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.

**Contents**

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<td>Part 5: Church History</td>
</tr>
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<td>Part 6: Other Information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Part 1: Church Information

1. Church Name: APLINGTON EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
   Address: 917 HOWARD ST
   APLINGTON, IOWA 50604
   Telephone (319) 347-5569
   Fax (___)
   E-mail: CHURCH@AECLIFE.ORG
   Website: AECLIFE.ORG

2. Presbytery: RIVERS AND LAKES PRESBYTERY
   Presbytery Ministerial Committee Liaison: ZACH HOPKINS

3. Search Committee Chairman: HAL STAHL
   Address: 1202 GLENN ST
   APLINGTON, IOWA 50604
   E-mail: HSTAHL802@GMAIL.COM
   Telephone (319) 269-5614

4. List all paid staff positions (use additional sheet if necessary)
   PASTOR
   ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
   CUSTODIAN
   [List of positions and full/part time options]
5. List all vacant positions

Position Available PASTOR Date of Vacancy 9/1/18
Position Available
Position Available

6. Membership (state approximate numbers and percentages)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Five years ago</th>
<th>Currently</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Number of church members</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Number of family units</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Worship attendance</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Community Growth
   - Increasing
   - Static
   - Declining

8. Profile of church members

A. Age:
   - 5% 0-11
   - 5% 12-18
   - 5% 19-24
   - 10% 25-34
   - 10% 35-49
   - 35% 50-64
   - 30% 65+

B. Occupation:
   - 20% Business
   - 20% Professional
   - 10% Trades
   - 5% Agriculture
   - 0% Stay-at-Home Parent
   - 35% Retired
   - 10% Other (Please Specify) STUDENTS, MISC

C. Educational level of adults
   - 1% some high school
   - 84% high school
   - 25% college
   - 10% graduate school

D. Percentage of members belonging to the congregation
   - Less than one year
   - 5 years or less 10%
   - 6-10 years 10%
   - 10 years or more 80%
9. Racial/Ethnic composition of:
   A. **Congregation**
      0 % African-American 0 % Asian 100 % Caucasian 0 % Hispanic
      ____ % Other (Specify)___________________________
   
   B. **Community** (within 5-mile radius of church)
      1 % African-American 1 % Asian 97 % Caucasian 1 % Hispanic
      ____ % Other (Specify)___________________________

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 1038____________________________________

11. Church Programming—Worship

   A. **Worship Time**
      9:30 AM

      Average Worship Attendance
      68

      ________________________________
      ________________________________
      ________________________________
      ________________________________
      ________________________________
      ________________________________
      ________________________________

   B. Frequency of communion celebration: 13_________________________ per year

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

      READING SCRIPTURE, MUSIC, VIDEO, AUDIO
D. Style of liturgy used in your worship (e.g., traditional, contemporary, variety)

TRADITIONAL

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

VARIETY

12. Church Programming—Sunday School
   A. Average attendance in Church School (under 18 years) 7
   B. Average attendance in Adult Education (Sunday) 21

13. Church Programming—Organizations/Committees
   List major boards, committees, and organizations that are part of your church and
   frequency of meetings (monthly, weekly, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Purpose of Group</th>
<th>Number of members</th>
<th>Frequency of meetings</th>
<th>Leadership Role*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SESSION</td>
<td>Spiritual Leadership, Bible Study, Member Care</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1/MONTH</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEACONS</td>
<td>Servant Leadership, Finances, Member Care</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1/MONTH</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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: Financial/Church Campus Information

1. Current annual budget: $147,970 Last year’s annual budget: $152,100
   (Attach a copy of current budget)

2. Percentage of income received toward budget: 84 \%  

3. Amount contributed for year 2018 (most recent complete reporting year)
   A. EPC Per Member Asking $3,680
   B. EPC World Outreach Global Workers $0
   C. EPC Special Projects $500
   D. Presbytery Per Member Asking $2,720
   E. Other Missions/Missionaries $31,923

4. Property owned by church
   A. Describe buildings and property (other than manse).
      HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE ENTRY & BATHROOM (ALL ON GROUND LEVEL),
      MODERN KITCHEN, OFFICES, FELLOWSHIP AREA, 8 CLASSROOMS,
      NURSERY, VIDEO SCREENS, SOUNDBOARD, AND ADJACENT PARKING LOT
   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 4
      Pastor’s Office/Study: ☑ In Church ☐ In Manse ☐ Not Provided
      ☐ Other
6. Compensation:
   A. The salary range we are prepared to offer:
      Position: _______________  $ ______________
      Position: _______________  $ ______________
      Position: _______________  $ ______________
      Position: _______________  $ ______________
      Position: _______________  $ 80,000 (Total Package)
   B. The average annual increase over the past three years is:
      Position: _______________  $ ______________ or 2-3% 
      Position: _______________  $ ______________ or ___% 
      Position: _______________  $ ______________ or ___% 
      Position: _______________  $ ______________ or ___% 
   C. Housing
      ☐ Housing Allowance
      ☐ Manse Only
      ☑ Either of the Above
   D. Benefits and expenses
      ☑ Pension (minimum 10% gross effective salary)
      ☑ Medical insurance
      ☐ Life insurance
      ☐ Social Security
      ☑ Travel/mileage
      ☑ Book allowance
      ☑ Study leave allowance (minimum 2 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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our congregation...</th>
<th>Currently</th>
<th>Goal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Agree</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Supports the pastor.</td>
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<td>2. Readily shares their gifts with the rest of the congregation.</td>
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<td>3. Places a high priority on sound biblical preaching.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Gladly welcomes visitors and new members.</td>
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<td>5. Is involved in local evangelistic ministries.</td>
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<td>6. Is often found living their faith in their communities.</td>
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<td>7. Has a spirit of unity.</td>
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<td>8. Cares about each other.</td>
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<td>9. Looks to its Session for leadership.</td>
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<td>10. Ministers well to members who are hurting.</td>
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<td>11. Uses members' gifts in its worship.</td>
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<td>12. Contains people willing and able to lead the congregation.</td>
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<td>13. Is capable of change when and where appropriate.</td>
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<td>14. Is spiritually alive.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
15. In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

- COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK SERVICES
- PRAYERS FOR SCHOOL KIDS
- STUDENT CONNECTION YOUTH
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
- NURSING HOME SUNDAY SERVICES
- FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
- PASTOR MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION
- AWANA
- OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
- BACCALAUREATE
- KIDQUEST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DAY CARE
- MORNING ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY

16. Describe the strengths of your congregation.

- TRULY LOVE AND CARE FOR EACH OTHER AND ARE WILLING TO HELP THOSE IN NEED
- MISSION MINDED
- STABLE CORE

17. List specific problems with which your congregation struggles.

- ATTRACTING AND KEEPING YOUNG FAMILIES
- FIND NEW SPIRITUAL DIRECTION (POST SEPARATION FROM PC(USA) 2013)

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

- CONTINUE TO BE CHRIST CENTERED
- SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND DISCIPLESHIP
- EVANGELISM
- DEVELOP OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES
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.

(OWI) OPERATING MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE INTOXICATED, (BESIDE COMPLETING LEGAL CONSEQUENCES, PASTOR MET WEEKLY WITH AN ELDER GROUP FROM OUR CHURCH. HE ALSO FULFILLED REQUIREMENTS SET BY THE PRESBYTERY.)

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

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, Date completed DECEMBER 2019

If yes, attach copies of each statement or strategic plan the church has completed.
Part 4: Leadership Expectations

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

   LOVE OF CONGREGATION: Love is the model of Jesus as he made the eternal sacrifice on the cross. This is the basis for effective ministry.

   EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND PREACHING: Comes from spending time in the Word to be able to effectively understand and explain God's Word. The Pastor can best be effective when he is faithful both in his study of God's Word and then engaging people with teaching God's Word.

   MODELS EVANGELISM: Being passionate about sharing the Gospel through his words and actions. This should be combined with a warmth in personality that people will respond to. To be effective, he must engage with the members of the congregation intimately on days of the week other than Sundays.

   PRAYER AND VISITATION: Jesus made time for those with illness, the sick, and those encountering death and grief. This includes visiting in their homes as well as the hospital. The time spent with people during stressful times is also an opportunity to pray, witness, and share the love of Jesus.

   EQUIPS: Ephesians 4:12-13 "To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

   Developing skills in people for works of service multiplies their gifts so that Christ may be built up and His love is expanded to all those around. Equipping involves getting others involved so the pastor doesn't have to do it all on his own.
Part 5: Church History

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

   WALK TO EMMAUS SPIRITUAL RETREATS (1990's - early 2000's)
   LAY WITNESS RENEWAL (Same time frame as above)
   SEPARATION FROM PC(USA) (2011-2013)

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

   DISCUSSION ON MOVING TO MALE ONLY ELDERS
Part 6: Other Information

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dates of Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICHAEL MCLANE</td>
<td>AUG 2009 to AUG 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREG SMITH</td>
<td>JUN 2003 to AUG 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIM BLAIR</td>
<td>AUG 1993 to JUNE 2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

SEE ATTACHED PAGES:
1) MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT
2) OUR CORE VALUES
3) REGIONAL DESCRIPTION
4) HISTORY

Clerk of Session LEE ANN HARKEN [Signature] Date 12-23-19

Search Committee Chair HAL STAHL [Signature] Date 12-23-19

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
MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT:

Mission Statement:
Our mission is to go and make disciples of all people, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Christ has commanded. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Vision Statement:
Our vision is to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, with all our strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. (Mark 12:30-31)

OUR CORE VALUES

Scripture
We place a high value on Scripture. We believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired and inerrant Word of God and perfectly sufficient to equip us in our faith, service and daily lives (Psalm 19:7-14, 2 Corinthians 3:5, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We acknowledge that Scripture is our ultimate and final authority, realizing that all of us need to grow in our knowledge of the Bible.

Worship
We value biblically-based preaching and teaching. Our worship music is a blend of traditional hymns and contemporary praise songs. The choir sings on special occasions.

Growth and Spiritual Transformation
Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
This is the focus of our preaching, teaching, prayer, and worship. We hold to the truth that, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are continually being sanctified.

Congregational Care
Our congregation is a welcoming, friendly, and actively caring community. We pray for and assist each other at all times, especially in times of need.

Evangelism and Outreach:
Our church directly supports outreach activities including Community Vacation Bible School, AWANA, Holy Week services, a community Christian youth program called Student Connection, and a Christian day care and pre-school called Kid Quest. We also participate in other community events.
REGIONAL DESCRIPTION

Our Aplington community of 1038 sits in a rural setting surrounded by fertile farm ground. We are partnered with our next-door neighbor Parkersburg through our A-P School system. Both the Aplington and Parkersburg communities have modern schools with an excellent education environment. The communities also have public libraries. Grades 3-8 are in Aplington and K-2 and 9-12 grades are in Parkersburg. The Parkersburg high school was completely replaced following an EF5 Tornado in 2008.

The Aplington and Parkersburg communities have professional services of two medical clinics, two dental clinics, a physical therapist, an optometrist, two veterinary clinics and a pharmacy. Other retail stores include the Peppercorn Pantry (tea room & gift shop), Dollar General, Ford auto dealership, A-P Appliance store, two plumbing & heating shops, Eclipse News-Review (newspaper), three banks, Parker Place Retirement Community, Maple Manor nursing home & assisted living, and several tax, CPA, and lawyer offices. There is a grocery store in Parkersburg in addition to gift shops, restaurants, insurance offices, and a recently constructed hotel that help complete our communities.

There are many opportunities for outdoor activities such as biking, running, hunting, and fishing. Aplington and Parkersburg have three golf courses with one being a links style. Both communities have swimming pools, good parks, and tennis courts. A handicap accessible recreation facility, Miracle Park, was just added in 2018.

There is excellent shopping and entertainment in Cedar Falls/Waterloo, about a 35-minute drive from Aplington. Both cities have hospitals as well as trauma centers. In addition, major health care centers Mayo Clinic and University of Iowa Hospitals are both accessible from Aplington if there is a need for specialized care. The University of Northern Iowa and Hawkeye Community College provide excellent education opportunities for our high school graduates.

Our AEPC congregation is one of three Christian churches that worship within Aplington. There are also two other Christian churches that lie outside of our community. All five churches support a number of ecumenical activities mentioned in our listing within Core Values under the Mission section. The pastors of these churches meet monthly to assist in the planning of these activities and share in their own personal ministries.

Our Interim Pastor is from Seattle and served the Lord in several churches in the Pacific Northwest. He left Seattle for Detroit and after coming to Aplington to serve our congregation says “I love it here!” We have enjoyed his service and his presence as well. We think everyone can enjoy a community setting as they experience their time in Aplington serving the Lord.
Aplington Evangelical Presbyterian Church History

1869-1900: The organizational meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Aplington, Iowa was held on July 25th 1869, when a small but earnest group of 13 men and women began meeting at the schoolhouse. In 1888 a church building was erected and dedicated to the worship and service of Almighty God. About 1900, a manse was constructed.

Early 1900’s: As a result of an overheated furnace, the church was severely damaged by fire on January 1, 1908. Until repairs could be made, services were held in the German Baptist Church. While repairing the church, an annex was added to the east side of the old building. Until 1913, the church did not have a regularly installed pastor. Each minister was engaged for a year at a time then replaced by another. In 1926 the church building was elevated and a complete basement with kitchen and fellowship room were constructed. A new garage was built to replace the old barn at the manse. The church had 89 members in 1941 and until this time the congregation had received help from the National Mission Board of the Presbytery to supplement the gifts of the local congregation toward the minister’s salary. In 1942 the church became entirely self-supporting.

Late 1900’s: A new manse was completed in 1951 and has been updated several times since. In December 1954, the congregation, with its now 132 members, decided to build a new church building. It was dedicated on September 9, 1956. The cost of the building was $85,000 with many hours of work completed by church members. The building was forward thinking and insured handicap accessibility. By 1968 membership climbed to 210. In the seventies the Mariners became active as a service fellowship and the youth took three mission trips to Arizona, Kentucky and South Dakota. In 1974-75 the narthex was enlarged to add new church offices and stained-glass windows were installed. In 1980 the church had 266 members. In 1985 the women started baking bread as an outreach ministry to the community. A number of members participated in the Walk to Emmaus, a spiritual weekend retreat. In the fall of 1989, the church sponsored the “Bethel Bible Series” followed by several lay witness weekends. Many members grew stronger in Christ.

2000’s: The church was remodeled in 2005. A storage room, a classroom, and a handicap accessible restroom were added. New windows were also installed throughout the church. The kitchen was remodeled with new cabinets in 2011. We organized and led mission trips to Colorado and Guatemala. The church held weekly suppers on Wednesday evenings to help busy families on church night. We began supporting the local ecumenical youth programs, Student Connection and AWANA. Kidquest, a Christian based daycare and preschool, was started with much help from the local churches, including ours.

In 2013 First Presbyterian Church of Aplington left the PC(USA) and joined the Evangelical Presbyterian Church denomination. We chose the new name of Aplington Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

In 2019, we celebrated 150 years of worshiping and glorifying God. We thank God for his Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to save us from our sins. May we continue to worship our Lord here in Aplington, Iowa.
APLINGTON EPC PASTORAL SUMMARY

Worship and Other Services
As the pastor, you will have responsibility to plan and lead the Sunday worship services, preaching sound biblical messages which exalt our Lord Jesus Christ and equip the congregation for their works of service. Please know that you will lead us as we observe the sacrament of communion once a month and the sacrament of baptism whenever the need arises. Officiating at the weddings and funerals of our members will also be areas in which you will lead.

Equipping the Saints
A key role of the pastor in our church is that of equipping the members for their works of ministry. We believe that this discipling begins with the elders and extends to all the members through the worship services and through other various avenues for biblical teaching, such as Sunday School, Bible studies, or other opportunities that God puts before you. Some areas of teaching only occur as needed, specifically membership and confirmation classes. Our young families would greatly benefit from discipleship in the areas of Christ-centered marriage and parenting, and we need further equipping in outreach and evangelism. An important aspect of discipleship in our church will be your leadership of the elders in Session, which includes their oversight and training of the deacons and other congregational leaders.

Congregational Care
We love our people and strongly believe that you should take the lead, together with the elders, in providing pastoral care to our members in their homes, in their care facilities, and during their hospital stays. We believe that it is especially necessary for you to be in regular personal contact with our members, getting to know them so that you can understand better how we can meet their spiritual and life needs with you. When we have members in care facilities, please plan to consistently administer communion to them together with one or more of the elders. It will be extremely helpful to us for you to keep the Session apprised of congregational prayer needs as you become aware of them.

Administration
There are always administrative tasks that fall specifically to you, such as, communicating meeting agendas to the Session prior to meetings, providing the necessary service and other information for the bulletin to the administrative assistant, writing a short, monthly article for our newsletter, and overseeing the completion of annual and other reports to the Presbytery. We very much want you to maintain regular office hours in the church building as you oversee the work of the church. And, so that we can be good stewards of our finances, we strongly desire that you be timely in submitting travel and other expenses to the treasurer for reimbursement.

Denominational and Community Ties
The community in which we live has three Christian churches in town and two in associated outlying areas. Our pastor meets monthly with the pastors of these churches in planning and carrying out various community events throughout the year, such as Easter week services. There are also three Presbytery meetings every year that we believe you should attend.

Our Spiritual Focus
We strongly desire to reach our community and to make more disciples for the cause of Christ (not just receive transplants from other churches), a ministry area where we tend to fall short. Also, as we study the Bible, we become more aware of our shortcomings and our need for our church to reform. We want to be better equipped to identify both short- and long-term needs for change and to manage those changes well.