



Ministry General Information

Ministry Name	Presbytery	Synod
First Presbyterian Church	Peace River	South Atlantic
Email	Preferred Phone	Website Address
rmartin@firstpressarasota.org	941-955-8119	www.firstpressarasota.org
Mailing Address	Alternate Phone/Email	Community Type
2050 Oak St, Sarasota, FL 34237-7093		Small City
Congregation or Organization Size	Curriculum	Average Worship Attendance
401-650 members	Living the Word	175
Church School Attendance		
25		
Intercultural Composition		
White: 98%, Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian: 1%, Black/African American/African: 1%		

Information about the Position

Position Requirements

Position Type(s)

Christian Educator (non-certified)

Other Training

Experience Required

5 to 10 Years

training and experience in Christian Education

Specify Title / PT Work Hours (if applicable)

Director of Christian Education

Language Requirements

English

Employment Status

Full-time

Statement of Faith required?

Yes

Are you open to a clergy couple?

No

Ministry Requirements

Church Mission/Vision Statement

Our Mission

We believe we are called to faithfully serve the Lord Jesus Christ, giving glory to God.

Our Vision

We desire to be a leading, faithful, witnessing, diverse and growing community of God's people.

Our Core Values

- **Leading**

We have an ongoing tradition of leadership in the community. We are committed to meeting the ever-changing spiritual and physical needs of our community.

- **Faithful**

Our life together centers on vibrant worship and praise as we glorify God.

We are a dynamic community of faith – reformed and always reforming.

We strive to be faithful managers of the gifts that God has provided for us.

· **Witnessing**

Through compassionate service and working for justice, we share the hope we have in Jesus Christ seeking to become spiritual partners with our neighbors.

· **Diverse**

As a community of Jesus Christ, we unconditionally welcome all people, in the manner of our Lord and Savior.

· **Growing**

We seek spiritual growth for children and adults through prayer, the teaching and study of Scripture, and the sharing of our faith's journey.

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

In collaboration with and under the supervision of the Education and Formation Committee, the DCE will design, implement and maintain all Christian Education ministry initiatives. Through contact ministry, programs, and activities, they will work to foster inter-generational relationships and encourage connections inside and outside our congregation. The DCE will also be in charge of the following:

- Coordinate the weekly, monthly, and annual operation of the children, youth, and adult Sunday School programs, choosing curriculum, and ordering necessary supplies and equipment.
- Maintain and organize any physical church spaces used in connection with education and formation.
- Plan and lead retreats and mission trips for youth, laying a foundation of faith that carries them into adulthood.

- Coordinate with the Mission and Justice Committee to encourage local, regional, national, and international partnerships and ministries of the church, including children and youth whenever possible.
- Effectively communicate with the parents of children and youth, the Pastor, the congregation as a whole, preschool, and the community using all available platforms. This includes responsibility for the weekly youth and families newsletter.

Compensation & Housing

Minimum Effective Salary

55000

Housing Type

Non-pastoral

MDP - Narratives

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?

Our vision is to be a leading, faithful, witnessing, diverse, and growing community of God's people.

1. *Leading*: Our leadership tradition commits us to meeting the ever-changing needs of our community.
2. *Faithful*: Our life together centers on vibrant worship as a dynamic faith community, reformed and always reforming. We strive to faithfully manage God's gifts.
3. *Witnessing*: Through compassionate service and justice work, we witness our hope in Jesus Christ to our neighbors.
4. *Diverse*: We unconditionally welcome all people in the manner of our Lord and Savior.
5. *Growing*: We seek spiritual growth for all through prayer, Scripture study, and sharing our faith journey.

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?

Our leadership has served the church and community for 114 years. We have birthed eight sister congregations. We co-founded City Kids, Caritas, Family Promise, and Resurrection House. We continue to support Rise Against Hunger, All Faiths Food Bank, S.U.R.E. (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity), Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Mision Peniel, Invest in Children at Brentwood Elementary School, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Cedarkirk, and Thornwell Home for Children. We celebrate interfaith worship services and host an inter-racial book club. Our global missions are a Cuba Partnership and Nicaragua/CEPAD.

We celebrate at one contemporary and one traditional Sunday Service. Our music program features the FPC Choir, New Song Band, Handbell Choir, and Oak Street Stage performances.

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?

First Presbyterian Church is committed to Christ and to meeting the evolving needs of our community. The passion of this congregation for outreach is exemplified by its continued support of our many missions, even when we could not gather and were working through a leadership transition.

In 2020, FPC held food and supply drives for residents of Newtown, a nearby economically disadvantaged community, and for Beth-El. We support All Faiths Food Bank through donations, volunteers, and the use of our campus for distribution. These programs are a direct response to growing community needs.

FPC is a member of SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity) whose mission is to unite people of faith in holding community systems accountable to Godly standards in criminal justice, affordable housing, and restorative practices. Mentoring and support for children at a local Title I elementary school is provided by 35 FPC volunteers. We support Cedarkirk, Camp and Conference Center which leverages the support of two presbyteries to provide summer camps and program space for

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charities serving underprivileged children and adults. In late 2020, we resumed partnership with Family Promise, helping temporarily homeless families transition to self-sufficiency.

In large part, our outreach is focused on families. We see the Director of Christian Education integrating the youth and family ministry into established programs and bringing initiative and passion to create new avenues of outreach.

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?

This call will provide much-needed help and support with our programs and ministries to children, youth, and adults. Up until three years ago, we had a full-time associate pastor who oversaw the educational and formational ministries of the church. Now most of that work is falling on volunteer members of the committee. We need a dedicated and trained educator to guide us in putting together and sustaining a program of intentional faith formation for disciples of all ages and stages of faith. We also need someone to serve as staff liaison/bridge-builder with our preschool board and Mission and Justice Committee.

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 Director of Christian Education will need a set of personal attributes, skills, and background qualifications that complement our congregation's values and enhance the mission of FPC of Sarasota. This individual should be enthusiastic, faithful, and have a passion for building community. They'll need to be self-motivated, organized, compassionate, and creative with a willingness to collaborate. The DCE will offer a thoughtful approach to equipping families and volunteer leaders to be faith supporters in their roles. This person must be reliable, patient, and take

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the time to listen to staff and congregation members. Key to the position is the ability to attract, engage, and inspire people of varying ages and backgrounds to learn and grow in their faith. Additionally, applicants to the position of DCE must have a 4-year college degree and, preferably, a CE concentration certification. This individual should have 5+ years of Church leadership experience. Their personal theology and core values should align with the vision and mission of both the Presbyterian Church (USA) and FPC Sarasota. The DCE must possess excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, and demonstrate proficiency with social media, technology, and standard office software programs.

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

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Optional Links

First Presbyterian

Church - church

website - <https://firstpressarasota.org/>

FPC News at First - Weekly

Newsletter - <https://firstpressarasota.org/news/weekly/>

References

Reference #1

Rev. Margaret
LaMotte Torrence
former interim pastor
828-712-7188
mltprrence@gmail.com

Reference #2

Rev. Craig Miller
former interim
minister
919-815-6587
craigmiller0324@gmail.com

Reference #3

Dick Wigton
former church
member and former
chair of Deacons
207-415-3956
rbwigs@gmail.com

Self-Referral Contact Information

COM

Melana Scruggs

Email Address

melana@peacriverpresbytery.org

EP

Melana Scruggs

Email Address

melana@peacriverpresbytery.org

PNC

Elaine Barnett & Joanne Simons

Address

First Presbyterian Church 2050 Oak
Street Sarasota Florida 34237

Preferred Phone

EB 941-792-0670 or 941-224-
2697; JS 703-798-7330

Alternate Phone or Email

EB- ewbarnet@icloud.com; JS
SimonsJC1@gmail.com
DCEsearch@firstpressarasota.com

Email Address

EB- ewbarnet@icloud.com; JS
SimonsJC1@gmail.com