

First Reformed Church of South River
40 Thomas St.
South River, NJ 08882

Position Description: Church Revitalization Pastor (Part-time)

The First Reformed Church of South River is a vibrant, mission-focused church in the heart of South River, NJ. Though small in number, we are constantly seeking new ways to live out our call to be Christ's hands and feet in our town. In addition to our Sunday morning worship services, we are becoming a community hub, with established and growing ministries such as Study Zone, our after-school tutoring program, and Manna Cafe, our twice-monthly meal for anyone in need of food or fellowship. We want to build on these established programs to create new ministries that address the needs that we see in our neighborhood. We are particularly working to connect more fully with our immediate neighbors, who are primarily from Spanish-speaking immigrant communities. We cherish the many partnerships we have developed in town, such as the South River Council of Congregations and Darul Arqam School, a Muslim school just down the street from us with whom we collaborate regularly.

For the past three years, we have been undergoing a church revitalization process that has helped us to focus on not just being the church on Sunday mornings, but living our faith through service to our wider community. We are currently in the third year of a 3-4 year revitalization plan that has been our roadmap as we shift our focus outward. We seek a Church Revitalization Pastor who will lead us as we continue, deepen, and expand this work. This pastor should be able to root us in scripture, help us listen for what the Holy Spirit is doing within and among us, and share wisdom as we respond to that work. They should be active in the South River community, engaging our neighbors with compassion and care. They should be willing to hit the ground running as we seek to fulfill the benchmarks and timeline of our current plan and help us discern what is next after that plan is complete. We are not looking for someone to do the ministry for us, but to partner with us as we continue to discover what it means to be God's people in this time and place.

Duties

- Preaching and leading worship at Sunday morning services.
- Overseeing existing mission programs, including developing leaders to help these programs become more sustainable.
- Growing existing partnerships with community organizations and individuals, and actively seeking out other relationships that might bear fruit.
- Working with the consistory to cast a vision for the future of the church, with action plans for the immediate next steps.
- Seeking out and writing grants and other forms of fundraising that will help the church accomplish our goals.
- Connecting with the Classis of New Brunswick, including attending meetings of both the classis and the New Ministries Committee, and engaging in a peer supervision group.

Requirements

- Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary.
- Be able to fully affirm the Classis of New Brunswick Welcoming Statement (below)
- Be a certified church planter or be willing to take the assessments towards that certification.
- Strong networking and collaboration skills.
- Ability to train leaders and delegate tasks.
- Heart for community organizing.
- Care for those who the world often dismisses or ignores.
- Preferred: ordained (or eligible for ordination) in the Reformed Church in America or a formula of agreement denomination. If a candidate is not ordained, we may be able to work with you towards that goal.
- Preferred: bilingual in English and Spanish.

Compensation will be determined along Classis guidelines, and includes a parsonage on the grounds of the church building and benefits on a prorated basis. As this is a part time position, it is understood that this pastor will need to be bi-vocational. We have experience working with and supporting those in bi-vocational ministry.

Please contact Ellen Tschopp, Vice President of Consistory, at frcsouthriver@gmail.com

Welcoming Statement

"As Classis of New Brunswick, we affirm the great diversity of God's creation as it is manifested in our churches. Our congregations include persons from various ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds, gifted with a variety of abilities, gender expressions and sexual identities. We live in many forms of individual or family life, including same-sex relationships. Therefore, as Classis, we strive for inclusive congregations that celebrate the gifts and ministries of all."