



Dear Prospective Pastoral Candidate,

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Aurora! On behalf of our Search Committee, Session, and congregation, we are grateful for your willingness to explore God's call. We hope this profile gives you a helpful glimpse into the life of our congregation as we seek the pastor God is preparing to lead us into our next season of ministry.

First Pres is a loving and resilient community. We love the Lord, take our responsibilities to one another seriously, and find joy in worshiping together through a rich, gospel-shaped liturgy. We value sound biblical and expository preaching, cherish fellowship, and approach the future with great hope.

As you read through our profile and vision documents, we hope the unique and beautiful character of our congregation shines through—alongside a few idiosyncrasies that reflect the particular way God has shaped our life together.

- **Our Context & Community:** We're a "regional church" in many ways, with members and regular attenders coming from several surrounding communities. While our congregation is becoming increasingly diverse, it remains predominantly Caucasian. At the same time, our church is located in a distinctly urban, predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. We recognize that we have not always reflected the diversity of the community around us, and we view this as both an opportunity and a calling to grow in gospel hospitality, faithful witness, and meaningful relationships with our neighbors.
- **Our Demographic Make-Up:** One of the joys of First Pres is our multi-generational congregation. At the same time, we recognize that several generations are underrepresented, due in part to difficult seasons in our recent history. We're excited by the opportunity to welcome and disciple people of every age and stage of life.
- **Children in Worship:** A beloved feature of our congregation is the intentionality with which we welcome children into corporate worship—noises, distractions, and all! We intentionally include children in our worship service because we believe they learn to worship by worshiping alongside God's people. While age-appropriate discipleship opportunities are available, we view children as an important part of the covenant community and delight in their presence.

- **Disability Ministry:** We have an active ministry among individuals with disabilities and their families. We seek to honor the image of God in every person by cultivating a church where individuals of all physical, emotional, and cognitive abilities are welcomed, valued, and able to participate meaningfully in the life of the congregation. Intentionally including these friends in worship and throughout the life of the church has become an important expression of who we are.

Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the difficult season from which the Lord has recently brought us. After seventeen years of faithful ministry, our previous Senior Pastor accepted a call to another church. While we were saddened to see him go, we sent him with our love, gratitude, and full encouragement. Within months of his departure, however, our Associate Pastor was found to be involved in conduct that disqualified him from pastoral ministry, ultimately resulting in formal disciplinary action through Rivers & Lakes Presbytery.

Almost overnight, the stability, shepherding, and pastoral continuity First Pres had enjoyed for many years gave way to an unexpected season without pastoral leadership during one of the most difficult moments in our church's history.

Yet throughout this season, the Lord has demonstrated his faithfulness. Through the steady ministry of a Transitional Pastor, the growing leadership of our Session, staff and lay leaders, and the faithful service of many members, God has sustained and strengthened our congregation. While we never would have chosen this path, we believe the Lord has used it to deepen our dependence upon him, strengthen our leadership, clarify our ministry philosophy, and prepare us well for the next chapter of ministry. Today, we move forward with renewed hope, greater clarity, and a growing confidence that Christ continues to build his church.

We're excited to share more of our story and to learn yours as well. We know the Lord is already preparing both our congregation and the pastor he is calling, and we look forward to discerning together whether he may be leading us into ministry together.

In Christ,

The Pastoral Search Committee  
First Presbyterian Church of Aurora, IL