

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mif #: 20136.AK0

Ministry General Information

Ministry Number	20136
Ministry Name	Riverside Presbyterian Church
Mailing Address	849 Park Street Jacksonville, FL 32204
Phone	904-355-4585
Fax	
E-Mail	office@rpcjax.org
WWW Address	www.rpcjax.org
Ministry Size	651 - 1000 members
Ethnic Composition	
	Asian 1%
	Black or African American (African Native, Caribbean) 1%
	Hispanic Latino/Latina, Spanish 1%
	White 96%
	Other 1%

Average Worship Attendance	253
Church School Attendance	150
Curriculum	Godly Play, Dwell, Reform, Connect, The Bible Project, Faith Questions
Yoked	False
Presbytery	SAINT AUGUSTINE PRESBYTERY
Synod	SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC
Community Type	Urban
Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization Show Statistics	

Information about the position

Position:	Associate Pastor (Other)
Experience Required:	2 to 5 Years
Specific Title:	Associate Pastor of Community Outreach
Employment Status:	Full-time

Language Requirements:	
	English

Other Language:	
Statement of Faith Required:	True
Clergy Couples:	True

Training/Certificate Requirements:	
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Other Training:

Brief Church Mission Statement:

We rejoice that we are reconciled with God and embrace our mission statement, “Riverside: A Movement for Reconciliation.” Our ministry, mission, and purpose are to become people who work toward reconciliation with our neighbors and ourselves. As servants shaped by hope, we commit to faithfully living out this mission through our values, as follows:

Searching Thoughtfully by glorifying God through reverent, creative, and imaginative worship. We engage in study, knowing that exercising spiritual discipline results in thoughtful, powerful, and diverse expressions of God's work in our lives and in the lives of those with whom we witness.

Serving Passionately through community and global missions to serve and love others in Jesus' name and work toward justice and peace among ourselves, our neighbors, and throughout the world.

Living Joyfully by sharing the love of Christ, nurturing a welcoming community with ourselves and neighbors, valuing diversity (ethnic, political, socio-economic, and sexual orientation), and knowing that Christ binds our differing opinions, talents, and backgrounds into one community of faith.

Following Christ by seeking deeply to know, trust, and embody the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry:

Founded in 1910, RPC is a vibrant church. We know that the joyous energy of worship and congregational life means little unless we extend them into the world. We hope to continue to proclaim the love of God and the good news of Jesus Christ through:

- Meaningful worship with challenging, thoughtful preaching which is both theologically sound and welcoming to inquirers;
- Outstanding music;
- Thriving educational and recreational programs, which help us serve & connect with youth & young families;
- A community of care that develops and sustains friendships & intergenerational fellowship and meets the needs of each member;
- Building relationships with our local & global neighbors and engaging in outreach ministries that build community and seek justice; and
- Growing a culture of gratitude, reflected in financial stewardship & care for our excellent staff.

RPC has 16 existing local outreach ministries, many of which were started within our membership & are sustained by dedicated volunteers. We now desire to expand our notion of outreach in a way that builds bridges and helps the diverse communities in & around our campus to know, love and serve each other better. We seek to deepen relationships between RPC and our neighbors, utilize our campus as a means of outreach, expand volunteer engagement & broaden our RPC community. Pursuing these goals, while honoring the sense of fellowship, tradition & service that has long made RPC special, will be the charge of this associate pastor.

How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency:

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RPC has always addressed local, regional and global concerns. We provided respite for WWII sailors, supported desegregation in Jacksonville, built affordable senior housing and Habitat for Humanity homes, established recovery homes for addicted men and women, embraced LGBTQ+ individuals, created enrichment & sports programs for Jacksonville children of diverse ethnicities and incomes, started a school rooted in faith, partnered with nonprofits to support the homeless and struggling, championed economic programs for Haiti, tackled citywide social justice issues with area churches and set aside funds for missions.

Today, we remain a mission-oriented church that shows Christ's love in the broken, bewildering world around us. Our gifted members—teachers, musicians, cooks, artists, homemakers, builders, caregivers, nonprofit leaders, medical and business professionals, and energetic youth—relish hands-on volunteering in more than 16 programs serving the homeless, hungry, elderly, disabled, children and the environment. Revised 3/2016 58760014;3

While we are deeply committed to our outreach ministries and our city-wide youth athletic programs, we also feel called to outreach that pursues diversity and confronts social injustice. We dream of new opportunities that will spark deep connections to RPC throughout our community (including among non-members, young adults, and youth), expand member involvement, and help our church become more reflective of the diverse community in which it is situated

How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals:

Our associate pastor will help members build bridges between RPC & our community by:

- Knowing our neighborhood deeply. Building relationships within our vibrant Five Points neighborhood (business owners; all who frequent the shops/restaurants/bars; people experiencing homelessness) and throughout Jacksonville.
- Increasing engagement through relationships and partnerships. Helping members build relationships well (listening before leading, seeking to understand people's strengths rather than deficiencies/needs, and navigating challenges related to class, race, orientation and differences that arise as meaningful relationships are built).
- Ensuring our campus is hospitable to our community. Ensuring the new Family Life Center being planned with RPDS benefits the community as much as members & students, and finding creative ways to make our campus inviting on weekend evenings when our neighborhood is alive but our campus is often dark.
- Helping RPC broaden our understanding of who we are. Thinking of "our church" not primarily in terms of our membership, but our community (who may not all "join the church"), and ensuring all in our community feel embraced, valued & connected.
- Engaging members and community in outreach. Setting a theological foundation that will influence members' ideas about what it means to follow Jesus & live out their faith, and coordinating specific outreach efforts & recruiting participation.

Doing so will help RPC truly be a Movement for Reconciliation

Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and or organization:

Important characteristics in our new pastor include:

- Robust missional theology and a desire to incorporate it into all aspects of RPC's local and regional ministries;
- High emotional intelligence and relationship-building skills;
- An outgoing nature;
- An aptitude for initiating conversations with and understanding people of diverse backgrounds and experiences;
- Willingness to listen, and an eye for seeing not just deficiencies and needs in the community, but also abilities and strengths upon which relationships can develop (an asset-based approach to community-building);
- Creative, out-of-the-box thinking and willingness to try new things, even if they are novel to those with traditional views of church;
- A willingness to serve God at a "purple church" and an ability to engage people with different views thoughtfully and pastorally;
- Willingness to invest in relationships, including with people who do not intend to join the official membership of the church, do not go to church, or have been hurt by the church;
- Ability to build enthusiasm and to recruit and equip members for new and existing outreach missions;
- Ability to build collaborations and partnerships with other organizations and community leaders;
- Patience and flexibility; and Revised 3/2016 58760014;3
- Prior experience as a missional pastor OR experience in asset-based community development or a community-based nonprofit or organization

What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

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Our new associate pastor will:

- Deepen relationships & collaboration between RPC members & neighbors in Five Points, Riverside & greater Jacksonville (global missions is not the focus of this position);
- Be visible in the community off-campus (e.g., work from local coffee shop);
- Represent the church on relevant local committees & coordinate church participation in local festivities & causes that support the common good;
- Build relationships with other churches & faith communities;
- Oversee (with RPDS) use of new Family Life Center for church missions in a way that meets the expressed needs/desires of our community, not just members & school families;
- Lead efforts to make our campus more inviting & inclusive and to make the campus itself a means of outreach;
- Staff support/supervision for local outreach/missions including Meals on Wheels, Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, Reviving Baseball in the Inner City, RPC Basketball League, Lunch Buddies, Caring Tree, Children's Enrichment Workshop, Sulzbacher Center, Sanctuary on 8th Street, HabiJax, Trinity Food Pantry, ICARE, Earth Care, PSM & new partnerships that may develop;
- Staff support for Matthew 25 initiative;
- Lead & facilitate conversations within the congregation about difficult subjects fairly & thoughtfully;
- Periodic preaching (+/- 8 weeks/year) and assist with other pastoral duties (e.g. pastoral care, teaching); and
- Attend and, if needed, lead meetings (e.g. Presbytery, Session, staff meetings).

Optional Links:

<http://www.rpcjax.org>

Leadership Competencies:

Compassionate

Public Communicator

Risk Taker

Organizational Agility

Strategy and Vision

Collaboration

Interpersonal Engagement

Bridge Builder

Motivator

Flexibility

Compensation and Housing: Cost of Living Calculator

Minimum Effective Salary: \$50,000

Housing Type: Housing Allowance

References:

Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
Katherine Cooke Kerr	1000 East Moorehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28204 _	(704) 651-4406	n Guest Preacher, former member_	katherineckerr@gmail.com
Bill Scheu	P.O. Box 696, Montreat, NC 28757	904-673-1720	Elder and Trustee	scheusw@bellsouth.net
Reverend Michelle Thomas- Bush	2501 Oxford Place, Charlotte, NC 28207	704-376-3695 (O); 704-927	RPC Associate Pastor	mthomas- bush@myersparkpres.org

Has the Pastor Nominating Committee and Search committee affirmed its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?

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Yes

Version Track Info: This MIF was last updated on 01/27/2022

Self-referral Contact Information

PNC: Jim Riley

Address 849 Park Street Jacksonville, FL 32204

Daytime Phone 904-346-5752

Office Phone 904-355-4585 (Church)

Fax

Email apnc@rpcjax.org