

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mif #: 10348.A11

Ministry General Information

Ministry Number	10348
Ministry Name	First United Church of Oak Park
Mailing Address	848 Lake Street Oak Park, IL 60301
Phone	708-386-5215
Fax	708-386-7480
E-Mail	office@firstunitedoakpark.com
WWW Address	www.firstunitedoakpark.com
Ministry Size	651 - 1000 members
Ethnic Composition	
	Asian 2%
	Black or African American (African Native, Caribbean) 6%
	Hispanic Latino/Latina, Spanish 2%
	White 90%

Average Worship Attendance	206
Church School Attendance	90
Curriculum	Our church school uses 5 progressive curricula, along with a variety of resources and activities to nurture the spiritual formation of our children.
Yoked	False
Presbytery	CHICAGO PRESBYTERY
Synod	SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS
Community Type	Suburban
Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization Show Statistics	

Information about the position

Position:	Head of Staff (Multi-Staff Pastor, who supervised two or more teaching elders and other staff)
Experience Required:	0 to 2 Years
Specific Title:	Lead Pastor
Employment Status:	Full-time

Language Requirements:	
	English

Other Language:	
Statement of Faith Required:	True
Clergy Couples:	True

Training/Certificate Requirements:	
---	--

Church Leadership Connection

The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Other Training:	
Brief Church Mission Statement:	
<p>We are an open, Christian community united in love and justice. We seek to move from: Words to Witness in our relationship with God, Individualism to intimate fellowship in our relationship with other members of the church, and Charity to changing structures in our relationship with the world.</p> <p>We are an historic church located in a long-established inner-ring suburb of Chicago. Formed in 1975 by the uniting of the First Congregational Church (founded 1863) and the First Presbyterian Church (founded 1878), First United remains active in both denominations and is strongly committed to collaborative leadership.</p> <p>Oak Park is a racially and economically diverse urban village of 50,000 people living in 4.5 square miles, adjacent to the western boundary of the many-sided city of Chicago. Oak Park's civic pride is built around high ideals of inclusion, participation, and justice, to which First United Church strongly subscribes.</p>	
What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry:	
<p>First United Church seeks to build a world where all people know the grace and healing love of Triune God as expressed by the faith and works of the congregation. Congregants of First United, grounded in scripture, deepen and broaden their faith by being open-minded to the ideas, opinions, and concerns of all God's people. All persons, regardless of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religious background, or other characteristics, are invited to join in the church's journey of faith. Diverse and distinct viewpoints enrich individual faith and strengthen the congregation's inclusiveness. The life of faith is sustained by preaching that is intellectually challenging, spiritually nurturing, and realistically connected to the lives of the listeners. This is reinforced by mission work that fosters openness to a broad spectrum of viewpoints.</p> <p>The vibrant life of the church is expressed in traditional worship leavened with diverse, innovative elements; rich educational opportunities for children, teens, and adults; committed service to neighbors in need; and strong witness for social justice and equity. The church provides space, money, and volunteers to many mission partners to address homelessness, hunger, education and safety of children and youth, and many justice issues. We seek a nurturing and collaborative Lead Pastor to guide us, cheer us, pray for us, and walk with us on our spiritual journey.</p>	
How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency:	
<p>First United Church's identity, rooted in Christian faith, is both internal and external. It is committed to the pursuit of spiritual, intellectual, and personal growth, grounded in celebration, reflection, and social justice. As an inclusive, welcoming, and engaging faith community, it challenges and equips its members to discipleship, service, and responsible citizenship in the community, region, and world. The full achievement of this identity requires a commitment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating and maintaining a framework that nourishes the spiritual life of the congregation. Uplifting worship, in tandem with outreach to congregants by pastors and lay leaders, addresses this by building a culture of care for the church community. • Increasing congregational membership as our local community welcomes growing numbers of younger adults, families with young children, and downsizing empty-nesters. The church addresses this by supporting and displaying its enthusiastic participation in a dynamic community of faith. • Improving the effectiveness of mission work in response to emerging local needs. Most congregants (71%) live in Oak Park or River Forest. Many live comfortably, but some members and many neighbors in the primary and surrounding communities struggle with unemployment, illness, violence, and other forms of distress. The church addresses these needs through its support of mission partnerships and direct action relating to homelessness, hunger, children's needs, and justice for all. 	
How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals:	
<p>First United Church's Lead Pastor will have a major opportunity to move the church forward on many fronts. Working in tandem with the Church Council and other members of the congregation, the Lead Pastor will help to refine, define, and bring to life specific goals and plans for growth and development. The 2017-2020 Strategic Plan addresses several major areas of emphasis. Many collaborative tasks and activities are actively underway, and others will emerge, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with pastoral and other staff, committees, and the congregation to create and maintain a framework that nourishes the spiritual life of the church through worship, music, and programming. • Creating and sustaining a congregational culture of care for the members, engaging pastoral staff, deacons, and lay ministries in active, practical expressions of Christian love. • Reinforcing First United Church's role as community faith leader and partner of choice for neighbors and others addressing issues of justice, housing, children, and hunger. • Developing and carrying out a financial plan for stability and growth, including pursuit of a Capital Campaign to repay an existing construction loan, create a building fund, and address other mission and capital needs. • Growing and diversifying the membership and participation of the congregation. 	

Church Leadership Connection

The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and or organization:

As the church's most important spiritual leader and guide, the Lead Pastor encourages the people to act upon their faith and respond to the challenges of discipleship. This sometimes requires the Lead Pastor and the congregation to move beyond their accustomed comfort zones, bringing the congregation closer to God through worship, service, and care. The Lead Pastor should draw on the ministry of Jesus Christ to confront justice and oppression through: worship that embodies the spirit; informed and inspired preaching; public witness; cooperation with other churches and organizations; and support of helping ministries.

First United Church expects its Lead Pastor to live up to the highest standards of conduct in all areas of personal and professional life. One dimension of this is the church's strong commitment to the education and nurture of children and youth. Here the congregation places deep trust in its Lead Pastor and other leaders to serve as exemplar and guide.

Lastly, although little emphasis is often placed on this aspect of church life, First United seeks leadership on financial, personnel, and other practical matters. Accordingly, the Lead Pastor's responsibilities (set forth below) include resource development and fiscal management. This requires effective collaboration with the Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and staff as well as a significant role in annual stewardship and major capital fundraising efforts.

What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

The Lead Pastor is responsible first for creating and maintaining a framework that inspires, nourishes, and informs the spiritual welfare of the congregation. The Lead Pastor will provide overall worship planning leadership and will preach approximately 30 times per year. Additionally, the Lead Pastor will administer the sacraments and officiate at weddings and funerals. With the staff, the Lead Pastor will provide pastoral care for the congregation and for all who seek comfort and guidance through the church.

The Lead Pastor will also be the head of staff supervising and encouraging a collegial, collaborative approach with the pastoral, program, and administrative staff. In collaboration and consultation with the Council Moderator, the Lead Pastor will provide leadership to the Church Council and the Strategic Planning Implementation Team, and support and spiritual guidance to several committees.

The Lead Pastor will represent the church in the community in social justice initiatives, including overseeing the church's relationship with internal partners. We also expect him or her to regularly engage in congregation-wide fellowship activities.

Lastly, the Lead Pastor will lead the congregation in being a welcoming community, growing its participation/membership and finances consistent with the programs and theological mission of the church, and will responsibly manage the church's financial resources in cooperation with Council, the Finance Committee, and financial staff.

Optional Links:

www.firstunitedoakpark.com

www.facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

Leadership Competencies:

Preaching and Worship Leadership

Spiritual Maturity

Communicator

Change Agent

Contextualization

Organizational Agility

Funds Developer

Collaboration

Interpersonal Engagement

Bridge Builder

Compensation and Housing: Cost of Living Calculator

Minimum Effective Salary: \$90,000

Housing Type: Housing Allowance

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

References:				
Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
Britt Cox	333 W Wisconsin; Chicago, IL	682-429-3434	Former Associate Pastor	pastorbrittcox@gmail.com
Michele Zurakowski	848 Lake Street; Oak Park, IL	708-434-0085	Resident Mission Partner, Executive Director	michele@oprffoodpantry.org
Rev. Alan Taylor	875 Lake St, Oak Park, IL	708-848-6225 x101	Neighboring Pastor	ataylor@unitytemple.org

Has the Pastor Nominating Committee and Search committee affirmed its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?

Yes

Version Track Info: This MIF was last updated on 10/20/2018

Self-referral Contact Information

PNC: Rick Pollock	Address First United Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60301
Daytime Phone 708-524-5125	Office Phone
Fax	Email richard@pollock.net