



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

CHURCH INFORMATION FORM

Introduction

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 the completed document 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



(2) Occupation:

25% Business 22% Professional 8% Trades 0% Stay-at-home parent
0% Agriculture 45% Retired % Other (Specify: _____)

(3) Educational level of adults

4% some high school 40% high school 50% college 6% graduate school

(4) Percentage of members belonging to the congregation:

Less than one year 0%
5 years or less 24%
6-10 years 7%
10 years or more 69%

(5) Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation

 % Asian % Hispanic % African American 100% Caucasian
 % Other / Specify: _____

6. Worship

A.	Time	Average Attendance
	<u>10:00</u>	<u>38</u>
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

B. Frequency of communion celebration: 12-13 per year

C. How are members involved in planning and participation in the liturgy/worship?
Members plan and lead worship music with a music team (Joyful Noise) and choir. Members set up and run computer system. Deacons serve as greeters, elders serve communion and lead part or all of the worship service when the pastor is away, and have done so since pastor retired.

D. Style of liturgy used in your worship (e.g., traditional, contemporary, variety):
Our liturgy is traditional, and we follow the EPC Book of Worship as our guide.

E. Type of music used in worship (e.g., traditional, contemporary, variety):
We use a blend of traditional and contemporary music in worship, for both congregation participation and special music by the music team and choir.

7. Church/Sunday School

A. Average attendance in Church School (under 18 years) 2-3 per week

B. Average attendance in Adult Education (Sunday) N/A

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

- | <u>Location</u> | <u>Function</u> | <u>Growth</u> |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Growing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small town | <input type="checkbox"/> College/University | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Static |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metropolitan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Declining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inner City | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | |

Approximate population of community 1700 (township)

Racial/Ethnic composition of community:

 % Asian % Hispanic % African American % Caucasian

 % Other (Specify: not specifically known, primarily Caucasian)

9. Program Information: 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
Session	Church government	6	Monthly	2
Board of Deacons	Shepherding and care	5	Quarterly	3
Multiple Session Committees	Plan/perform activities in:	4 - 8 each	Quarterly	3
	Christian Ed, Worship,			
	Property, Missions, etc.			
Women's Group	Fellowship, devotional	8 - 10	Bimonthly	3
Church Breakfast	Fellowship, devotional	8 - 12	Monthly	3
Bible Study	Bible study	4-5	Weekly	3

*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.

Part 2: Building/Financial Information

1. Current annual budget: \$ 92,500 Last year's annual budget: \$ 87,125

(Please attach a copy of current budget)

2. Percentage of income received toward budget: 77 %

3. Amount contributed for (last complete reporting year: 2019):

A. EPC per member contribution \$ 1,081

B. EPC World Outreach Missionaries \$ 400

C. EPC Benevolence Askings \$ 580

D. Presbytery giving \$ 611

E. Other Missions/Missionaries \$ 4,027

4. Property owned by church

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

Our quaint church sits on 1.72 acres next to a small lake (Laurel Lake), and is adjoined by an historic cemetery. The church was built in 1846 and lovingly maintained as modern conveniences were added. The sanctuary seats 100 and has original oil lamps and a working antique pump organ, along with a modern digital keyboard, flat screen monitors and sound system. There is a fellowship room, a basement multi-purpose room, pastor study/office, and two bathrooms.

B. Are your buildings adequate for your present program?

Yes No If no, please explain:

Our church basement flooded in 2017, and we lost our kitchen and Sunday School rooms. We currently have a partial kitchen in the basement and use the remaining basement space for multiple functions (dining, meeting space, youth activities, etc.). However, this space can only accommodate about 50 people and is accessible only by stairs -- so, it is not accessible to everyone. The main floor fellowship room can accommodate about 20-25 people, standing. This puts constraints on our times of fellowship and on our community and youth outreach programs.

C. Is a building program projected?

Yes No If yes, describe what and when and projected cost:

The congregation is evaluating the feasibility of constructing an addition to the existing church structure. This addition would consist of an approximately 4500 sq. ft. space containing a main hall, kitchen, meeting room, etc. We envision this addition serving not only as an area for church/worship activities but also as a focal point for community events. A rough estimate for the cost of this addition is \$550,000.

D. Does the church own a manse?

Yes No

Condition: Good Fair Poor Number of bedrooms: _____

Office/study: In Church In Manse Not provided Other: _____

6. Compensation:

A. The salary range we are prepared to offer:

Position: Pastor \$ max pkg \$55,000 incl benefits

Position: _____ \$ _____

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

Position: Pastor \$ 2,480 or 10 %

Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %

C. Housing

Housing allowance

Manse only

Either of the above

D. Benefits and expenses:

10% of salary/hous Pension (minimum 10% gross effective salary)

Yes Medical insurance

_____ Life insurance

Yes Social Security

Reimb at IRS rate Travel/mileage

Yes Book allowance

1 week Study leave allowance

4 weeks Annual vacation

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

Yes Other (Specify: Contin.educ, phone allow., sabbatical)

Part III: Church Characteristics

Circle the number that most closely describes the current congregation characteristics and future goals:

Our congregation...	<u>Currently</u>				<u>Goal</u>			
	Agree		Disagree		Agree		Disagree	
1. Supports the pastor.	<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
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 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
4. Gladly welcomes visitors and new members.	<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
5. Is involved in local evangelistic ministries.	<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
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 type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
7. Has a spirit of unity.	<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
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 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
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 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
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

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

We enjoy an annual ecumenical worship service for Thanksgiving with the local Catholic parish, taking turns hosting. In the fall we hold a community Trunk or Treat, and during the summer we hold a community ice cream social and family Vacation Bible School. Our other outreach activities, such as our weekly youth program, Bible study, women's group, and men's breakfast, are open to all in the community as well. These events and activities bring in families and individuals of other faiths, as well as those who are not part of a church. We actively support the local Food Pantry, which is run by the Catholic parish, as well as many other local and worldwide Christian missions that are not denomination-specific. Some examples are Susquehanna County Interfaith, which provides support to families in need, the local Gideon's chapter, Samaritan's Purse, and Agape Flights.

16. Describe the strengths of your congregation:

We witnessed a tremendous spiritual growth during our transition from PC(USA) to EPC. As a result, our faith is stronger than ever and we can truly say that we are spiritually unified in Christ. We emphasize strong Biblical teaching in both our worship and outreach activities. As a whole, we are a warm and welcoming, friendly and inviting, supportive and non-judgmental body of believers with a strong sense of church FAMILY. Those who have made the commitment to become members have gone through classes that cover EPC doctrine and our Essentials of Faith -- and all have affirmed these unifying beliefs.

Though our pastor retired in September 2019, our congregation has remained strong with an unwavering faith in God's plan and perfect timing for our next leader. Elders and Deacons take turns leading the worship service each Sunday, while guest speakers (vetted by Session) deliver the sermon. Elders administer the Sacrament of Holy Communion quarterly. Because of the strong sense of church family, when any among us has a need, others respond. While we pray for our next pastor, in many ways God has blessed SLCCC more than ever during this time without one.

17. List specific problems with which your congregation struggles:

We have an aging congregation with few young families. And while we have grown a great deal spiritually, our membership has not yet grown as we hope and believe it someday will. We are a small but very active church and, with no paid staff other than the pastor, many roles and tasks must be filled and performed by the same group of volunteers.

18. List major goals that this congregation has set for itself:

Our major goals are to:

- Expand our facilities in a responsible way, so that we can better support our church mission and vision through community outreach programs and fellowship.
- Lead those who attend regularly to commit to active church membership.
- Encourage young families to join with us in worship and, increasingly, in overall church life.

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:

About 30 years ago, the pastor of our church was asked to leave by the Session. However, there are no members of Session from that time who are still living, and we do not know all of the details.

About 20 years ago, a church elder who was also a scout leader had an extra-marital affair. Because the church sponsored the scout troop, Session would not continue to support this elder as the scout leader. As a result, the elder left the church.

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

Yes Date: June 2, 2019 No

If yes, please attach copies.

Part 4: Leadership Expectations

22. What five key characteristics/gifts/skills should a person bring to the position?

We seek a person who is spiritually strong and demonstrates the ability to teach from a Biblical foundation. Our pastor must be a strong believer in, and defender of, Reformed theology.

We pray that our pastor will be able to show grace with Biblical truth and accountability, and that he or she be able to relate strong Biblical teaching to today's world and the listeners' lives.

We pray for a pastor who is approachable, caring, compassionate and patient.

Part 5: Church History

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

We have been incredibly blessed to experience one of the most important and joyful events in the life of our 204-year-old church -- finding our home in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in 2014, where we have been embraced with love and where we rejoice in knowing that we are unified in our beliefs. When we set out on our journey to seek dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA), we put our faith in God's wisdom and timing. The Holy Spirit led us as individuals and as a congregation in ways that were incredibly powerful! Our congregation vote to request dismissal from PC(USA) was unanimous. The journey brought us closer as a church family and made us stronger. Praise God!

Another significant milestone was our prayerful decision about 15 years ago to commit 10% of our general, non-designated offering income to missions. God has consistently blessed us with the resources to continue this!

The third most important event was becoming a year-round church in the 1960's, Prior to that, services were held only during the summer months.

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

In 2013, God put it upon our hearts to start a mid-week program for school-age youth (grades K through 12). We call it "The Blast" -- and it IS a blast! It continues to be the most interesting, exciting, and challenging part of our church life, and it is so rewarding. The program consists of a Bible-based lesson, memory verses, praise music, activities (such as crafts and games), and a meal. The children are from our community and come from different environments. We have seen them mature not only physically and in knowledge, but in Christ! We have witnessed the older children mentoring the younger ones. They have learned that they can come and find friendship, love and security. Some challenges have been keeping the youth involved and interested at times, and getting their parents involved, such as coming out for family night. Sometimes the parents plan something else for them on our regular scheduled evening. The children are not the only ones who have benefited from the program. Those of us who are leaders have enjoyed this program immensely. It has helped us to grow spiritually. God has richly blessed us!

Part 6: Other Information

1. List the last three persons in this position: Position: Pastor

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
<u>Richard Rosenkrans, CP</u>	<u>2008</u> to <u>9/2019</u>
<u>Kenneth Garnsey, CP</u>	<u>2001</u> to <u>2008</u>
<u>Rev. Dr. Paul Carlson</u>	<u>1996</u> to <u>2001</u>

2. Other significant factors about our church not covered in previous questions:

Our church is located in a rural area on the PA / NY border that attracts many visitors for outdoor activities, such as swimming, boating and fishing in the many lakes and streams, hiking through forests or in nearby Salt Springs State Park, or enjoying one of many summer festivals. And though Brackney, PA is rural, we are just 20 minutes from the city of Binghamton, New York which offers everything from theaters, concert venues, and a wide variety of restaurants, to minor league baseball and hockey, several carousels and a zoo. Many who live in this area consider it to be "the best of both worlds." This offers Silver Lake Christian Community Church some unique challenges -- and opportunities -- to reach people from all walks of life and to share the Good News of Christ's love and salvation!

Shelley Hohn
Clerk of Session

Date: March 3, 2020

Shelley Hohn (Chair), Jim Barber (Vice-Chair)
Chair, Search Committee

Date: February 11, 2020

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