



## **Stamford Church of Christ**

### **Lead Minister**

#### **OUR CHURCH**

The **Stamford Church of Christ** is a multi-racial, gender-inclusive Church of Christ. We embrace and affirm all seekers of Jesus of Nazareth -- who draws people to himself regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or condition of birth.

Our membership is highly diverse in terms of ethnic, socio-economic and religious backgrounds yet, because of our disparate life experiences, God has formed a unified, joyful and loving family here in Stamford, Connecticut. We are living proof of the Great Commission to “make disciples of all nations” and to “bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.”

This means we have found unity through oneness in Christ Jesus. We do our very best to be the church here and now that Christ would want us to be. As heirs to a nineteenth-century back-to-Scripture movement, we structure as little as possible. We keep our worship basic, warm, and personal and our doctrine simple. We study Scripture in the light of its original intent and historical context and attempt to make sense of how it applies to our everyday lives. We respect scholarship. We are fully gender-egalitarian. We strive to be a congregation where we can express ourselves freely and honestly and experience the grace of Christ.

#### **OUR VISION**

We are committed to understanding and practicing Christ-inspired ways of living that leads to love, peace, justice, and human flourishing. We seek to be a spiritual center in our community for those in need and those who seek faith in God through Christ.

#### **OUR COMMUNITY**

The Stamford Church of Christ (SCoC) is located in Stamford, Connecticut, a beautiful suburban community on the Long Island Sound, 35 miles northeast of New York City. SCoC's home sits on an oasis of a 3+ acre campus. Its facilities include the original chapel and meeting rooms plus a new wing with modern offices, classrooms, a full commercial kitchen, a community garden, playground, picnic area, contemplative water fountain, memorial garden and parsonage.

Stamford has a population of 136,000 with a mix of urban and suburban landscapes and activities. It provides easy access to New York City by car and rail. There is always something to see and do in the area ranging from the natural beauty of southern New England to world-class venues for arts, entertainment, and education.

## THE POSITION

Reporting to the Stamford Church of Christ Elders, the Lead Minister is responsible for providing spiritual leadership and pastoral care. The SCoC has a long history of leaders and congregants who continually seek God and understand Scripture, from a contextual as well as a historical perspective. In keeping with our history of ongoing spiritual study and inquisitiveness, the Lead Minister will need to possess the ability to work thoughtfully in developing lesson plans and sermons that inspire, energize, and motivate the congregation to live out their mission of loving God and their fellow man. The Lead Minister will work with the Minister of Music and Worship Arts to create cohesive, intentional, meaningful worship experiences.

Additionally, the Lead Minister will be responsible for the supervision of the many SCoC ministries that take place both on and off the church campus. The Lead Minister, in conjunction with the Elders and appropriate staff, will oversee the proper management of SCoC operations, facilities, budgeting and budget development.

## WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE

- That SCoC continues to be a haven where members and visitors will find solace, comfort support in our quest to *Living A Life of Love*.
- That pastoral care remains strong and SCoC congregants know and feel that they are being shepherded in their spiritual and life's journey.
- Use of SCoC's community ministries to engage and invite others to come learn more about us.
- SCoC members feel empowered to contribute to the life of the congregation.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

The position of lead minister includes the following responsibilities:

### **Preaching, Teaching, Communicating:**

- Teach Sunday morning adult bible class, preach Sunday morning service, and teach Wednesday evening adult bible study. May delegate teaching/preaching responsibilities as mutually agreeable with Eldership.
- Work with the Minister of Music and Worship Arts to plan worship services. Services should be well-prepared, honoring the Lord, and in a form that is most suitable for our congregation.
- Develop strategies and programming to address and engage youth.
- Conduct baptisms, weddings, funerals, public ceremonies and seasonal ceremonies as needed.
- Conduct personal studies with individuals interested in learning more about Christ both within the congregation and the community.
- Author articles for the weekly bulletin (Embrace) and maintain overall responsibility for its content.

- Active involvement with the content and direction of our Church website.

**Leading:**

- In conjunction with Church leadership, provide strategic vision and leadership to fulfill our Church's mission.
- Be involved/knowledgeable of our various Church ministries and make suggestions regarding their effectiveness and improvement.
- Provide vision and leadership regarding Outreach to our community and Church growth.

**Administration:**

- Administrative responsibilities entail working in a collaborative, collegial, and consensus-oriented relationship with deacons, elders and office staff to ensure church resources are utilized to their utmost effectiveness.
- Lead, guide, and mentor other members of the pastoral staff if required.
- Participate in church committees and boards as appropriate. In conjunction with Church leadership, participate in the planning and execution of Church initiatives.

**Social:**

- The position requires the gift of hospitality and a desire to love the members of our diverse community.
- The workday for a Lead Minister can be unpredictable and may require at times a flexible schedule. The Lead Minister should be available for evening and weekend activities. They will be entitled to two days off per week while accommodating the needs of the congregation.
- Fellowship frequently with the members of the Congregation to foster relationships and stimulate growth.
- Foster healthy relationships with local religious and inter-faith organizations.

**Pastoral/Counseling:**

- Provide premarital and other short-term counseling as needed. Be available and responsive to crisis situations. Be aware and informed of the need to refer a congregant for deeper mental health needs.
- Know and practice appropriate boundaries.
- Provide general pastoral care to the congregation. Strive to present a caring disposition that will encourage those in need to come forward.
- Visit members of the congregation who are unable to attend church services.

**DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

- Feel a sense of calling by the Holy Spirit to minister to God's Church.
- Strong orientation toward interpreting Scripture within its historical context.
- A scholar's mindset in developing lesson plans and sermons that align with a congregation long accustomed to deep academic study and analysis of Scripture.
- Comfortable with ministering to a multi-ethnic, multi-generational congregation.
- Supportive of gender inclusiveness.
- Supportive of an "open and affirming" community.
- Proven track record of working well with others.
- Ability to work with a broad diversity of people.
- Strong organizational and administrative skills.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.

- Visual creativity and adeptness in utilizing presentation software.
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
- Post graduate degree in Religion/Divinity preferred.
- 7+ years of ministerial experience.
- Self-motivated, adaptive, and creative in ministry thinking.
- Exemplifies the humility and servant attitude of Christ.

**Applicants should submit the following:**

- a letter of interest that describes their philosophy of ministry,
- their journey of faith, and
- resume

To: [minister.search@stamfordchurch.org](mailto:minister.search@stamfordchurch.org)

**For more information or to refer a candidate, please contact:**

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