MAYFLOWER
Congregational Church

SENIOR PASTOR
MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them
(Matthew 18:20).

The faithful of Mayflower Congregational Church are indebted to the brave and bold spirit
of its founding members who embarked on a journey to found a new congregation in 1958.
The first service in the beautiful new building was held three years later in 1961 when 297
founding members gathered for the Christmas Eve service at 2345 Robinson Road.

Over sixty years later we are blessed to worship in the same building made possible by our
founders. We are a vital and growing congregation of approximately 1,000 members from
a wide variety of denominations and traditions. We are grounded in Reformed theology,
honor our congregational church heritage, and are innovative in our approach to mission
and ministry.
Every Sunday we begin worship with the affirmation that at Mayflower we believe “Faith is a journey, God is good, Jesus saves, and the Spirit leads us to faith, hope and love as we honor the dignity of all God’s people.” We are a faith community who gather together with the purpose of honoring God and bringing others to the faith.

OUTREACH

We are proud to share that in the last 15 years, Mayflower’s outreach giving has grown from 0% to 15% of our budget, having given over one million dollars to organizations and ministries in our city and beyond. Our church has a specific heart for homelessness, food security and at-risk kids. For example, three times per year, we host families in our church building who are experiencing homelessness, and we have renovated 18 mobile homes for families who need stable housing. Through our deep relationship with the Sudanese Grace congregation, we have also grown in our love and service with refugees in the community.

But our support extends beyond our local area with ongoing giving to Eden’s Children’s Village in Zimbabwe, Africa. Many members, as well as the Priscilla Circle sponsor children who live in the orphanage.

NURSERY | BIRTH TO 3

At Mayflower, we believe every child is created in the image of God and we are here to support and enable that child to grow and flourish. We are delighted to welcome children ages birth to three years old to Mayflower on Sunday mornings! Child care is also offered during Midweek @ Mayflower on Wednesdays from 4:30-9:00 p.m. for children 3 and under, and for other church sponsored activities upon request.
**FFJ: FAITH FORMATION JOURNEY**

Led by three remarkable women who create curriculum and experiences for the children of Mayflower to know and love God. Starting at age 4 we invite children to join our wonderful Faith Formation Journey program where children are introduced to the basics of the life of faith in a supportive and encouraging environment.

**MIDWEEK AT MAYFLOWER**

Midweek at Mayflower is a fun evening for families to share a meal, for young children from 1st to 5th grade to participate in youth group activities and all choirs rehearse throughout the evening.

**ELEVATE/YOUTH**

ELEVATE is a ministry for youth in grades 6-12. Through friendships, service, learning, worship and prayer, together we are rising in faith! Our high school and middle school youth have participated in many mission trips, both in the U.S. as well as abroad. In 2019, the high school group went on a mission trip entitled “Foundations in Faith.” A group of 32 kids and 7 adults traveled to Italy to walk in the footsteps of Paul in Rome and participate in a variety of mission activities, including spending time with Syrian refugees and working on a charitable farm. In 2019, as well, the middle school youth traveled to Chicago to do mission work with needy families, children and homeless in the city.

A group of our high school youth meets weekly for breakfast to share their faith, their concerns and hopes. Over eggs and pancakes, they are there to support each other throughout the week ahead.

**BIBLE STUDY GROUPS**

There are seven Bible Study Groups for men and women at Mayflower Church providing opportunities for Bible study and spiritual growth.

**CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS**

Mayflower Congregational Events welcome members as well as friends to grow in community and enjoy fellowship while bringing the word of Christ to all. The whole church is invited to participate in annual events such as the fall picnic, Mondays at Mayflower—featuring a variety of musical performances and the Fall Family Harvest Festival. There are also fund-raising events such as car washes and silent auctions.

We have many different age groups who enjoy social time together. the 29 and Up group, they not only meet for a time of fellowship and activities such as bowling and “Pumpkins and Pints,” but also share in outreach projects. Our 49 and Up group joins together for hayrides, dinner at member’s homes or brunches at local restaurants. Attending our 69 and Up group always includes a lot of laughter and good food.

Priscilla Circle has been a part of our fellowship since its inception. A vital and devoted group of women, who meet monthly, have done fundraisers to furnish the church’s kitchen, collect cleaning products for homeless families, are responsible for decorating the church at Christmas, and are always available to host a meal for families holding a funeral at the church.

**MAYFLOWER MUSIC MINISTRY**

Mayflower is blessed with musical talent in many forms and provides various opportunities for adults to share one’s gifts in worship and celebration. Opportunities available are:

- Chancel Choir
- Youth Choir
- Children’s Choir
- Handbell Choir
- All Comers’ Choir
- Concerts

More information about the ministries at Mayflower Congregational Church can be found at [https://mayflowerchurch.org/](https://mayflowerchurch.org/).
The Grand Rapids area is considered a great place to live and raise a family with a cost of living that is very reasonable. We are the second-largest city in Michigan, with extraordinary cultural offerings, including the nationally-recognized Grand Rapids Symphony, Michigan’s only professional ballet company, and Broadway Grand Rapids. Sports-wise, we have the Grand Rapids Griffins hockey team and the Detroit Tigers-affiliated West Michigan White Caps baseball team.

Grand Rapids is only an hour away from Lake Michigan and some of the most beautiful sand beaches, boating, camping, fishing and recreational activities in the Midwest. There are several pretty lakes and rivers in and around the Grand Rapids area, and numerous local parks which offer opportunities for hiking and biking during all four seasons. With an abundance of snow, winter sports include downhill or cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Chicago and Detroit are only a few hours away, with all they have to offer.

Our medical facilities are many and excellent, including the nationally-ranked Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. Two of our medical leaders, Spectrum Health and Mercy Health are in the top ten largest employers in Kent County. Other top employers are Meijer; a Midwest supermarket chain with 253 stores, Steelcase; an office furniture manufacturer, and Amazon has recently become a presence in the Grand Rapids area, providing over 1,000 jobs in the last year.

Throughout the community, there are several colleges and universities, including the largest; Grand Valley State University, a public university, constantly ranked as one of the top colleges in the country, as well as one of the top employers in the area. The elementary and high schools in East Grand Rapids and Forest Hills districts, which are the closest to Mayflower church, are excellent, with many other high performing public, Christian, and charter schools located throughout Kent County.
ABOUT THE SENIOR PASTOR

The Mayflower Congregational Church Senior Pastor will serve as pastor and teacher of the congregation to build up and equip Mayflower for its ministry in the world. With spiritual leadership and a shepherd’s heart, the Senior Pastor will preach the Word of God, administer the sacraments, share responsibility with the members of the congregation for their mutual Christian growth, exercise Christian love, and will ensure that everything in the church is done in a proper and orderly way. Embracing the Congregational Way, the Senior Pastor also serves and lives among the congregation, encouraging others to become wholly devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ in the service of the church for the world.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead and direct the staff, made up of full-time and part-time employees.
- Plan, coordinate, and facilitate all worship services in conjunction with the Worship and Music Committee.
- Work collaboratively with the church Moderator to plan and coordinate the overall strategic church planning process.
- Work collaboratively with the Moderator to coordinate all meetings of the Executive Committee and Church Council.
- Strategically works with Lay Leadership on the Annual Fund/Stewardship Drive.
- Coordinate the fiscal and budgetary life of the congregation with the Church Treasurer and Finance Committee.
- Coordinate all strategic communications of the congregation in collaboration with the Communication Director.
- Work collaboratively with the Communication Director and the building staff to effectively live stream worship each week.
- Provide oversight and effectively administer weddings, funerals, and special services.
- Collaboratively work with the Church Council to effectively coordinate Search Committees for major staff positions.
- Preach 40+ Sundays per year.
- In collaboration with the Personnel Committee, effectively hire and onboard new church staff members.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

Reports to: Church Council

Oversight: Full-time and Part-time Staff

Be an effective Committee Liaison to:

- Church Council
- Executive Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Finance Committee
- House and Grounds Committee
- Worship and Music Committee
CANDIDATE PROFILE: WHAT YOU BRING

Education & Experience
- A seminary degree is required.
- Preference will be given to candidates with a doctoral degree.
- Candidates should be ordained.
- Preference will be given to candidates with a minimum of seven (7) years of commensurate experience.

Personal Characteristics
- Personable and approachable.
- Energetically engages others on an individual basis as well as in group settings.
- Understands cross-generational leadership and relates well to all age groups.
- Possesses a good sense of humor and doesn’t take themselves too seriously.
- Has a compassionate and servant-hearted attitude.
- Understands team building and is able to lead and equip others.
- Has a good work ethic and is passionate about God and serving others.
- Has a deep understanding of the Word of God and has the ability to communicate its truths to others.
- Supports church Outreach and Missions.
- A good communicator and listener.
- Open to new ideas.
- Has the ability to communicate faith and beliefs through inspirational speaking skills.
- Demonstrates solid management skills.
- Promotes democratic leadership in the church.