good News of Jesus Christ by welcoming friend and stranger alike into our diverse and inclusive family of faith regardless of race, class, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or worldly condition of any kind as we celebrate our gifts, work for justice, peace, and a sustainable environment, reach out in mission, and witness to God's transforming love.

Tasks, expectations, duties, supervision, assignments, and responsibilities for the position

- Preaching three out of four Sundays per month
- Serving as Head of Staff
- Performing weddings for members, children of members, and regular worshippers (shared with other pastoral staff)
- Performing funeral services for members or others with a relationship with the church (shared with other pastoral staff)
- Visitation (shared with other pastoral staff)
- Congregational community building
- Forming/maintaining relationships with local police and governmental officials who have an impact on the people we serve through our ministries

Compensation & Housing

Minimum Effective Salary

75000

Housing Type

Housing allowance

MDP - Narratives

How would you describe the congregation's/organization's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

Our vision for ministry is to make manifest our mission statement and core values through a two-fold approach. One approach is to develop ministries responsive to the basic needs of people largely but not exclusively outside our walls, without regard to worldly conditions of any kind, such as the homeless, the hungry, people affected by systemic racism, and immigrants. Most of the ministries in this category could be termed "social justice" ministries. Others, such as our LGBTQ+outreach, focus on welcoming individuals who have not always felt welcome in church. At the micro level, our work has a direct effect on the daily lives of individuals. At a larger level, it affects the quality of community life for all and, we hope, demonstrates the power of faith, service, and restorative love.

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Our vision for ministry also calls for service to those inside our walls - congregants, staff, visitors - creating community and ministering to their emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs. The mission of worship is primary, with traditional worship being at the heart of connection at MSPC. Sermons are expected to challenge the congregation to wrestle with current social issues and injustices. The service is supported and enriched by our Ministry of Music, which has a long tradition of musical excellence. Our vision for service "inside the walls" centers on creating both community and those moments of transcendence in which we feel the presence of God.

What is the nature and context of the community in which your congregation lives out its mission/vision? How will you address the emerging needs that are impacting your community?

We serve two communities. The first is downtown Harrisburg. As a racially and ethnically diverse city with a high poverty rate, and as the seat of state and county government, our immediate neighborhood by day is busy with commuters and people seeking governmental or private social services. The homeless population is the most visible of our neighbors, and immigration to the area is high. We have a robust and multifaceted mission to the homeless and hungry; we house and support a busy International Service Center that provides myriad services to immigrants; and we host a program that provides free income tax services. Through our boards and committees, we will address specific needs in this community as they change, as we have done throughout our long existence.

The second community we serve is drawn from all over the region (pop. 600,000) and beyond, largely through our ministries of worship and music. Most are people drawn to Market Square from outside our immediate geographic neighborhood who are attracted by our mission statement, urban ministries, Korean language ministry, worship service, and music ministry. We have recently expanded this community through our livestream, and some of the programs that serve this community also serve the first, like Arts on the Square and our commitment to inclusivity.

We have identified an immediate need in this second community to increase opportunities to connect outside the worship service, and we will look to our Pastor for support.

How will this call help complement the responsibilities of other staff/volunteer positions, and the life of the congregation/organization, so that you may accomplish your short and long-term goals for ministry?

Our membership has declined over the past 40 years, as Harrisburg and societal attitudes about organized religion have changed, but our mission work is robust. This increases the demands on individual volunteers that could be alleviated by increased membership and a re-energized, more visible church.

Our new Pastor will provide leadership and vision to inspire and empower members and staff to shape and execute our "outside" missions. Our homeless mission provides one example: can we help solve the long-term

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problems causing homelessness? Or do we focus on relieving a person's simple, basic needs - a meal, or a warm coat?

We are not, however, looking for a social worker, but for a pastoral leader, and our social justice work needs to be balanced with our work "inside the walls." For this we need a Pastor who will lead our spiritual and theological development, mainly through worship, working collaboratively with other pastoral staff and the minister of music to help us feel the presence and will of God. As a congregation we have agreed that we need to do a better job of marketing the Market Square experience, and of strengthening our communal ties with one another. Church leaders, staff, and members agree that we need a Pastor to help us minister to members' individual needs and to ourselves as a congregation, including the provision of more frequent gathering times of many types so that we can be together as a community of friends in Christ.

Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have, to lead the congregation towards the vision and mission established.

- Commitment to the ideals of our Mission Statement; to our ministries to the poor, homeless, and disadvantaged; and to excellence in our worship and music ministries.
- Strong preaching skills with an emphasis on a thoughtful, intellectual attempt to interpret the Word in ways that relate faith to current events, personal character, and mystery.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills. These are essential for our worship and other ministries, and they will help us reach prospective members who may be well-served by the experience we offer.
- An experienced team leader who addresses our ministries creatively and collaboratively, with a sense of humor and flexibility, and who is personally approachable and relatable to staff and volunteers.
- A head of staff who collaborates, delegates, and empowers, and who recognizes the strengths of staff and church leaders in a complex church.
- An ability to relate to all generations, thereby enhancing the life of the congregation and our ability to attract new members.
- Compassion, empathy, and a love and enjoyment of people of all kinds.

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- Strong administrative skills at all levels of operation. Due to our complexity, our church benefits from open communication, regular meetings, clear expectations, and transparent decision-making processes.

What areas of ministry do you expect the person called to be responsible for? Share specific tasks, assignments, and programs.

Our Pastor will be responsible for the following:

- Worship leadership and preaching
- Congregational communication
- Service as Moderator of Session
- Leadership development
- Staff administration and oversight
- Spiritual development of members
- Service as primary staff liaison for Session and Trustees and these committees/task forces, depending on the interests and skill sets of the senior pastor and other staff: Nominating, Personnel, Mission & Stewardship, Homelessness, Membership, Anti-Racism, Social Media, and Worship
- Evangelism
- Teaching, including support for lay leadership of the Adult Education Program
- Representing the church in the Presbytery and in Presbytery affairs

Optional Links

Market Square Presbyterian
Church - Church website -
<https://www.marketsquarechurch.org>

Explore Harrisburg - Hershey-
Harrisburg Regional Visitors
Bureau -
<https://www.explorehbg.com>

Visit Hershey & Harrisburg -
 Marketing organization for
 Dauphin County -
<https://www.visithersheyharrisburg.org>

Presbytery of Carlisle - The
 presbytery applicable to Market
 Square Church -
<https://carlislepby.org>

MSPC : Youtube - Church
 Youtube channel -
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRVosTxjDYUzyJju4k7Lfeg>

MSPC: Instagram - Church
 Instagram account -
<https://www.instagram.com/marketsquarechurch/>

Market Square: Facebook -
 Church Facebook page -
<https://www.facebook.com/MarketSquareChurch/>

References

Reference #1

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 717-395-3312
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Reference #2

The Rev. Kimberley
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Reference #3

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