



Ministry General Information

Ministry Name	Presbytery	Synod
First Presbyterian Church	Cherokee	South Atlantic
Email	Preferred Phone	Website Address
office@firstpresdalton.org	706-278-8161	www.firstpresdalton.org
Mailing Address	Alternate Phone/Email	Community Type
PO Box 489, Dalton, GA 30722-0489		Small City
Congregation or Organization Size	Curriculum	Average Worship Attendance
101-250 members	Children: Godly Play and Spark Adults: various	61
Church School Attendance		
49		
Intercultural Composition		
White: 96%, Middle Eastern/North African: 1%, Black/African American/African: 1%, Hispanic/Latinx: 1%, Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian: 1%		

Information about the Position

Position Requirements

Position Type(s)	Language Requirements
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Solo Pastor: Installed

English

Experience Required

Statement of Faith required?

2 to 5 Years

Yes

Employment Status

Are you open to a clergy couple?

Full-time

No

Ministry Requirements

Church Mission/Vision Statement

Love First, Love All

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

Plan and execute worship for Sundays and special services: Preach Sundays when present; Supervise Director of Music in planning; Oversee Office Manager in resourcing and promoting services; Work with Worship Team to resource services; Officiate weddings and funerals. Provide pastoral care to congregation: Visit members who are sick, bereaved, or in need of pastoral care; Visit and make communion available for members unable to attend regularly; Be available for pastoral counseling; Work with Congregational Life Team to support families in need; Maintain an active, pastoral presence in the life of the congregation, participating in fellowship and mission activities; Welcome visitors, new members, lead onboarding efforts. Lead Staff and administration of church ministries: Moderate session; Train and support elders as they lead session teams; Work with all session teams as needed; Work with ad hoc committees (e.g., organ, Montreat, security); Oversee Director of Music and Office Manager; Support church stewardship and work with church treasurer; Support nominating committee and process; Actively participate in Cherokee Presbytery. Promote Spiritual growth: Pray for the church and its members Teach Sunday School and Bible study regularly; Support youth ministry and teach as requested; Promote special educational opportunities; Resource Christian Education Team; Maintain personal disciplines of study and growth; Maintain work-life balance.

Compensation & Housing

Minimum Effective Salary

70000

Housing Type

Housing allowance

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?

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church Dalton aspires to embody God's love through community, openness, and hospitality. Our community of faith worships the Triune God through proclaiming and studying the Word; actively participating in liturgical traditions; having a traditional form of worship, with sacred music as a component; sharing life's joys and challenges with care, encouragement, and fellowship; and reaching out through mission to serve the needs of those in our greater community. Though we are a mature congregation, we are committed to being open, to learning through study and prayer, and respecting one another's opinions as we seek to know God at a deeper level. We are a warm and friendly congregation, reflecting the love of Jesus Christ, firmly believing that all belong, and generous with our gifts and resources. Having recently joined the denomination's Matthew 25 Initiative, we believe our diverse non-church community allows us opportunities to "build congregational vitality, work to end structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty." We look forward with great anticipation for God's will to be lived out in our midst.

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?

Greater Dalton is a community of about 104,000 residents where the average household income is about 20% below the Georgia average. Because of many available manufacturing jobs, the community has undergone considerable demographic changes over the last 30 years, which have resulted in many needs. Though small in number, our congregation takes seriously our commitment to serve the needs of those within both our congregation and the community at large. We have identified exacerbated needs in the community including food insecurity and language barriers. Having recognized the educational impacts of the various situations that exist in our community, our very active Missions Team has led our congregation in supporting educational initiatives through partnerships with local schools and a variety of other community outreach programs like The Book Spot to provide books at a Title 1 School and supporting local free book giveaways during the summer at free lunch locations and concerts. Our physical location downtown provides some opportunities for outreach spanning from providing food staples in our Little Free Pantry to use of our facilities for concerts and recitals. Our volunteerism is at the heart of our call to the Great Commandment to which Jesus has called us: to love God and our neighbor. We are excited to include elements of Matthew 25 into our Worship by Mission Focused services like a recent Love Your Neighbor service. We are committed to Love First, Love All.

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?

As with many churches coming out of the pandemic, we saw an overall decrease in participation. We seek a pastor to help us find ways to reenergize, to include a more diverse membership, and provide guidance as we consider who we are as a church and individually as followers of Christ. Our congregation seeks to be the hands and feet of Christ and look for the person who will collaborate with our Mission Team to find ways to share the light of Christ with our community and the world. We desire a pastor who will help provide vision and guidance as we seek to embrace the Matthew 25 goals through working with our Christian Education

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?

Team to identify and share in congregational and community educational opportunities. Our Church is blessed with a recently renovated, debt-free facility that allows us to exert our full energies to programming and external ministries. Our church has enjoyed a robust Music Ministry throughout our history and hopes for a pastor who will enjoy working with our music program to continue to provide worship that integrates sacred music and classical musicians. As we reflect upon the recent celebration of our 175th anniversary in October 2022, we can not only look back at our history and legacy in our community, but also look forward to future opportunities to answer God's call for us.

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.

First Presbyterian Church Dalton seeks a pastor who can build solid relationships with all ages, and engage our members to prayerfully consider our weaknesses, while joyfully celebrating our strengths. We are looking for a good communicator, with the skills to help us discern our calling in Christ. Though we are open to a variety of worship styles, we gravitate toward more structured, traditional services, which includes preaching that both challenges and teaches us through stories and scholarship, and sacred music that lifts our hearts to sing praises. We seek a person who is organized, enthusiastic, and warm, who can inspire the best efforts of our congregation, while also providing care and compassion. Our proximity to both Chattanooga and Atlanta allows for access to additional amenities for a minister and his/her family. While not required, Spanish language skills would be a welcome addition as we increase our community outreach. We seek a pastor who is willing to be engaged in the community and open to partnerships with other local congregations and organizations to multiply our efforts. We pray as a church that God will send us the person he has chosen to shepherd us through our next chapter, a person willing to "feed My lambs" and "tend My sheep."

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

The position is a permanent solo pastor, who is responsible for: 1) all aspects of worship and will serve as Moderator of the Session; 2) the spiritual needs of the congregation through a caring ministry; 3) assisting congregational leadership with teaching, administration, communication, finance, and fellowship; 4) administrative supervision of six part-time staff; 5) providing a steady and trustworthy hand to build strong relationships within the congregation and the community at large; 6) connecting on a personal level with current and prospective members; and 7) assisting in refining our strategy and vision as we move forward with hope. While we hope for our minister to actively engage in community activities and philanthropic organizations, we do not require him/her to become an activist on behalf of the church for either political and/or social causes. Our new pastor, denominationally loyal, thoroughly educated and able to articulate the various and differing perspectives on issues that arise, will be able to lead us toward a grounded scriptural and spiritual understanding of changing thought.

List any links that support the answers to your narratives or highlights ministries within your church/organization.

<https://firstpresdalton.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresDalton/>
<https://www.daltonga.gov/> <https://www.whitfieldcountyga.com/>
<https://daltonstate.edu/> <https://daltonchamber.org/>
<https://www.dailycitizen.news/>

Optional Links

References

Reference #1

Tom Brown
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Reference #2

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Reference #3

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