

Covenant Church

Casa Grande, Arizona

Just over 10 years ago a devout group of Christ followers planted the first ECO presence in Arizona. With no pastor for the first five years, this determined group “unleashed the laity” and set the foundation for a church that doubled in size over her second 5 years.

We have no drama, no debt, and no doubt that God has called us to mentor from maturity.

We are devout, dedicated, and determined Christians who seek a Pastor with energy, vision, and an entrepreneurial spirit for the next chapter of our growth in Spirit and number!

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Overview

The city of Casa Grande, Arizona sits midway between Phoenix and Tucson, which means there is easy access to top notch cultural, sporting, shopping and entertainment options, and an outstanding medical community, but without the hassle of big city living. Casa Grande has impressive and growing economic development, and also serves as a commuter hub for both of the larger metro areas.



About 70,000 people live in or just outside the city. Of these just over 45% are Hispanic, although the public schools are 65% Hispanic according to the most recent information. About 30% of the population are retirement age who are attracted to Casa Grande by its not-too-big city size, its affordable housing, and its proximity to the nearby metro areas.

Kingdom Concept

Covenant Church is predominantly attended by people 55 and older (although there are a few wonderful exceptions!). Embracing who we are has given us a mission vision for recently retired adults moving to Casa Grande, people who might be looking for a church home or who have spiritual questions. This clear mission focus has helped the church grow to approximately 40 year-round attenders, plus a robust winter visitor population.

The Session has just completed a mission study and adopted the Kingdom Concept of Covenant as a church “Mentoring from Maturity.” It’s a phrase that describes our current age, spiritual condition, and heart, plus many of the things we’re already passionate about – studying and living God’s Word, active involvement in Personal Discipleship Plans, supporting various schools with both prayer and financial giving, and our investment in small groups are an expression of mentoring, of investing in the faith walk of others.

But the Kingdom Concept of Mentoring from Maturity is not only *descriptive*, but also *prescriptive*: an expectation that our covenant partners will be working actively towards spiritual maturity, and then expressing that maturity by actively mentoring others. It gives voice to a vision we have for ourselves as followers of Jesus Christ.

Church Life

The life of Covenant centers very squarely around weekly worship, which is warm, authentic, and informal. Our people have a deep and seasoned love for Jesus, and appreciate moments of transcendence in music, prayer, and liturgy. They like to laugh, appreciate thoughtful sermons, and enjoy lively social connection before and after worship. The music is blended and includes contemporary song, traditional hymns, and old gospel standards.

Generally speaking the church has a very low key programmatic life.

There are no Sunday School classes, but there are three small groups that generally meet an average of every other week. About 20-25 people regularly participate in these small groups, plus a weekly Men's Bible Study that has a solid membership of about 10 guys. Other programs include a twice monthly prayer group, a monthly woman's lunch, and Newcomers and Neighbors Club activities.

In the spring of 2023 the church launched ECO's Flourishing Disciples initiative, engaging virtually every member in developing a personal discipleship plan, and new rounds have continued since then every six months. Several non-members participate, and people

truly seem to understand the benefits and blessings of involvement. A solid group of coaches have been trained and the initiative is now an important part of Covenant church life. The Session places a high value on this initiative and would like to see it continue under the new pastor.



"In many ways Covenant was a blank slate when I came as Pastor in 2019, and opportunities for innovation still remain. The leaders and congregation have shown remarkable willingness and energy to try new things, and this church has tremendous growth potential"

Brant Baker, Retiring Pastor

Current Mission Projects



Seeds of Hope through financial contributions and after school lunch program volunteers

Home of Hope/Teen Challenge through financial contributions

Prison Ministry through leading weekly Bible studies

Habitat for Humanity through financial contributions, food for work crews and 250 hours of labor in constructing a house

Logos Christian Academy through financial contributions and volunteers in landscape care and teaching



McCartney Ranch School monthly prayers at the school, gifts for staff and needed supplies

Newcomers and Neighbors Club financial and active volunteer involvement as we seek to befriend those new to our community and those needing new social connection due to death, divorce, retirement or empty nest

Neighbor Helping Neighbor provides help with landscape and handyman jobs for those in need



Missionary Support to a young couple planting a church in Scotland

Young Life has two active groups in Casa Grande, and as part of Covenant's commitment to *Mentor from Maturity* the church supports this vital work



Finances

This small church has a very generous heart! Giving has increased each year, and in 2023 giving *exceeded* actual expenses for the first time since calling an installed pastor. In previous years the church has dipped into its substantial savings, a legacy from the many years when lay people handled the week-to-week preaching duties. We currently have more than a year's worth of income in reserve and we carry no debt. We rent our building and so never face large, unexpected capital expenses.



Accordingly Covenant is offering a generous pastoral compensation and benefits package, with salary and housing starting at \$65,000 and negotiable upwards based on experience. Total compensation also includes health insurance, retirement, business spending account, continuing education allowance, four weeks vacation and two weeks study leave.



Pastoral Attributes/Requirements

Covenant Church of Casa Grande is seeking a full time Pastor to lead our growing congregation. We would be open as well to a Pastor who sought to work slightly less than full time. We seek a Pastor who

- ∞ will embrace our Kingdom Concept of “Mentoring from Maturity,” and show enthusiasm for ministry primarily to energetic retirees
- ∞ loves and lives the Word, and will teach us and challenge us from Scripture. We are a people who place a high value on worship that its authentic and heartfelt
- ∞ has a good sense of humor, as we believe grace, forgiveness, and creativity are all part of God’s gifts of laughter and love
- ∞ is ordained in ECO, or able to be, and who affirms ECO’s Essential Tenets
- ∞ has a healthy spiritual, emotional, and relational life
- ∞ has five years ordained pastoral service (preferred)
- ∞ is solid in all of ECO’s core Leadership Competencies—healthy spiritually and emotionally, integrated Biblically and theologically, proficient in ministry, skilled in leadership
- ∞ Is willing to embrace and be involved in the Casa Grande community

Next steps

Candidates should email pastorsearch@covenantprescg.org and include a letter of introduction, a resume, references, and links to at least three sermon recordings or videos.

