

New Covenant Presbyterian Church Information Form

Church Information Form

Introduction

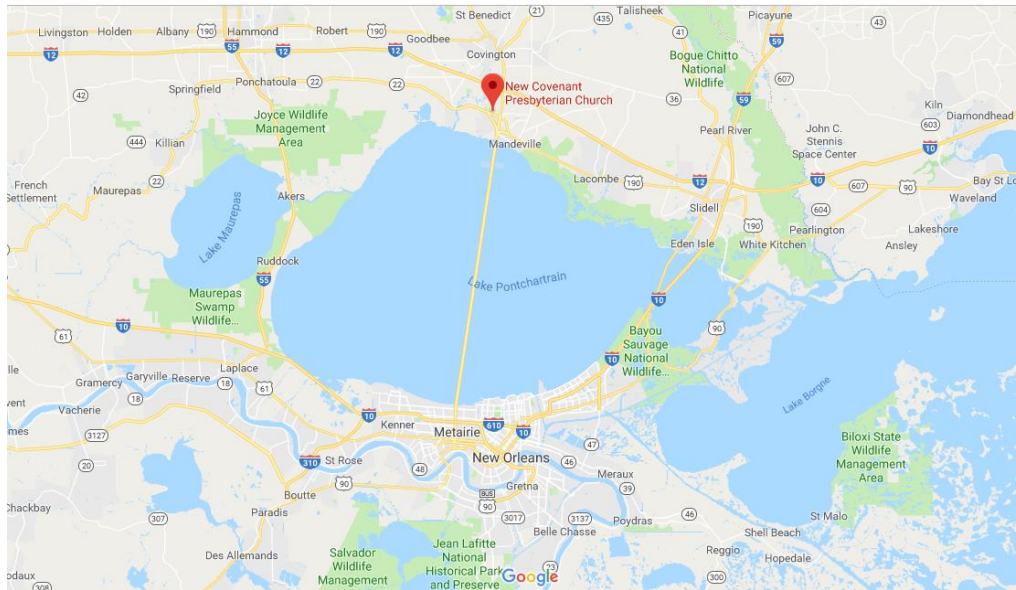
The Ministerial Vocation Committee and the Office of the Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church are responsible for denominational vocational services. As part of the process of “matching” ministers and congregations, the Office of the Stated Clerk provides resources and advice to both pastors 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:
Office of the Stated Clerk Evangelical Presbyterian Church
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd. Suite 510 Orlando, FL 32822, Phone: (407) 930-4239 Fax: (407) 930-4247
E-mail: info@epc.org



Click [here](#) to go to Google maps for New Covenant Presbyterian’s location.

New Covenant Presbyterian Church Information Form

Part I: Church Information

1. Name: **New Covenant Presbyterian Church**

Address: 4375 Hwy 22, Mandeville LA, 70471

Telephone: (985) 626-4375 Fax: (985) 626-4391

E-mail: openings@newcovenantpc.org Web site: www.newcovenantpc.org

2. Presbytery: Gulf South

Presbytery Ministerial Committee Liaison: TE Kory Duncan

3. Search Committee Chairman: RE Carter Wright

4. List all paid staff positions

Pastor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time	<input type="checkbox"/> Part time
Director of Youth Ministries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time	<input type="checkbox"/> Part time
Director of Children and Families	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time	<input type="checkbox"/> Part time
Administrative Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Full time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time
Site Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time	<input type="checkbox"/> Part time
Accountant	<input type="checkbox"/> Full time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time
Worship Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Full time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time
Director of Weekday School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time	<input type="checkbox"/> Part time
Nine teachers	<input type="checkbox"/> Full time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time

Position Available: **Associate Pastor**

Date of Vacancy: **10/1/18**

5. Membership (please state approximate numbers and percentages)

	<u>Five years ago</u>	<u>Currently</u>
a. Number of church members	200	220 (375 inclusive of all household members)
b. Number of family units		135
c. Worship attendance	183	220

d. Profile of church members

(1) Age: 20% 0-11, 8% 12-18, 7% 19-24, 12% 25-34, 22% 35-49, 13% 50-64, 18% 65+

(2) Occupation:

26 % Business, 19 % Professional, 12 % Trades, 18% Stay-at-home parent,
1% Agriculture 20%Retired , 5% Other (Specify: Military/Law Enforcement)

(3) Educational level of adults

3% some high school 15% high school 70% college 12% grad. school

Church Information – continued

(4) Percentage of members belonging to the congregation:

< than one year	9%
5 years or <	26%
6-10 years	24%
10 years or >	41%

5. Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation:

1% Asian, 1%, Hispanic 1%, African American, 97% Caucasian

6. Worship:

a.	Time	Average Attendance
	9:00am	100
	11:00am	120

b. Frequency of communion celebration: **14** per year.

c. How are members involved in planning and participation in the liturgy/worship? All members have responsibility to gather on the Lord's Day for worship that it may kept holy. Members have the responsibility to arrange their affairs and use their influence so that no one will be kept unnecessarily from worshiping God or observing the day in an appropriate manner. Hearts should be prepared that worshipers might be ready to hear and receive the Word of the Lord. Daily affairs should be taken care of beforehand and the day should be spent in rest, free from the cares and concerns of the ordinary works and words. Thoughts should not be concerned with worldly activities, but should focus on the things of the Lord. Works should be limited to the duties of necessity and mercy. The chief participation in worship of members is vibrant congregational singing, Spirit led prayers, and faith directed and response to the reading and preaching of God's Word. The Pastor, while advised to consult with the Session, and under the guidance of Scripture, has the duty and responsibility to determine the order, sequence, elements, and proportion of the service that each shall have in public worship. With that said, our members are active in participating in providing music, singing, ushering, welcoming, running audio video equipment. We have a volunteer worship band, choir, and children's choir. An RE is assigned to minister in the area of worship of God in the congregation. Our REs distribute the elements of communion and assist in baptisms.

d. Style of liturgy used in your worship:

9:00am Traditional Reformed, 11:00am Modified Contemporary.

In our services we follow the RPW. In both services we read, pray, and sing God's word. The reading, preaching, and hearing of God's word is the central focus; everything goes towards and comes from that ministry of God's Word.

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

9:00am Classical hymns led by choir and accompanist on piano.

11:00am Contemporary with mostly hymns, similar to RUF

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Church Information – continued

7. Church/Sunday School

- a. Average attendance in Church School (under 18 years) **60**
- b. Average attendance in Adult Education (Sunday) **65**

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

It is a growing suburb of New Orleans, what is referred to as the Northshore (referring to our location in relation to Lake Pontchartrain). Many of members work in New Orleans. However a large number are employed in the professional service industries locally.

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

Approximate population of community ~55k w/ in a 5 mile radius of NCPC, 233,000 in St. Tammany Parish.

Racial/Ethnic composition of community:

1% Asian 4% Hispanic 11% African American 83% 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 of Elders	Spiritual Care and Oversight	10	Monthly	2
Diaconate	Temporal Care	6	Monthly	4
Trustees	Corporate oversight	10	Biannually	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 take primary initiative and responsibility.
- 4. Associate Pastor and laity share responsibility.

Part II: Building/Financial Information

- 1. Current annual budget: \$655,000 Last year's annual budget: \$636,000
- 2. Percentage of income received toward budget: 100%
- 3. Amount contributed for (last complete reporting year: 12.5%):
 - a. EPC per member contribution: yes
 - b. EPC World Outreach Missionaries: yes
 - c. EPC Benevolence Askings n/a
 - d. Presbytery giving yes

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e. Other Missions/Missionaries yes

4. Property owned by church:

a. Describe buildings and property (other than manse)

Administrative/fellowship/class rooms built in 1985
320 seat capacity sanctuary built in 1997
School/children's Sunday school built in 2003

b. Are your buildings adequate for your present program?

Yes No

If no, please explain: We are in need of more space for our nursery and Sunday schools.

c. Is a building program projected?

Yes No

If yes, describe what and when and projected cost: We are currently in the evaluation and planning phases of a remodel/construction process.

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:

5. Compensation:

a. The salary range we are prepared to offer: **Contingent upon experience**

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

Position: \$ or 3%

c. Housing

Housing allowance Manse only Either of the above

d. Benefits and expenses:

yes	Pension (minimum 10% gross effective salary)
yes	Medical insurance
	Life insurance
7.65%	Social Security
Included in total package	Travel/mileage
Included in total package	Book allowance
2 weeks annually	Study leave allowance
4 weeks annually	Annual vacation
	Number of worship services (in addition to vacation and study leave) for which pastor is provided relief (per year)
	Other (Specify:)

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Part III: Church Characteristics

Check 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
8. cares about each other.	<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
9. looks to its Session for leadership.	<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
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 type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
12. contains people willing and able to lead the congregation.	<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
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 type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
14. is spiritually alive.	<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

Church Characteristics – continued

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

The way New Covenant participates is in cooperative efforts to minister to the poor and those in need. Examples would be The Samaritan Center which is a Christian organization offering emergency assistance with food, assistance for utilities, rent/mortgage, transportation, etc. As well, we support financially and with volunteers other organizations throughout the community. We also participate in foster care respite ministries. We are careful to maintain the distinctive evangelical reformed convictions we hold in all endeavors.

16. Describe the strengths of your congregation:

We are a strong preaching and teaching congregation that warmly welcomes guests. We believe the deeper our faith and trust is in God through his Word the more gracious and loving we will be to one another and those outside the congregation. We have strong stable leadership. Our pastor has been here for 12 years, our youth director 10 years, our worship director 10 years, our children's director 8 years. Our session is very strong with a vast majority of them active in a teaching capacity throughout the congregation. Our session rotates with no term limits and yet many of our elders have and are serving second or more terms. We have a relatively new (3 years) diaconate whose responsibility is the care of the temporal needs members. We have a healthy range of age and life experiences in our congregation. We also have a good mix of members who have lived in the community all their lives and professionals and military who have moved into the community for a period of time. We also have a non-covenant Christian Montessori school that ministers to the children and families with the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

17. List specific problems with which your congregation struggles:

We are weak sinners, but Jesus has saved us from that problem. Other than that we are in need of additional pastoral leadership. As well, we'd like to continue to manage growth wisely. We'd also like to minister well to the unchurched.

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

1. Continue to preach and teach the gospel faithfully.
2. Continue consistent maturing of hope and faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Continue to develop discipleship and disciplers within the congregation.
4. Increase participation and support in missions.
5. Engage the needs of the community around us.
6. Better stewardship of our facilities partially through construction, partially through remodeling.
7. Growth through evangelism, covenant families, our school, and welcoming and receiving guests.

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:

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

Yes Date: 2008 No

New Covenant, a church, is a covenanted body of people who profess and give evidence that they have been saved by God's grace alone, for His glory alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone under the authority of Scripture alone. We are a local, living, and loving collection of people who are committed to Christ and committed to each other. We are joyfully part of the reformed tradition and hold to what has been historically known as Calvinism and we are Presbyterian (ruled and led by elders) in our church government.

The purpose of New Covenant is to glorify and fully enjoy God through His Son Jesus Christ, enabled by His Holy Spirit to live, teach, and prepare all for faith in Christ so they may serve and share the Good News.

We have often summarized our method and model of ministry in the following three points:

1. We exist to establish and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ.
2. What we win them with we win them to; i.e. ordinary means of grace.
3. The way we're justified is the way we're sanctified; faith in Jesus Christ.

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Part IV: Leadership Expectations:

Below are listed 42 items which represent a range of qualities in the ministry of the church. Choose the 12 items which your church feels are the most important aspects of ministry for your church at this time. Then place the numbers in the blanks following the list. All the qualities are important and there are other qualities that are not listed. Please choose those 12 which you feel are highest priority at this time. Do not rank the items.

Write no more than 12 numbers in the blanks at the end of this list.

Our church seeks a person who...

1. is an effective preacher/speaker.
2. continues to develop his/her theological and biblical skills.
3. helps people develop their spiritual life.
4. helps people work together in solving problems.
5. is effective in planning and leading worship.
6. has a sense of the direction of his/her ministry.
7. regularly encourages people to participate in denominational activities and programs.
8. helps people understand and act upon issues of social justice.
9. is a helpful counselor.
10. ministers effectively to people in crisis situations.
11. makes pastoral calls on people in hospitals and nursing homes and those confined to their homes.
12. makes pastoral calls on members not confined to their homes or in hospitals.
13. is a good leader.
14. is effective in working with children.
15. builds a sense of fellowship among the people with whom he/she works.
16. helps people develop their leadership abilities.
17. is an effective administrator.
18. is effective with committees and officers.
19. is an effective teacher.
20. has a strong commitment to the educational ministry of the church.
21. is effective in working with adults.
22. inspires a sense of confidence.
23. works regularly at bringing new members into the church.
24. regularly encourages support of the EPC's missions and outreach.
25. reaches out to inactive members.
26. works regularly in the development of stewardship growth.
27. is active in ecumenical relationships and encourages the church to participate.
28. is a person who cultivates a close, devotional relationship with God.
29. writes clearly and well.
30. works well on a team.
31. is effective in working with youth.
32. organized people for community action.
33. is skilled in planning and leading programs.
34. plans and leads well-organized meetings.
35. encourages people to relate their faith to their daily lives.
36. is accepting of people with divergent backgrounds and traditions.
37. encourages others to assume and carry out leadership.
38. is mature and emotionally secure.
39. has strong commitment and loyalty to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
40. maintains confidentiality.
41. is a compassionate and caring person, sensitive to others' needs.
42. deals effectively with conflict.

1, 13, 15, 16, 19, 23, 28, 30, 33, 35, 37, 41

Comments:

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Part V: Church History (please limit to one page)

A. What have been the most important events in the history of your church?

Our establishment in 1979, our buildings '85, '97, '02, started a school in '85, joined the EPC in '11. First associate pastor in '06, second in '15.

B. What has been the most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years? The most interesting events in the life of NCPC in the last three years was the addition and loss of our Associate Pastor and the development of the diaconate whose sole focus is the temporal care and sympathy ministry of church members. Our pastor has been able to focus more of his attention on preaching, teaching, and leading the congregation while partnering with the Associate Pastor in areas such as discipleship, church growth, the diaconate, and administration. With the establishment of the diaconate it has allowed the Ruling Elders to focus on the spiritual elements of leadership including prayer, teaching, discipleship, missions, and stewardship. New Covenant has continued to grow numerically in worship but most importantly we've grown deeper in our faith through expanded ministries, bible studies, and discipleship classes.

Part VI: Other Information

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Rev. S. Hunter Gray	2006 to 2008
Rev. Russ Stevenson (assistant)	2014 to 2015
Rev. Kevin Phipps	2015 to 2018

2. Please indicate if there are any special preferences based on gender, age, race or national origin in consideration of persons' profiles that may be sent:

No basis for preference


Clerk of Session


Chairman, Search Committee