



## Ministry General Information

Ministry Name	Presbytery	Synod
Downtown Presbyterian Church	Trinity	South Atlantic
Email	Preferred Phone	Website Address
connect@downtownchurch.me	803-875-0156	www.downtownchurch.me
Mailing Address	Alternate Phone/Email	Community Type
2030 Gregg St, Columbia, SC 29201		
Congregation or Organization Size	Curriculum	Average Worship Attendance
Church School Attendance		
Intercultural Composition		
White: 94%, Black/African American/African: 3%, Multiracial: 1%, Hispanic/Latinx: 1%, Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian: 1%		

## Information about the Position

### Position Requirements

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Position Type(s)	Language Requirements
Associate Pastor (Other)	English
Experience Required	Statement of Faith required?

No Experience/First Ordained Call

Yes

Specify Title / PT Work Hours (if applicable)

Are you open to a clergy couple?

No

Associate Pastor

Employment Status

Full-time

## Ministry Requirements

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### Church Mission/Vision Statement

The city is always changing. Traffic swells, leaves collect in the gutter, roads get a shiny new asphalt face. Our landscapes look different, season to season and day by day. On our journey with Jesus, we, too, are portraits of constant change.

DOWNTOWN CHURCH is a community of unfinished people in Columbia, SC. We seek God through moments of authentic connection and unexpected beauty. We approach worship with thoughtful curiosity, playfulness, and creativity.

We believe our story is bigger than Sunday mornings - it's happening all over our city as we share our individual journeys of faith. Rooted in the richness of our Presbyterian (PCUSA) tradition, we worship together with joy. Christ calls us to a life of change.

It is our hope to always look different.

### Tasks, expectations, duties, supervision, assignments, and responsibilities for the position

- Many teaching duties, including drafting some curriculum
- Overseeing faith formation and mission opportunities
- Forging and maintaining meaningful community partnerships
- Some managing of staff
- Some preaching
- Some pastoral care
- Leading the Sacraments on a regular basis

## Compensation & Housing

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Minimum Effective Salary

65000

Housing Type

Housing allowance

## MDP - Narratives

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How would you describe the congregation's/organization's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

God promises us a new kingdom one day – a new kingdom right here on Earth. A place ruled by peace, love, and joy where heartache, grief, pain, tears, and war cease to exist. We don't know when that new kingdom will come in full, but until then, we're determined to make our corner of downtown Columbia look a bit more like it. What happens when fighting among family and co-workers is replaced with love? What happens when we are free to love without expecting anything in return? What happens when we respond in peace and kindness to difficult people and circumstances? Each time we choose the way of Jesus we begin to resemble the coming Kingdom of God.

DOWNTOWN CHURCH is an experience that's not easy to put into words. Instead of offering you a laundry list of stuff we do and don't believe, we'd rather you come and see it for yourself. But still, there are a few things that guide the way we worship, the way we work, and the way people become a part of the church

- a. We welcome and celebrate all people. Come as you are.
- b. We worship Jesus with curiosity, creativity, and playfulness.
- c. We are unfinished.

How would you describe the congregation's/organization's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

We utilize the Entrepreneurial Operating System to outline our vision and track it.

What is the nature and context of the community in which your congregation lives out its mission/vision? How will you address the emerging needs that are impacting your community?

We are downtown. Not because demographic and marketing studies told us there was room for one more church. We chose downtown because we love Columbia, and we want to use our gifts and talents and relationships to compel meaningful change in this city. That means we must embrace the challenges and opportunities present outside our front door. It also means we must be willing to face injustice even if it comes from our powerful downtown neighbors in business, government, and education. If we are not careful, church – especially one downtown – can become just another place of busyness. And aren't we busy enough already? Slowing down, spending time with family, lingering over a meal together, these are all things that we value and are committed to living out. This means that when we meet it matters, we aren't afraid to sunset a program for a season or more, and anytime we are able we try to eat when we meet. We believe that conversations, and meals together, invite others in to find a place of belonging.

We feel called to help each person in our church figure out what faithfulness means in the context of their life, how the immutable characteristics of God manifest themselves in an ever-changing world, and how faithfulness can be transformative, mend our brokenness, and bring about the Kingdom of Heaven.

At Downtown Church, you will break bread with young entrepreneurs, Ethiopian mothers, bankers turned musicians, and kids of every age. There are lots of babies here that need you to sprinkle the waters of baptism and proclaim Christ's promise to them.

How will this call help complement the responsibilities of other staff/volunteer positions, and the life of the congregation/organization, so that you may accomplish your short and long-term goals for ministry?

When we gather, we take time to listen for God's voice. Slowing down to connect with each other— we consider God's design for this church. We want to be thoughtful, inclusive, and different. We choose to meet people where they are. But even while we stretch, we are careful not to dismiss the ancient and timeless practices of faith that are still around for a reason.

Just over eleven years ago, we started doing church. Through this process we've developed a culture, and the first value that formed was simple: Scale One Person at a Time.

The magic of technology coupled with the pressure to sustain momentum and grow can confuse any entrepreneur. What's easier, to blast an e-newsletter to hundreds of people from a computer, or to sit in a coffee shop with one person and share your vision over a conversation?

Each day we answer this question. This may happen slowly, but when real relationships are the product you are pushing, relating to actual people is a good start.

Creating opportunities for members and staff to strengthen relationships with each other and God is essential for meaningful growth. We must be able to care for those in our community when they are in need, and as we grow, that need will grow too. We also must cultivate the curiosity and faithfulness of the younger individuals in our community. Our hope is that the person who fills this role will help expand these opportunities by working in close relationships with the other pastor(s) and staff.

Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have, to lead the congregation towards the vision and mission established.

The people who gather to worship God at Downtown Church are smart. Really smart as well as discerning and curious. Anything less than thoughtful, insightful preaching and teaching is a nonstarter. Also, if your jokes are bad, they better be so bad they're good. Our community is gracious and kind, but don't be fooled by the folding chairs, their standards are high.

Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have, to lead the congregation towards the vision and mission established.

Many of us are skeptical of any dogma that limits the expansiveness of God's grace or marginalizes God's people because of their gender or sexual preference. We value our connection to PCUSA.

The right Associate Pastor will be patient, deliberate, authentic, and approachable enough to cultivate meaningful relationships with individuals inside and outside our church – and never scared to get started. An entrepreneurial spirit and some flexibility are a must for a church with an innovative worship space.

Our unique, creative, collaborative approach and circumstances also require a disciplined and organized method to the work of the church, marked by open, effective, professional communications with church leaders and staff.

As much as anything, this notion of scaling one person at a time means our Associate Pastor should be able to foster deep personal connections while engaging and caring for God's people who call Downtown Church home.

What areas of ministry do you expect the person called to be responsible for? Share specific tasks, assignments, and programs.

- Many teaching duties, including drafting some curriculum
- Overseeing faith formation and mission opportunities
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- Some managing of staff
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- Leading the Sacraments on a regular basis

## Optional Links

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Stories +

Stones - - <https://www.downtownchurch.me/storiesstones>

Downtown

Church - - <https://www.downtownchurch.me>

Instaaram - Downtown

## References

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Reference #1

Lucas Jones  
Former Associate  
Pastor

Reference #2

Sarah Disasa  
Previous Member /  
Spouse of former Co-

Reference #3

Lindsay Joyner  
Previous APNC  
Chair/Elder

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