

Church Information Form

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.epconnect.org/mso. For more information or to send your posting, email mso@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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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



5. List all key volunteer positions

1. Deacon Board
2. Nursery Coordinator
3. Mission Committee Chair
4. Liaison with The Restore Network (foster care ministry)

6. List all vacant positions

Position Available _____ Date of Vacancy _____

Position Available _____ Date of Vacancy _____

Position Available _____ Date of Vacancy _____

7. Membership (state approximate numbers and percentages)

	Five years ago	Currently
A. Number of church members	63	62
B. Number of family units	34	35
C. Worship attendance	81	105

8. Community Growth Increasing Static Declining

9. Profile of church members

A. Age:

0 % 0-11 0 % 12-18 3 % 19-24 6 % 25-34
58 % 35-49 16 % 50-64 17 % 65+

Baptized Roll: (30) ages 0-11, (16) ages 12-18

B. Occupation:

_____ % Business 45 % Professional 6 % Trades
 _____ % Agriculture 10 % Stay-at-Home Parent 19 % Retired
20 % Other (Please Specify) service/factory/retail/military

C. Educational level of adults

_____ % some high school 12 % high school 58 % college 30 % graduate school

D. Percentage of members belonging to the congregation

Less than one year _____ 1 %
 5 years or less _____ 13 %
 6-10 years _____ 66 %
 10 years or more _____ 20 %

10. Racial/Ethnic composition of:

A. **Congregation**

3 % African-American _____ % Asian 94 % Caucasian 3 % Hispanic
 _____ % Other (Specify) _____

B. **Community** (within 5-mile radius of church)

14 % African-American 4 % Asian 69 % Caucasian 6 % Hispanic
 _____ % Other (Specify) _____

11. Community Setting (check as many as apply):

Location

Rural Small Town Metropolitan Suburban Inner City

Function

Industrial Agricultural Recreational Military College/University

Approximate population of community: 51,500

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 (Board of Elders)	Church Leadership	6	Monthly	2
Deacon Board	Service & Ministry	7	Quarterly	3
Mission Committee	Maintain Missions Focus	7	Quarterly	3
Children/youth ministry	Biblical Instruction	5	Quarterly	4
Facility Committee	Planning and expansion	10	on hold	3

*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: \$ 308,421.00 Last year's annual budget: \$ 296,512.00
 (Attach a copy of current budget)

2. Percentage of income received toward budget: _____ 100 %

3. Amount contributed for year (most recent complete reporting year)

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| A. EPC Percentage of Income | \$ _____ |
| B. EPC World Outreach Global Workers | \$ <u>7,400.00</u> |
| C. EPC Special Projects | \$ _____ |
| D. Presbytery Per Member Asking/Percentage of Income | \$ <u>2,100.00(\$33.00/member)</u> |
| E. Other Missions/Missionaries | \$ <u>17,000.00</u> |

4. Property owned by church

- A. Describe buildings and property (other than manse), including condition.

Brick church building in good condition with a finished basement containing a fellowship hall, kitchen, nursery, and children's Sunday School classrooms. A small "cry room" is available on a second story. The church building is located on 5.28 acres with frontage to a nearby pond in a rural setting outside an urban district.

- B. Are your buildings adequate for your present program? Yes No
If no, please explain:

The sanctuary has a limit of 150 seats and a small stage area. Sunday Bible class space is limited. The adult Sunday school meets in the sanctuary. The classroom facilities for children and youth are small and classrooms can be crowded on Sunday mornings. The space available for fellowship events is limited. There is no space available for a full time church/pastoral office within the building onsite at this time.

- C. Is a building program or capital project projected? Yes No
If yes, describe what, when, and projected cost

A committee was established to develop an expansion and renovation project. An architect and survey team were hired and preliminary drawings made that would greatly increase the church's overall footprint, allowing for continued growth and much needed additional meeting rooms and offices (see question 4. B. above). Unfortunately, this project was temporarily suspended in 2024 due to the uncertainties that arose following the removal of our pastor.

- D. Does the church own a manse? Yes No

Condition: Good Fair Poor # of Bedrooms

Pastor's Office/Study: In Church In Manse Not Provided

Other _____

5. Compensation:

A. The salary range we are prepared to offer:

Position: Pastor \$ 80,000.00 (Salary/housing)
 Position: _____ \$ _____
 Position: _____ \$ _____

B. The average annual increase over the past three years is:

Position: Pastor (explanation needed) \$ 3,800.00 or 1.6 %
 Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %
 Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %
 Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %

C. Housing

- Housing Allowance
 Manse Only
 Either of the Above

D. Benefits and expenses

\$8,000 Retirement Plan (minimum 10% gross effective salary)
Plat. Plan Medical insurance (EPC medical coverage required for full-time TEs)
AD&D Life insurance
 _____ Social Security
X _____ Travel/mileage
\$500 Book allowance
X _____ Study leave allowance (minimum 2 weeks)
X _____ Annual vacation days (minimum 4 weeks)
Negotiable Number of worship services per year for which pastor is provided relief
 (in addition to vacation and study leave)
 _____ Sabbatical frequency and length _____
\$2,500 Other (Specify: Ministerial allowance)

- E. The church participates in the EPC's medical benefits plan Yes No
 F. The church participates in the EPC's retirement plan Yes No

Part 3: Church Characteristics

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

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

16. How are elders and deacons initially trained and equipped for ministry?
 Currently elders and deacons utilize EPC training materials/resources.

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

Discipleship of elders and deacons includes their personal daily devotions and their leading or teaching Sunday School and small groups. The Session is in the process over the next year of establishing plans which support a more robust discipleship program throughout the congregation to align with the vision statement. The first step in this process, and in which the Session is currently deeply engaged, is equipping the Session to shepherd the congregation through the departure of our most recent permanent pastor and the following transitional period.

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

Hope Church is a supporting church of The Restore Network, a parachurch nonprofit organization whose mission is to respond to the foster care crisis in our state and region. In addition to the church supporting Restore financially, many members of the congregation serve on Restore's staff and volunteer teams.

Hope Church is also a supporting church of the Intervarsity Area Ministry Director and the Intervarsity ministry at SIU Carbondale. In addition, Hope Church supports Trinity Christian School financially, and has a long history of members volunteering and serving on the staff, faculty, and board of the school.

Hope Church members also participate in food drives and/or fundraising efforts for the SIU Food Pantry, Murphysboro Food Pantry and the Victory Dream Center Food Pantry.

19. Describe the strengths of your congregation.

We are an orthodox church that embodies the spirit of the EPC motto: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty." Hope Church is a group of vibrant, creative people consisting of a large number of multi-generational families, young families, youth, and children who love the Lord and freely and graciously share their gifts.

We are a congregation who love each other and our neighbors well, and place a high value on sound doctrine and discipleship as a foundation for living out the gospel in our community. Culturally, Hope Church is a patient and gentle congregation that has become a healing sanctuary for many people in the community seeking the truth, mercy, and grace of the gospel after suffering varied types of hurt and despair.

20. List specific problems with which your congregation struggles.

We want to improve our efforts and processes to effectively integrate newcomers into the life of the church. Regular attendees and newer members often do not know what groups and activities are taking place, how to find information, or who to talk to in order to get involved, or to ask for help. Improvements in our efforts and processes for newcomer integration will in turn help to unburden a small number of long-term members who, at times, are asked to take on a disproportionate amount of service in the church. Additionally, the leadership structure and communication protocols are currently underdeveloped. The Session is working through addressing these issues over the next year with the support and consultation of our Transitional Pastor. In summary, Hope Church has “peaked” as a church plant and is now poised to move into a season where we both need and are ready to implement more structure.

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

Establish a leadership structure that spreads responsibilities and service/ministry evenly across the deacon board and the membership, and provide resources for leaders and members to conduct effective discipleship.

Establish a communication protocol that utilizes and integrates Sunday morning announcements, the website, social media outlets, and a newsletter to keep members and attendees informed of the activities of the church, the deacons who are the points of contact for the various activities, and how to get and stay engaged.

Capitalize on establishment of a leadership structure and communications protocol to revitalize evangelism and community outreach. Increase the outward-facing presence of Hope Church as gospel-centered neighbors in our community and region.

22. Has there ever been disciplinary action taken against a pastor of your congregation?

Yes No

23. Has there ever been any disciplinary action against an elder or deacon of your congregation?

Yes No

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

In April 2024, the Session of Hope Church received information regarding an FBI investigation into child pornography involving our pastor. On the same date as being informed, the Session referred the matter to the Ministerial Committee of the Presbytery. The Session was advised by the Committee that the pastor should immediately be suspended from office with pay and excluded from church property and ministry, until further investigation could be completed. Subsequently, the Judicial Commission found that the charge of immorality (BOD 1-10) was substantiated and imposed a sanction against the pastor of “Removal from Office.”

As we worked through the grief and trauma in the weeks following the event, the work of the Holy Spirit became evident in the hearts of the congregation. Instead of discord and despondency, the congregation became unified in their resolve to continue carrying out the work of the church. Instead of stepping back or separating from the church, members of the congregation stepped forward to carry on the various ministries and functions of the church. A transitional pastor was called to assist the congregation with a forward look to spiritual healing, renewal, and the eventual call of a full-time pastor.

24. Have you completed a mission statement, vision statement, and/or a strategic plan for your congregation?

Yes No

If yes, Date completed July 21, 2025 (Vision Statement)

If yes, enter each statement or strategic plan (or attach copies if space below is limited).

Vision Statement: “Equipping our Hope Church families and individuals through purposeful discipleship in order to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ in the communities where we are placed as we grow in our love for the Lord.”

This Vision Statement was developed by Hope Church throughout the spring of 2025 and completed in July 2025. The next step, in which we are currently engaged, is the development of a strategic plan to support the Vision. This strategic plan will include a focus on discipleship of family units and children/youth, and on the development of structures and tools for capitalizing on Hope Church's passion for remaining outward-facing as we advance the gospel in our community and world.

Part 4: Leadership Expectations

1. What are some key character strengths a person should bring to this position?
 1. A high view of Scripture as inerrant and infallible.
 2. Displays humility, compassion, self-control, patience and integrity. Meets the qualifications of an elder in accordance with 1 Timothy 3.
 3. A passion for shepherding a multi-generational congregation through a season of growth in discipleship.
 4. A joy in developing deep relationships with individuals and families from various age groups.
 5. Models a family lifestyle that embodies biblical principles.
 6. Spiritual maturity; exudes a calming stability and faith in God's wisdom and sovereignty.

2. What are five key gifts/skills/abilities a person should bring to this position?
 1. Approach the scripture with integrity and rigor through expository preaching.
 2. Well-developed servant-leadership skills capable of leading through a period of establishing structures and implementing discipleship throughout the various sectors of the church (children's and adult Sunday School, small groups, deacons/elders, missions committee, youth program, community outreach programs).
 3. An effective 2-way communicator, i.e. speaking and listening in equal measure.
 4. A gift for exuding approachability and authenticity.
 5. Ability to teach and foster a fervent prayer life within the congregation.

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

Please see attached Pastor Job Description file.

Part 5: Church History

1. What do you consider to be the three most important events in the history of your church?

1. Circa 2008, when Hope Church moved into a permanent building, and the particularization that took place within the church as a body during the same timeframe. Although these were separate events, they were a turning point for Hope. No longer being dependent on our sponsoring church, having our own leadership, and giving up our nomadic loading and unloading each week, added some stability and permanence to a body that was still subject to the transitory loss and gain of members that is part of being a church in a college town.

2. The combined events that took place in the period 2019-2024, during which Hope Church experienced the COVID-19 pandemic and the departure of (2) pastors, one of which was under disciplinary action. This time was a refining period during which much maturation took place in our body and we learned to lean even more deeply on God's word, his sovereignty, and each other in ways we frankly had not had to before 2019.

3. The "age group tipping point" circa 2022 when Hope Church officially had more children and youth in weekly attendance than adults. This was a joyous harvest of the investment in our young families in 2014, when we had paid off our building and were able to hire our children's program/Sunday School coordinators.

2. What do you consider to be the most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years?

Unequivocally this was the discovery and removal for moral failure of our pastor in April 2024. Shepherding the congregation and loving each other through the shock and pain of this time was a monumental challenge, during which we benefited greatly from the transitional pastoral resources provided by the EPC. The congregation demonstrated a steadfast resolve to remain united through Spirit-guided, loving relationships, prayer, forgiveness, and a fervent desire to glorify God in the midst of tribulations. As he infallibly does, God wrought tremendous growth, faith, maturity, thankfulness, and praise during this time, and the experience is now a living testimony to Hope Church's belief that God in his sovereignty works all things for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose.

Part 6: Other Information

1. List the last three individuals who held this position

Name	Dates of Service	
Anthony Marseglia (Founding Pastor)	4-21-2021	to 4-16-2024
Joshua Schatzle	2012	to 2019
Anthony Marseglia	2002	to 2012

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

On September 25, 2024, the Session of Hope Church called Eric Amundson as Transitional Pastor. As of the date of this document, Pastor Amundson continues to serve in this capacity with the intention of fulfilling that role until a permanent full-time pastor is called by the congregation.

Through the resources provided by Bill Rasch and the EPC's Transitional Pastoring program, Hope Church has experienced God's grace in meaningful and completely unexpected ways since the April 2024 departure of our most recent full time pastor. Concurrently with the congregation moving thru the grief and healing process, Bill and Eric gently led us through the visioning process. This was an encouragement for the congregation as it assured us that God's work in Hope Church and in our community would not only continue, but would mature and grow.

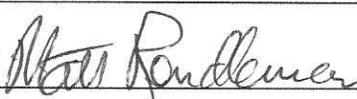
Statement of Acknowledgment

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;
 3. Ministers afforded group insurance coverage as part of retirement 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.epconnect.org/benefits, email benefits@epc.org, or call 407-930-4267.

Clerk of Session Dan Stearns  Date 11-30-25

Search Committee Chair Matt Rendleman  Date 11-30-25