

November, AD 2024

Dear Potential Candidates,

We at First Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana are so excited about your interest in reviewing our Church Information Form. We hope that this CIF piques your interest in our wonderful church.

While this CIF is nominally directed to an Associate Pastor for Teaching and Leadership, the expectation is that the Associate Pastor who is called will succeed our Senior Pastor of 20 years, Gerrit Dawson, approximately 4 to 6 months following the call. Accordingly, the responses contained in the CIF are more directed to the role of a Senior Pastor. We have attached two separate job descriptions to delineate the expectations of both the interim and permanent roles for which we are seeking a pastor.

We are also attaching our recently completed Strategic Plan by which the session, with considerable congregational input, has set direction for the coming years. We think you will find in these materials a vibrant congregation ready to press deeper into Christ and reach further into the world as our third century approaches.

Again, thank you for taking the time to review our CIF. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Brett Furr, chairman

Pastoral Search Committee

Statement of Acknowledgment

The EPC believes that honesty and a commitment to open communication are critical to building the body of Christ. In that spirit, please confirm your agreement to the following statements by your signatures below.

- 1. We attest that the information contained in this Church Information Form is true and complete to the best of our knowledge.
- 2. We authorize applicants for the position(s) listed herein to make inquiries regarding all statements contained in this Church Information Form.
- 3. We authorize the Office of the Stated Clerk to circulate, distribute, and otherwise share this Church Information Form with potential candidates for the position(s) listed herein.
- 4. We acknowledge the Medical Plan and Retirement Plan services offered by the EPC's Benefit Resources, Inc., exist to serve EPC churches and their staff members. We also acknowledge the EPC's Book of Order requirement that EPC churches provide medical insurance to ordained staff members through BRI as mandated by the following Acts of the General Assembly:
 - 81-04 Terms of call for any minister of member churches shall provide for participation in the denominational hospitalization and disabilities programs. (Minutes of the 1st General Assembly, 1-32)
 - 81-06 The denominational group insurance plan providing health, disability, and life coverage shall be mandatory for all ministers within member churches. (Minutes of the 1st General Assembly, 1-36)
 - 88-08 Assembly amends participatory requirements for group health insurance plan by requiring participation of all ministers on the rolls of presbyteries with the exception of:
 - 1. Missionaries laboring in cooperative agreements with mission agencies;
 - 2. Ministers laboring in institutional agencies providing their own group insurance plan;
 - Ministers afforded group insurance coverage as part of retirement 3. benefits from a previous employer;
 - 4. Ministers without call, and ministers laboring less than 20 hours in a place of ministry. (Minutes of the 8th General Assembly, 8-24)

For information about EPC benefits through BRI, see www.epc.org/benefits. email benefits@epc.org, or call 407-930-4267.

Clerk of Session V	Date 11 (12)
Search Committee Chair	Date 11/12/24



The Ministerial Vocation Committee and the Office of the Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church are responsible for denominational vocational services. As part of the process of "matching" ministers and congregations, the Office of the Stated Clerk provides resources and advice to both pastors and congregational search committees. To that end, we ask congregations and ministers to complete information forms as an introduction to each other, and a first step in the process of calling a minister for a congregation. For both the pastor and the congregation, this is an opportunity for self-study and evaluation of current ministry and goals. This calls for honesty, effort, and open communication.

This Church Information Form (CIF) presents the local congregation's history, challenges, and goals. It is our hope that this will help facilitate the search process by assisting both the church in focusing on future directions and applicants in gaining some sense of the nature and uniqueness of this congregation.

We encourage churches to list their vacancies on the Ministry Staff Opportunities webpage at www.epc.org/mso. For more information or to send your posting, email info@epc.org.

Guidance for church-based human resources questions such as background checks, personnel policy manuals, and more is available at the Office of the General Assembly by contacting Marti Ratcliff at marti.ratcliff@epc.org or 407-930-4263.

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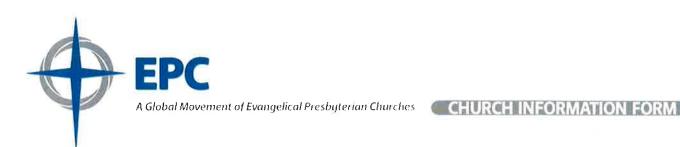
Part 3: Church Characteristics Part 6: Other Information

Please return completed form to:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church ATTN: OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK 5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510 Orlando, FL 32822

Phone: 407-930-4239 Fax: 407-930-4247 E-mail: info@epc.org





Part 1: Church Information

1.	Church Name First Presbyterian Church of	Baton R	ouge	
	Address 763 North Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802			
	Telephone (225) 387-0617 Fax	x (225)	225 338-1	010
	E-mail We	ebsite fpc	br.org	
2.	Burlan Gulf South			
	Presbytery Ministerial Committee Liaison			
3.	Search Committee Chairman Brett Furr			
	Address505 LSU Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-46	43		
	E-mail brett.furr@taylorporter.com			
	Telephone (225) 337-5168			
4.	List all paid staff positions (use additional sheet if n	necessarvì		
	Sr. Pastor (1)	-	Full time	Part time
	Associate Pastor (4)		Full time	Part time
	Ministry Executive		Full time	Part time
	Administrative Executive		Full time	Part time
	Director of Worship		Full time	Part time
	Director of Chidren's Ministry		Full time	Part time
	Communications Director		Full time	Part time
	Youth Assistant		Full time	Part time
	Youth Administrator		Full time	Part time
	See attached sheet for additional personnel info		Full time	Part time

5. List all key volunteer positions

Committee Leadership (10) Sunday School Teachers (35) Community Group Leaders (40) Ministry Mission Partnership and Service (100)

6. List all vacant positions

	Position Available Associate Pastor for Teaching and Lea	dership	Date of Vacar	_{1cy} 1/1/2025
	Position Available			
	Position Available			
7.	Membership (state approximate numbers and pe			<i>J</i>
	r (_	years ago	Currently
	A. Number of church members	1,493		1,585
	B. Number of family units	872		878
	C. Worship attendance	768		780
8.	Community Growth Increasing Sta	atic	Declining	
9.	Profile of church members A. Age:			
	19 % 0-11 10 % 12-18 9 % 19-	-24 <u>11</u>	% 25-34	
	<u>16</u> % 35-49 <u>19</u> % 50-64 <u>16</u> % 65-	+		



B.	Occupation:				
	30 % Business	60	_ % Professional	1	% Trades
	2 % Agriculture				
	% Other (Plea				
		1			
C.	Educational level of a		_ % high school	45 % college	e <u>50</u> % graduate school
D.	Percentage of member	ers belo	nging to the cong	regation	
	Less than one year 3		%		
	5 years or less 2	7	%		
	6-10 years 1	8	%		
	10 years or more 5				
10 Ra	cial/Ethnic composition	on of:			
	Congregation				
11.	0 0	erican	<1 % Asian	99 % Cau	casian <u><1 </u> % Hispanic
	% Other (Spec				_
		лу ј			
B.	Community (within		_		
	36 % African-Am	erican	1.4 % Asian	59 % Cau	casian <u>2.3</u> % Hispanic
	% Other (Spec	cify)		- 11	
11. Co	mmunity Setting (che	ck as ma	any as apply):		
	cation		The state of the s		
	Rural Small T	own 1	■ Metropolitan	Suburban	□ Inner City
			<u></u>		
	nction		_		_
	Industrial Agricul	tural	Recreational	∐ Military	College/University
			440.05	0	
Ap	proximate population	of com	munity: 440,95	0	



40	Y 4 1	7		
	10.0	ors	· h	m
	V V	111	NII	111
		0.1		

A	Worship Time 7:45	Average Worship Attendance 68	Worship Style Traditional				
	9	446	Contemporary				
	11	266	Traditional				
			·				
В	. Frequency of commun	tion celebration: 7:45am weekly	, 9am monthly,				
C	. How are members inv	olved in planning and participat	ion in the liturgy/worship				
	Members involved in	A quarterly worship committee offers feedback and suggestions. Members involved in ushering, communion serving, liturgy assisting. The liturgical leadership generally led by pastors and staff					
Γ	o. Style of liturgy used in	ı your worship (e.g., traditional, o	contemporary, variety)				
	7:45 - Traditional/week 9 - Contemporary/mont 11 - Traditional/biweek	thly communion					
	Single services 10 time	es a year (Palm Sunday, Reformati	on Sunday, summer Sundays)				
E	. Type of music used in	worship (e.g., traditional, conten	nporary, variety)				
	see above						
13. N	linistry Programs						
A	. Average attendance in	Church School (under 18 years)	: ,110				
Е	8. Average attendance in	Adult Education (Sunday):	150				
C	Average involvement	in Small Groups:	300				



14. Organizational Structure

List major boards, committees, and organizations that are part of your church and frequency of meetings (monthly, weekly, etc.)

Name	Purpose of Group	Number of members	Frequency of meetings	Leadership Role*
Session		30	monthly	2
Diaconate		30	monthly	2
Trustees		5	quarterly	3
Baton Rouge Christian Counseling	Multi-denominational Bible based counseling	13	quarterly	3
Foundation	oversee endowment	10	quarterly	2
Preschool/MDO	early childhood development	90	4 days/week	4

^{*}Indicate leadership role expected by using the number below:

- 1. Pastor takes primary initiative and responsibility.
- 2. Pastor and laity share responsibility.
- 3. Laity takes primary initiative and responsibility.
- 4. A staff person takes primary initiative and responsibility.

Part 2: Financial/Church Campus Information

1.	Current annual budget: \$ 4,500,000	Last year's annual budget: \$4,373,000_	
	(Attach a copy of current budget)		
2.	Percentage of income received toward bu	idget: 100.00	%



3.	A. B. C. D.	nount contributed for y EPC Percentage of Inc EPC World Outreach (EPC Special Projects Presbytery Per Memb Other Missions/Missio	ome Global Workers er Asking/Pero	S	\$\frac{37,600}{109,000}\$\$\frac{10,000}{23,000}\$\$		
4.		operty owned by churc Describe buildings an One City Block; Sar	d property (oth			ition.	
	В.	Are your buildings add If no, please explain:	equate for you	r present prog	ram?	Yes	□No
	C.	Is a building program If yes, describe what, we removation of education education of education educati	when, and proj	ected cost	on of parking 2020	Yes	∏No
	D.	Does the church own a Condition: Pastor's Office/Study:	Good	☐ Fair ☐ In Manse		☐Yes edrooms	■No



5. Compensation:

A.	The salary range we are prepared to	offer:				
	Position: Associate Pastor for Teaching and	Leadership \$ commensu	rate with skills and	1		
	Position:	s experience				
	Position:	\$				
B.	The average annual increase over the	e past three years is:				
	Position:	\$	or 9	6		
	Position:	\$	or 9	6		
	Position:	\$	or 9	6		
	Position:	\$	or9	6		
C.	Housing					
	Housing Allowance					
	Manse Only					
	Either of the Above					
D.	Benefits and expenses					
	11% Retirement Plan (minimu	ım 10% gross effective sala	ıry)			
	X Medical insurance (EPC r	nedical coverage required f	for full-time TEs)			
	X Life insurance					
	X Social Security					
	X Travel/mileage					
	x Book allowance					
	10 Study leave allowance (m	ninimum 2 weeks)				
	Annual vacation days (minimum 4 weeks)					
	Number of worship servi (in addition to vacation a	ces per year for which past nd study leave)	or is provided relief	:		
	X Sabbatical frequency and	length every 7 years for 2	? months			
	x Other (Specify: education	n assistance for pastors' ch	nildren	_)		
E.	The church participates in the EPC's	medical benefits plan	■ Yes N	0		
F	The church participates in the EPC's	retirement nlan	TVes IN	0		

Part 3: Church Characteristics

Check the box that most closely describes the current characteristics of the congregation.

Ou	r congregation	Ag	ree	Disag	ree
1.	Is spiritually vibrant	1	2	 3	<u> </u>
2.	Demonstrates love for the pastor and his/her family	1	2	3	4
3.	Readily shares their gifts with the rest of the congregation	1	2	3	<u> </u>
4.	Places a high priority on sound biblical preaching	1	2	3	<u> </u>
5.	Effectively integrates newcomers	1	2	<u> </u>	$\Box 4$
6.	Is engaged in evangelism		2	3	$\Box 4$
7.	Is often found living their faith in their communities	1	2	3	\Box 4
8.	Has a spirit of unity	1	2	3	$\prod 4$
9.	Cares about each other	1	2	<u></u> 3	4
10	. Is supportive of the Session and pastoral leadership	1	2	<u>3</u>	$\Box 4$
11	. Ministers well to members that are hurting	1	2	<u></u> 3	$\Box 4$
12	. Uses members' gifts in worship	1	2	3	$\Box 4$
13	. Contains people willing and able to lead the congregation	1	2	<u>3</u>	$\Box 4$
14	. Is capable of change when and where appropriate		2	3	4
15	. Is connected to and prayerful about what God is doing in the global church		2	3	4

16. How are elders and deacons initially trained and equipped for ministry?

Spiritually mature and service-minded congregants who are called to office complete three training sessions with the Pastors and are examined by the Session. Additionally, officers are familiarized with the EPC Leadership Training Guide.



17. What is the Session's current practice regarding the ongoing discipleship of elders and deacons?

Weekly elder Bible study and prayer with the Pastor. Annual or biannual retreats focusing on books or specific topics of discipleship. Ongoing discipleship and training via monthly Session and Diaconate meetings.

18. In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

To fulfill our motto of reaching further into the world means that we partner with other gospel-focused ministries, programs, and missionaries worldwide to help empower them to fulfill their calling.

For our 30+ ministry partners, both local and global, we commit to:

-Pray regularly for our ministry partners in worship services and committee meetings.

-Provide financial support and hands-on partnership through church volunteerism and mentoring.

-Examples of some of our long-standing partnerships include:

Abounding Love Ministries (inner city chuch partnership) Gardere Community Christian School (local) Smiles Foundation (Romania) Global Transformation Ministries (Columbia) Bethany Centre (Uganda) Kasr El Dobara Evangelical Church (Cairo) Caring to Love Ministry (local crisis pregnancy center) Habitat for Humanity (completing 7th home) Baton Rouge Christian Outreach Center (local)

New: The Sanctuary (North Baton Rouge Church Plant with pastors formerly incarcerated) Additionally, we are an active member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, both in our regional presbytery and in the larger denomination. As such, we have played a major role in the planting of several EPC churches nationally and globally.

19. Describe the strengths of your congregation.

Loving - Caring, Supporting, Praying, Thoughtful, Hospitable, Compassionate Devoted to God's Truth - Biblical, Studious, Pursuing Christ-likeness Faithful - Prayerful, Committed, Engaged, Dedicated Joyful - Overflowing, Grateful, Attentive to God's Beauty, Full of Praise Generous - Financially, sharing of both time and resources

CHURCH INFORMATION FORM

20. List specific problems with which your congregation struggles.

Congregational busyness and competing activities outside of the church can contribute to a lack of missional focus among portions of the congregation.

Management of three worship services with differing worship styles,

Need for renovations to education facilities to accommodate the blessing of a congregation that is growing and becoming younger.

A world culture that is increasingly hostile to the Church.

21. List major goals that the congregation has set for itself.

The Session recently adopted a long-term strategic plan that outlines the following goals:

Worship - Goal: Involve newer and younger members in worship participation and leadership.

Pray - Goal: Gather in small groups to intercede faithfully for specific topics, using expanded prayer structures (ie. experiential prayer, spiritual conferencing, retreats, concerts of prayer).

Follow - Goal: Expand participation in community groups by training up new leaders and providing resources to create ease of access.

Care - Goal: Expand the "care" dimension of our community and fellowship groups; and expand opportunities to connect members across three different services. Proclaim - Goals:

Evaluate our mission fidelity annually

Establish intentional, regular teaching programs on essentials to new Christians and young members

Continue to build on the influx of young families and childhood ministries

22. Has there ever been disciplinary action taken against a pastor of your congregation Yes No	1?
23. Has there ever been any disciplinary action against an elder or deacon of your congregation? Tyes No	

If you answered "Yes" to either 22 or 23, please explain.

In a few instances, elders have been asked by the session to resign when they have been unable to fulfill their ordination vows. No cases have resulted in formal discipline, trial or presbytery action.

24	. Have you completed a mission statement, vision statement, and/or a strategic plan for your congregation?
	■ Yes No
	If yes, Date completed 9/2024
	If yes, enter each statement or strategic plan (or attach copies if space below is limited).
	Strategic Plan document attached

Part 4: Leadership Expectations

1. What are some key character strengths a person should bring to this position?

A passion for Jesus Christ, his Word, personal prayer and cultivating a devoted relationship with Christ.

A deepening Christian maturity through a consecrated life, expressed through cultivating the fruit of the Spirit, a commitment to regular prayer and a disciplined study of the Word, striving for physical vigor, mental health, financial responsibility, a loving marriage and robust, sacrificial love for family.

Resilience through reliance on Christ in the face of challenges that may be personal. congregational, city-wide or national.

Evident love and pastoral concern for others that fosters a culture of welcome, harmony and care. Fervent in upholding God's Word

A servant leader who is approachable, even tempered, compassionate and humble Honest and direct

A Courageous leader with vision and genuine enthusiasm for proclaiming a Christian world view in an increasingly post-Christian society

2. What are five key gifts/skills/abilities a person should bring to this position?

Preaching. Prepare and preach vibrant and inspiring Biblical sermons, sharing the whole counsel of the Word of God with focus on the person and work of Jesus in attunement with the major seasons of the church vear.

Teaching. A relatable teacher with a mature and commanding knowledge of Scripture. Teach as able to all generations throughout the congregation in Sunday schools, community groups and other venues. Leadership. Motivational leader of the elders and staff, building harmonious teams, inspiring participation in working towards a shared vision. A consensus builder who is effective at team building. conflict resolution and delegation.

Vision Casting. Prayerfully discern with elders and staff leadership God's calling for how the church can fulfill its mission.

Mission. Inspire and encourage the congregation in living missional lives through daily activity and specific mission to the community and world. Outward focus.

Energy and Pace. Drive forward the mission and vision of the church at a pace that is inspiring, healthy. and consistent.

Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Committed to the health of the EPC.

3. What are the primary pastoral duties for the position? (Attach a position description)

See attached job descriptions for the position of Associate Pastor and Senior Pastor. Reference is also made to Towards a "Seamless Pastoral Transition" that has been approved by the Session and is attached as an Addendum.

Part 5: Church History

- 1. What do you consider to be the three most important events in the history of your church?
 - Realignment of our affiliation with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in 2007 in order to maintain biblical integrity
 - Rooted in the Baton Rouge community for almost 200 years, construction of the sanctuary in 1927
 - Long standing commitment to biblical based preaching

- 2. What do you consider to be the most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years?
 - As with most churches, COVID presented unique challenges to First Presbyterian church. We, however, remained strong with outstanding online participation and continued financial support. Following COVID, our church has experienced a resurgence in attendance and significant growth among young families. In response, our congregation and elders have collaborated to develop a strategic plan aimed at nurturing this growth and guiding our future. Through focus groups and a congregation-wide survey, we conducted a thorough evaluation of our church's strengths and areas for improvement. After several months of thoughtful analysis. we've developed actionable steps to best serve our multi-generational congregation while welcoming new families and furthering the mission of the church, "Deeper in Christ, Further into the World."

Part 6: Other Information

1. List the last three individuals who held this position

Name	Dates of Service	
Gerrit Dawson	6/2004	to
Russ Stevenson	6/1984	_{to} 10/2004
Sherod Rice	8/1968	to 10/1982

2. Describe any significant factors about the church not covered in previous questions.

Associate Pastor for Teaching and Leadership

Responsibilities:

Cultivate personal Christian maturity through a daily life characterized by personal prayer, devotional reading of Scripture, exegetical reading of Scripture, growing fruits of the Spirit, attention to maintaining physical vigor and mental health, a loving marriage and a robust, sacrificial love for family.

Work Closely and Cooperatively with the Senior Pastor in a) learning and executing the responsibilities of the pastor position b) offering ideas, suggestions, and fresh vision.

Learn the Culture of the church, the city and the state. Identify the working values of the community, the persistent needs and the personality of the church. Learn the highlights of the history of the church and the significant events of the last decade. Learn and interact with the ministry partnerships and missionaries of the church.

Prepare and Preach Vibrant Biblical Sermons appx half the Sundays while current senior pastor is in place, as well as when requested on special occasions, weddings and funerals.

Teach in Sunday school classes, community groups, Discover First classes, St. James Chapel, MDO chapel and other venues throughout the year as able.

Moderate Session appx half the meetings while current senior pastor is in place, Lead session Bible study the weeks before preaching.

Lead Staff Devotions and staff meetings every other week.

Invest in Relationships focusing particularly in the first year on meeting key leaders of all ages. Conduct one on one meetings with all staff in first year. Visit hospitals and the homebound as coordinated by Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care.

Prepare to Become Senior Pastor. Within 3 to 6 months of serving as Associate Pastor, accept a call from the Senior Pastor search committee to become senior pastor.

Senior Pastor Job Description 2024

Responsibilities:

Cultivate personal Christian maturity through a daily life characterized by personal prayer, devotional reading of Scripture, exegetical reading of Scripture, growing fruits of the Spirit, attention to maintaining physical vigor and mental health, a loving marriage and a robust, sacrificial love for family.

Prepare and Preach Vibrant Biblical Sermons approximately 40 Sundays per year, as well as on special occasions, weddings and funerals. Work closely with the Director of Worship in the planning and preparation of all worship services. Plan long term to present the full scope of Scripture while planning short term to interact with urgent needs in the community and the seasons of the church year.

Teach in Sunday school classes, community groups, Discover First new member class, St. James Chapel, MDO chapel and other venues throughout the year as able.

Lead in Vision for expressing the church mission in programs and initiatives, working with session, staff and congregants in the process of vision discernment. Communicate a vision of passion for Christ, urgency in mission, energy for excellence and harmony in relationships.

Nourish the Church Culture of being a loving, caring congregation that bases its faith and life on the Scriptures as we embrace members from a wide range of traditions including Reformed, catholic, Baptist, non denominational.

Oversee the Rhythm of Church Life in balancing the calendar of events, programs, and ministries that occur in a year, setting a healthy pace for the church and keeping the main things front and center. Provide vision and leadership for all-church festival events such as Palm Sunday, Reformation Sunday, Bi-Centennial, Christmas Eve and single services.

Encourage City and Global Ministry by example, through preaching and through the mission committees and staff. Embrace the call to be a church in the heart of the city for the sake of the city. Support the Mother's Day Out and Preschool and the Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center, as well as other church ministries.

Oversee the Stewardship of finances, time and gifts within the worship and program life of the church.

Lead the Session by moderating session meetings, overseeing officer training, leading weekly Bible study and prayer for elders, and coordinating biannual retreats.

Lead the staff spiritually through leading staff devotion and prayer times, supervising and developing the pastors and working cooperatively and collegially with all staff. Cultivate passion for excellence, harmony, self-starting and collaboration.

Participate in Pastoral Care and Spiritual Formation of the congregation through personal appointments and visits (including meetings with confirmation students, families presenting children for baptism, couples preparing for marriage and families planning funerals) and various forms of gathered prayer.

Participate in EPC Presbytery and General Assembly meetings and service opportunities, developing supportive and collegial relationships with fellow pastors.

Resource Committees: Nominating, Personnel, Session Income Allocation, Committee Assignment Taskforce, Worship and Foundation.