



February, AD 2026

Dear Potential Candidates,

We at First Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana are grateful for your interest in learning more about our congregation and our call for a new Senior Pastor. We hope that our Church Information Form (CIF) piques your interest in our wonderful church.

Our current Senior Pastor, Gerrit Dawson, will be retiring at the end of April 2026 after 20 years of faithful ministry. As we prepare for this important transition, we are seeking the next Senior Pastor who will lead our church into the next season of ministry and witness.

We have attached the Senior Pastor job description to further clarify the expectations and responsibilities of this call.

We are also including our five-year Strategic Plan, developed by the Session with considerable congregational input. We believe it reflects a vibrant congregation ready to press deeper into Christ and to reach further into the world as our third century approaches.

Again, thank you for taking the time to review our CIF and learn more about First Presbyterian Church. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brett Furr, Chairman
Pastoral Search Committee

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 Growth 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. Participate in and nurture the spiritual deepening of the church through personal, corporate and experiential 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.