



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

CHURCH INFORMATION FORM

The Ministerial Vocation Committee and the Office of the Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church are responsible for denominational vocational services. As part of the process of “matching” ministers and congregations, the Office of the Stated Clerk provides resources and advice to both pastors and congregational search committees. To that end, we ask congregations and ministers to complete information forms as an introduction to each other, and a first step in the process of calling a minister for a congregation. For both the individual pastor and the congregation, this is an opportunity for self-study and for evaluation of current ministry and goals. This calls for honesty, effort, and commitment to open communication.

The Church Information Form presents the local congregation’s history, challenges, and goals. It is our hope that this will be of help in facilitating the search process, assisting the church in focusing on future directions and pastors in gaining some sense of the nature and uniqueness of this congregation.

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Please return completed form to:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
ATTN: OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510
Orlando, FL 32822

Phone: 407-930-4239
Fax: 407-930-4247
E-mail: info@epc.org





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Part 1: Church Information

1. Church Name River Community Church

Address 36367 Perkins Road

Prairieville, LA 70769

Telephone (225) 744-4367 Fax (225) 744-4369

E-mail info@rivercommunity.org Website rivercommunity.org

2. Presbytery: Gulf South

Presbytery Ministerial Committee Liaison _____

3. Search Committee Chairman Dana Sutton

Address 10615 Jaybird Lane

Baton Rouge, LA 70817

E-mail dana@rivercommunity.org

Telephone (225) 931-1275

4. List all paid staff positions (use additional sheet if necessary)

Pastor _____

Full time Part time

Director of Worship and Communications _____

Full time Part time

Full time Part time

Full time Part time

Full time Part time

Full time Part time

Full time Part time

Full time Part time

Full time Part time

Full time Part time



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5. List all vacant positions

Position Available Pastor Date of Vacancy 7/1/2020

Position Available _____ Date of Vacancy _____

Position Available _____ Date of Vacancy _____

6. Membership (state approximate numbers and percentages)

	Five years ago	Currently
A. Number of church members	<u>99</u>	<u>81</u>
B. Number of family units	<u>51</u>	<u>47</u>
C. Worship attendance	<u>132</u>	<u>50</u>

7. Community Growth Increasing Static Declining

8. Profile of church members

A. Age:

0 % 0-11 7 % 12-18 3 % 19-24 5 % 25-34
14 % 35-49 41.5 % 50-64 28.5 % 65+

B. Occupation:

14 % Business 32 % Professional 4 % Trades
0 % Agriculture 4 % Stay-at-Home Parent 33 % Retired
14 % Other (Please Specify) Students

C. Educational level of adults

0 % some high school 10 % high school 70 % college 20 % graduate school

D. Percentage of members belonging to the congregation

Less than one year 0 %
5 years or less 37 %
6-10 years 19 %
10 years or more 44 %



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9. Racial/Ethnic composition of:

A. **Congregation**

1 % African-American 2.5 % Asian 95.5 % Caucasian 1 % Hispanic
_____ % Other (Specify) _____

B. **Community** (within 5-mile radius of church)

9.9 % African-American 2.2 % Asian 81.6 % Caucasian _____ % Hispanic
6.3 % Other (Specify) Two or more races, other

10. Community Setting (check as many as apply):

Location

Rural Small Town Metropolitan Suburban Inner City

Function

Industrial Agricultural Recreational Military College/University

Approximate population of community 31,000

11. Church Programming—Worship

A. **Worship Time**

10:30

Average Worship Attendance

40 + 10 online (Covid)

B. Frequency of communion celebration: 52 per year

C. How are members involved in planning and participation in the liturgy/worship?

n/a



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D. Style of liturgy used in your worship (e.g., traditional, contemporary, variety)

Christ focused worship (Traditional/variety)

E. Type of music used in worship (e.g., traditional, contemporary, variety)

Contemporary/Variety - Worship band

12. Church Programming—Sunday School

A. Average attendance in Church School (under 18 years) 0

B. Average attendance in Adult Education (Sunday) 10

13. Church Programming—Organizations/Committees

List major boards, committees, and organizations that are part of your church and frequency of meetings (monthly, weekly, etc.)

Name	Purpose of Group	Number of members	Frequency of meetings	Leadership Role*
Diaconate	Compassion ministry; Maintenance of church facilities	3	monthly	3
Outreach	Local outreach	4	as needed	*
Discipleship	Spiritual education of adults and children	3	as needed	*
Missions	Foreign Missions	3	as needed	*
Resources/Security	Personnel	3	as needed	*
				*
*Each committee has an Elder assigned as leader				

*Indicate leadership role expected by using the number below:

1. Pastor takes primary initiative and responsibility.
2. Pastor and laity share responsibility.
3. Laity takes primary initiative and responsibility.



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Part 2: Financial/Church Campus Information

1. Current annual budget: \$ 300,000 (2020) Last year's annual budget: \$ 335,000 (2019)
(Attach a copy of current budget)

2. Percentage of income received toward budget: 62 %

3. Amount contributed for year 2019 (most recent complete reporting year)

A. EPC Per Member Asking \$ 1311

B. EPC World Outreach Global Workers \$ 6,000

C. EPC Special Projects \$ _____

D. Presbytery Per Member Asking \$ 1,120

E. Other Missions/Missionaries \$ 3,500

4. Property owned by church

A. Describe buildings and property (other than manse).

Beautiful white metal building constructed in 2003 containing Sanctuary, education wing, and offices that sits on 14 acres of land surrounded by subdivisions.

B. Are your buildings adequate for your present program? Yes No
If no, please explain:

C. Is a building program projected? Yes No
If yes, describe what, when, and projected cost

D. Does the church own a manse? Yes No

Condition: Good Fair Poor # of Bedrooms _____

Pastor's Office/Study: In Church In Manse Not Provided

Other _____



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6. Compensation:

A. The salary range we are prepared to offer:

Position: Pastor \$ 55K-70K (includes Housing Allowance)

Position: _____ \$ _____

Position: _____ \$ _____

B. The average annual increase over the past three years is:

Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %

Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %

Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %

Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %

C. Housing

Housing Allowance

Manse Only

Either of the Above

D. Benefits and expenses

11 Pension (minimum 10% gross effective salary)

yes Medical insurance

yes Life insurance

50% SECA Social Security

_____ Travel/mileage

_____ Book allowance

2 weeks Study leave allowance (minimum 2 weeks)

4 weeks Annual vacation days (minimum 4 weeks)

_____ Number of worship services per year for which pastor is provided relief
(in addition to vacation and study leave)

_____ Other (Specify: _____)



Part 3: Church Characteristics

Check the box that most closely describes the current congregation characteristics and future goals

Our congregation...	Currently				Goal			
	Agree		Disagree		Agree		Disagree	
1. Supports the pastor.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2. Readily shares their gifts with the rest of the congregation.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
3. Places a high priority on sound biblical preaching.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
4. Gladly welcomes visitors and new members.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
5. Is involved in local evangelistic ministries.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
6. Is often found living their faith in their communities.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
7. Has a spirit of unity.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
8. Cares about each other.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
9. Looks to its Session for leadership.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
10. Ministers well to members who are hurting.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
11. Uses members' gifts in its worship.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
12. Contains people willing and able to lead the congregation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
13. Is capable of change when and where appropriate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
14. Is spiritually alive.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4



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15. In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

We participate in 40 Days for Life which is an inter-denominational global pro-life prayer ministry. Since moving into our building in 2003, we have shared our building with other ministries and denominations. We currently share our office space with a member of Intervarsity staff. We allowed a small school to meet in our Education wing for several years. A larger Catholic school has also used our building.

16. Describe the strengths of your congregation.

God has used the struggles of the last few years to develop our small congregation into a group of people who are committed to one another and to spiritual growth through sound biblical teaching. Our women, in particular, stand out as a strength of our church as they form deep friendships through Bible study and caring for one another in times of need. Our congregation is loyal, faithful, and welcoming.

17. List specific problems with which your congregation struggles.

The size of our congregation has declined significantly over the past decade. At this time, over 70% of our congregation is over 50 years old which does not represent the demographic of the surrounding area. The outreach events over the past three years (Trunk or Treat, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Bonfire, VBS) were well attended, but have not resulted in new visitors or regular attenders at our worship service. We also lack a consistent, cohesive Men's Ministry.

18. List major goals that the congregation has set for itself.

N/A



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19. Has there ever been disciplinary action taken against a pastor of your congregation?

Yes No

20. Has there ever been any disciplinary action against an elder or deacon of your congregation?

Yes No

If you answered "Yes" to either 19 or 20, please explain.

Pastor Don M. Shipley was dismissed in June 2016 for an inappropriate relationship with a staff member.

21. Have you completed a mission statement, vision statement, and/or a strategic plan for your congregation?

Yes No

If yes, Date completed November 2020

If yes, attach copies of each statement or strategic plan the church has completed.



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Part 4: Leadership Expectations

1. What five key characteristics, gifts, and/or skills should a person bring to the position?

1. A man who fears God and is marked by humility. He is mature and emotionally secure, compassionate and caring.
2. A man with a passion for God's Word and values exegetical, expository preaching.
3. A man who genuinely loves people and enjoys engaging with his flock.
4. A man who is a skillful communicator and effective teacher.
5. A man who is trusted and reliable.



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Part 5: Church History

1. What do you consider to be the three most important events in the history of your church?

1. The planting of the church by First Presbyterian Baton Rouge in 2000.
2. Moving into our building and establishing ourselves as a separate congregation in 2003.
3. The untimely departure of the two Pastors that proceeded the founding Pastor. of River

2. What do you consider to be the most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years?

Like all churches, our community has been challenged by the global pandemic. As of December 2020, we still have members who are not comfortable with in-person worship and either join us online or do not participate at all. Our church was further challenged by the departure of our Pastor in the midst of the pandemic due to philosophy of ministry differences between the Pastor and the Session that the Pastor determined to be irreconcilable.



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Part 6: Other Information

1. List the last three individuals who held the position of Pastor

Name	Dates of Service
<u>Nathan Edwards</u>	<u>August 2017</u> to <u>July 2020</u>
<u>Don Shipley</u>	<u>January 2010</u> to <u>June 2016</u>
<u>Garnett Slatton</u>	<u>December 2000</u> to <u>October 2008</u>

2. Describe any significant factors about the church not covered in previous questions.

A significant factor at River is our Session. The Session at River is marked by a commitment to our church proven by their active leadership. These men lead our church with strength, humility and in unity, and are committed to working with the Pastor of the church.

Clerk of Session _____ Date _____

Search Committee Chair _____ Date _____

We encourage churches to list their vacancies on the Ministry Staff Opportunities webpage at www.epc.org/mso. For more information or to send your posting, email info@epc.org