

2024 NOMINATION FINALISTS

FOR THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



Warren Asmus
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2021

Ministries Served

My wife, Nancy, and I have been members at Christ Presbyterian Church since 2020, and attend the OHB campus. I am currently retired, and prior to retirement, I was a law enforcement officer in the County of Los Angeles, California for thirty-eight years.

I currently serve as an Elder and in the Special Needs Ministry. Both of these areas of service have given me a unique opportunity to understand the strengths and needs of the church, as well as the congregation and staff. I believe this perspective will serve the search committee well.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

I strongly believe that our Lord *has* chosen the next Senior Pastor for our church. It is the job of the search committee to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom throughout the entire process. With this in mind, our next Senior Pastor needs to be a Shepherd of his church. A man who cares for the one, just as much as he cares for the many. One who is committed to being an expository teacher of the Word and its application in our lives and families today. He must have vision for the Church and its many ministries, as he welcomes input from the congregation, its officers and staff to bring that vision to fruition. As he leads us, the next Senior Pastor must be a man of prayer, who is approachable and humble. All this while serving alongside the finest pastors in the denomination!

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

The selection of this committee will be one of the most important decisions by the congregational membership for generations to come. My desire to be a part of this committee is simply because I love our church and its people. It's my hope for CPC to be, as written in Matthew 5:14, *A light of the world and a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden.*



Jordan Bear
Music Row
Member Since 2016

Ministries Served

Throughout my 8 years at Christ Pres, I have participated in as well as served with Kids Ministry, Student Ministry, Special Needs Ministry, Young Professionals Ministry, Women's Ministry, NIFW, and Missional Living Groups. As the Kids Director for our Music Row location from 2016-2022, I oversaw Kids and Family Ministry as a staff member. Currently, as a congregant, my heart and calling are to minister to our kids and teens in the church; I

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currently serve on the Kids Sunday Morning Team as well as lead our Girls Student Bible Study.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

Humility, self-awareness (strengths and growth areas), eagerness to learn, active listener, thoughtful decision-maker, empathetic.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I desire to see Christ Presbyterian flourish. I hope to identify a new senior pastor who will lean into our church's already existing strengths as well as nurture the places where our church has been broken. I hope to bring the perspective of a staff member, a congregant, and a site member to the conversation.



Dan Beasley
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2002

Ministries Served

We (wife Lucy) have attended the Old Hickory Blvd campus of CPC, member since 2002, and were married by Charles McGowan!

I serve on the Diaconate. I have chaired the facilities and benevolence committees in the past. Married to Lucy, we have 3 daughters, 15, 18, and 24. Have served in special Saturdays and attend Biscuits and Bibles.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

Ideal traits for a senior pastor, to quote Augustine, humility, humility, humility. A servant leader at CPC needs to be able to lead effectively, but also not get caught up in the administrative day to day. He will need to get to know his flock, and LOVE them well, pressing into the body of Christ with love and affection, leading thru prayer.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

This is the second time I have been asked to serve on this committee and I certainly feel called, having declined the first time. If elected to ballot I would be honored. The Lord has me where he wants me to be; this Church has meant everything to our family—it would be the least I could do.



Mary Louise Clark
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2013

Ministries Served

For those of you who have not met me, my name is Mary Louise Clark. My husband and I have been communing members of OHB since 2013. Prior to our moving to Nashville, we were members of Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA), Naples, FL for 15 years.

CPC has been a blessing to my life. Through this church, God has provided me with spiritual growth and meaningful relationships. I have also received several opportunities to serve our church family. Currently, my responsibilities include serving on the Diaconate, the Tuesday

Morning Ladies Bible Study, and the CPA/CPC Bridge Committee. Additionally, my husband and I have the great pleasure of hosting the monthly Young Adult Connect Group at our home.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

During our last congregational meeting, it was clear that what we are seeking in our Senior Pastor is founded upon relationships. These relationships include his faith in Christ, his inerrant belief in the word of God, and his love for his flock.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

With much prayer, I feel lead to accept this nomination for the Senior Pastor Search Committee. In my previous church, I served on a pastoral search committee and have come to understand the complexities and dynamics of church leadership.



George Crook
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2014

Ministries Served

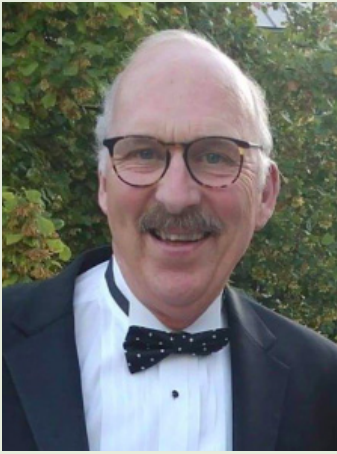
I serve in the children's ministry Pre-K/K area monthly during the church service, serve at the Special Needs Ministry check in desk each month, attend Biscuits and Bibles on Wednesday mornings with David Filson, and am a member of David's Sunday School class. I also occasionally can be found grilling at the youth house on Wednesday nights, and recently started serving as an Elder since the fall of 2022.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

Someone who has a deep knowledge of and love for the scriptures with a keen sense of wisdom in how to apply the word for us in our everyday lives. I am open to how that may look and believe that the process of working with a committee will help shape that. But I personally lean towards a love for expository style preaching that teaches all of the Bible and each verse. Someone that has a deep love and commitment to the Reformed Faith and the Westminster Standards. I also believe it is important to also nurture Christ Presbyterian's heritage of generosity as seen in service to others, giving, and missions both local and globally. Finally and of utmost importance we need a chief shepherd for our church. Someone that is able to love, care for and lead our staff and congregation and places this of higher importance than outward signs of ministry success. If there are signs of significant outward success this individual will lead with humility, thanksgiving and continually point us to the Lord who ultimately is at work.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I do not seek this role lightly and am seeking it very prayerfully and giving it to the Lord. I was asked to consider and have been very hesitant as I understand the weight and responsibility of the task. But I will say that if I need to commit to a work of this level of commitment, I do have an interest and passion in the sort of work this committee would undertake.



Jim Douglas
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 1997

Ministries Served

My name is Jim Douglas and I attend the Old Hickory Boulevard campus. I was a founding member of Christ Presbyterian Church in 1981, where I met my late wife, Lou, in 1982. (note: my family and I transferred our membership to Christ Community Church in the early 1990s. We returned to CPC in the late 1990s. Both of our children attended CPA at the time.)

I've had the privilege of being involved in many ministries over the years, which have included: helping teach children's Sunday School at CPC and CCC, serving on the Diaconate (diaconate chairman for a term at CCC) served on a long range planning committee for facilities at CPC, served as a "buddy" during the Sunday School hour for several teenage boys with special needs, helped to direct elementary kids Wednesday night program, took the Stephen Ministry training course and became a Stephen Minister until the program ended at CPC, worked in the nursery when our turn came up, served as a Cub Scout leader at CPC, and helped with the Boy Scout Troop. In the past I have served on the Nashville Young Life Committee Board. Presently I serve on the Board of the Green Hills YMCA. I am a past board member of Nashville Tree Foundation, past board chair of the Nashville Civic Design Center and presently serve on the Advisory Board of the Friends of Warner Parks.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

When thinking about the ideal pastor for CPC, several traits come to mind: being able to juggle the jobs of pastor and teacher, outgoing personality with a sense of humor, trying not to be a "lone ranger," but rather seeking the counsel of others and establishing relationships to help him to be accountable, willing to ask for help, effective in guiding the mission of the church and creating a vision for the future, really listening to church staff, "keeping short accounts" with staff members so that resentments don't build up. Intelligent, with intellectual and spiritual curiosity, having a heart for the underserved in Nashville, using his pulpit to challenge the congregation to address potentially uncomfortable issues such as Christian nationalism, etc. Addressing the culture of our world today, accepting opportunities to be involved in civic organizations, guiding the staff, but trusting them to make good decisions, respect the women in our congregation and find ways to use their leadership skills, possessing a kind heart and a deep love for his congregation and for the Lord.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

When we began this process, I began to think and feel that I might have an effective role to play. I opened my hands and heart, asking God to reveal to me if this might be an avenue where He could use me. I have never been on a pastoral search committee before and so I am not an expert in that area. I have, however, served on 2 search committees to find new CEOs for not-for-profit organizations for which I have served on the board here in Nashville. I learned a great deal from those processes and how difficult it really can be. I learned that listening is a critical part of this process and that while consensus can be hard to achieve, it is possible with patience and dedication. I love our church, our staff, and our congregation and I am ready to serve in any capacity that would be helpful. I am fully retired and as a result, have time and energy to contribute in any way that I can.



Sherrie Drury
Cool Springs
Member Since 2017

Ministries Served

At CPC

- Worship Service — serve as a Scripture reader, liturgist, & as a host.
- Children’s Ministry — serve as a Service Lead for the Sunday Children’s Ministry This involves leading a team meeting, serving as the second adult (if needed), welcoming families and help them get signed in for the morning.
- Missional Community — Oak Cottage Missional Community. Oak Cottage is a transition home for women coming out of incarceration. I teach the Bible and periodically provide rides to appointments.

Other Ministries Served

- Kirk Christian Day School (KDS) Board member. KDS is a ministry of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church (PCA) in St. Louis and serves children from pre-K through sixth grade.
- Teaching Leader in Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) for 12 years in both St. Louis and Nashville (now retired). BSF is an interdenominational, multicultural, and multigenerational ministry. Classes typically range in size from 250 - 500 class members.
 - ◇ Responsibilities included managing all aspects of the class, host church relations, providing a weekly expository lecture on the passage being studied; training leaders to facilitate small group discussions and shepherd group members.
- Substitute Teaching Leader in BSF for five years, supporting the Teaching Leader and teaching seminars that provide skill training to class members (e.g., Homiletics, Sharing the Gospel, Leading Small Groups, among others).
- Group Leader in BSF for eleven years, facilitating a small group discussion of up to 15 women on the passage being studied.
- Pulpit Committee member at Kirk of the Hills Church in St. Louis following Dr. Wilson Benton’s retirement.
- Collaborated and helped write two mother-daughter Bible studies for youth in the church titled Daughters of the King. Collaborated and helped write a Bible study to educate and encourage women to take a Biblical stand against a destructive sexual culture.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

- A visionary leader who casts vision at all levels of the organization and then delegates to capable people.
- A teaching pastor who provides Christ-centered expository sermons, faithful to the text, applying it to our day.
- A prayerful pastor who humbly walks by faith, serving the Kingdom of God not the kingdom of man.
- A pastor focused on the teaching and equipping of the next generation, making children’s and youth ministry a priority. This includes supporting CPA.
- A pastor who encourages worship through the multiple gifts of church members (i.e., music, service, hosting, tech, etc.).
- A shepherd and servant leader who seeks to model the walk of Jesus Christ. This entails collaborating with and developing staff members, creating a cohesive joy-filled culture aligned with the vision and mission of the church.
- A outward focused pastor who who seeks opportunities to impact our city, country and the world in the cause of Christ.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I am passionate about helping strengthen Christ's Church so it is seen as a beacon of hope. It's through the Church we impact the lives of people and the culture by offering rescue, healing and freedom from sin's bondage. My desire to serve is rooted in my love for the Church and the faithful preaching, teaching and application of God's Word to all areas of life.



Melba Duckworth
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2016

Ministries Served

- Connect Group
- Learning Group
- Three City Groups: Fostering Hope, Legacy Mission Village, Nashville Neighbors
- VBS Volunteer
- Special Needs Volunteer: Special Saturday, Inspirations Class, VsBS

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

- High view of God's word (inerrancy of scripture)
- Clear teaching
- A tender shepherd who loves and cares for his flock well—one who knows, listens, befriends, leads, nurtures, and counsels
- Has a heart for missions, families, and special needs
- a humble servant
- joyful and thankful in his calling and role

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I am not pursuing this at all, but I am pursuing obedience and trusting the process. I have been prayerful in our need for a senior pastor. If this is how God is answering and using me, I will humbly serve as He equips.



Tim Garrett
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2019

Ministries Served

I am a Ruling Elder, serve on the Personnel Committee, serve as a youth mentor on Wednesday nights for the 11th grade boys, serve on the host committee on Sundays, and served as one of two CPC RE representatives on the Care Committee for former Pastor Scott Sauls during his administrative leave. I also regularly attend Paul Lim's Sunday Learning Group.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

I would characterize in two ways (and these traits should be demonstrated in word and deed):

Non-negotiables

- Strong belief in and adherence to the authority of Scripture
- Strong belief in and adherence to PCA doctrine
- Commitment to servant leadership
- A “coach who is coachable”—that is, able to give and receive constructive feedback with a humble spirit
- Very capable teacher/preacher
- A record of “long obedience in the same direction” to use a phrase from a book by Eugene Peterson—that is, a strong and unblemished record of commitment to, and growth in, the journey of a saving knowledge of Christ

Desired additional traits

- Experienced as a senior pastor in a large, multi-site congregation
- Experienced as effective manager of others
- Multi-generational appeal

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I would suggest that my desire to serve on the committee is better described as my willingness to serve if others deem my characteristics as worthy to serve on the committee.



Leigh Graham
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 1997

Ministries Served

Children’s ministry storyteller, teacher at CPA, Connect Group member, youth group leader for several years in the past.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

Humble, gentle, able to teach God’s Word faithfully, a shepherd that can tend his flock and fight off the wolves (thank you, John Calvin).

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

This church has been my home my whole life. I have learned so much of God’s faithfulness as I have watched it enter each new season. I am willing to serve CPC in this way should the Lord call me to it.



Lania Leuellen
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2001

Ministries Served

I attend the Old Hickory campus and have been a member since 2001. I am a discussion leader for the Thursday morning ladies Precept Bible study and a monthly nursery volunteer.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

An ideal pastor for Christ Presbyterian Church would be a PCA pastor who loves the Bible and believes it to be the ultimate truth. He would be a strong preacher and teacher and preach the whole counsel of God’s Word. His desire would be to lead God’s people to

know, love, and trust God more. He would be warm, approachable, and have a shepherd's heart and care deeply for his flock, the church.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

If I were to be on the pastoral search committee, I would work and pray for God to lead us to the man He wants to be the next Senior Pastor.



Susan McKerley
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 1988

Ministries Served

I have been a member of Christ Presbyterian Church for 36 years. I attend the Old Hickory campus where I am a deaconess. My husband and I lead a Connect Group, and I am involved with the LoveD City Group for the Deaf community.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

I feel that the ideal senior pastor for Christ Presbyterian Church should be someone who has a passionate walk with the Lord, loves and preaches God's word, and has a shepherd's heart for the congregation and staff. He should have a heart for our Special Needs Ministry, for families, and for Christian education, with CPA being our biggest ministry. He should be compassionate, full of mercy, and desire to lead his flock to a deeper love relationship with the Lord. He should be someone you would want as a friend.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I would be honored to serve you on the pastoral search committee. I love our church and want to see it flourish. I desire for us to grow together in our walk with the Lord and in His calling for us as a church.



Bill Mooney
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 1993

Ministries Served

My wife Dottie and I attend the OHB campus. This June will mark our 32nd year as active members in attendance at CPC at this campus. Both our children graduated from Christ Pres Academy.

I have been involved in various roles and ministries of the church. I served as a deacon for a number of years and have had the privilege of serving as an elder for around 25 years. In that capacity I currently serve on the Administrative Commission, the Personnel Committee, and currently chair the Finance Committee. Most importantly I have had the privilege of leading a small home study and prayer group (now termed Connect Groups) for over 15 years.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

The traits of the ideal senior pastor at Christ Pres are something that I feel the Lord will have to guide the search committee to prioritize as they seek wisdom and leading from the Holy Spirit through continual prayer in the process. My prayer is that it be someone who is a

gifted "pastor" as that term is generally understood. Someone who desires to minister to the congregation through gifted teaching and is an example of how to care for others in need. It would be important to me that our next pastor not have been a past source of division but one with a reputation for humility in service. One that would thrive in a culture that is radically biblical, transparent, and open to accountability. I believe it would be important that all concerns identified be thoroughly vetted by the committee as part of its due diligence before prayerfully making a recommendation.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I don't think I can express a desire to serve on this committee as I see it as a call to service from the congregation and not something to be sought. Having said that I believe that my experience in the following areas will be helpful to the process :

- An historical understanding of what we've been through as a congregation.
- Many years of service on the Diaconate and Session.
- Over 25 years of experience in hiring and running a large tax/ legal department in a major company. (Retired)
- The understanding of the burdens of being a pastor from the perspective of being a pastor's son.



Leisha Nischan
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2000

Ministries Served

Currently, I participate in the following ministries: volunteer and committee member for The Next Door Recovery, mentor for Leaving the Cocoon, leader for Women's Bible study, mentor for Crossroads Prison Ministry and a Deaconess.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

The traits of the ideal senior pastor for Christ Presbyterian Church should be a gospel-centered man of character and prayer, filled with the holy fear of God, led by the Holy Spirit, who will shepherd, lead, feed, and guide the people to spiritual growth and service for the Lord Jesus. Our pastor should also be gifted and courageous in his teaching and not avoid the uncomfortable or difficult issues we are experiencing in our culture today. I believe it is important that he cares about and encourages the different ministries our church has come to love and support and has a zeal for building body cohesiveness within our church and between the church and academy.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I have a deep love for our church and I would consider it an honor and great joy to serve on the pastoral search committee seeking God's will for our next senior pastor.



Mark Petty
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2004

Ministries Served

Host Team since 2015, Special Needs (Adults) since 2015, I co-teach Inspirations Learning class (Sunday and Wednesday), and participate with Special Saturdays, and The Ascent. I've been on the Diaconate since 2018 and have served as Vice Chair (2019- 2021), Chair (2021 - 2023), and Secretary (2023–present).

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

1.) Humility, Kindness, Empathy, 2.) Pastoral approach to congregational and staff care, 3.) Engaging preaching style, 4.) Listening skills and openness, 5.) Organizational and administrative skills

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

First and foremost, I wish to serve and support the church in furthering the Christ-centered mission and ministries for our congregation and beyond. My professional and leadership experiences provide a strong background in organizational skills, interviewing, and vetting and selecting candidates.



Randy Roach
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2010

Ministries Served

Randy and his wife, Cheryl, have attended Christ Pres OHB campus since 2008. He has four children: Jonathan (married to Yulia, with one son, Stefan), Nathan (member of the Special Needs Ministry), Megan and her husband Jeff, and Daniel who is a senior at the Univ. of Tennessee Chattanooga.

He serves as a deacon on the security and host team and is involved in the Special Needs Ministry. Randy and Cheryl have been in a connect group for 10 years.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

I believe a senior pastor should have an understanding and respect for the foundation of the church, governance of the church and its past, present, and future members. He should have an openness to connect with, love, find relationships with, and shepherd the congregation. This will enable the senior pastor to lead with true insight that will meet the needs of the church. The senior pastor should fully trust and delegate with associate pastors, representing the congregation, under the authority and accountability to the Presbytery as he leads alongside elders in the Session; without leading independently of the forementioned groups. And finally, the senior pastor should believe in the inerrancy of the Bible.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

My desire to serve on the search committee comes from a love for the church and the belief that through prayer and learning from past mistakes the right choice can be made ensuring the above standards and expectations are considered and met. Furthermore, I understand the importance of listening to and collaborating with other committee members to make sure the congregation is fully represented in this important decision.



Carl Sanders
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 1983

Ministries Served

I've been an active member of Christ Presbyterian Church for a multitude of years. Husband to Gigi and father of five adult children. My ministry involvement includes:

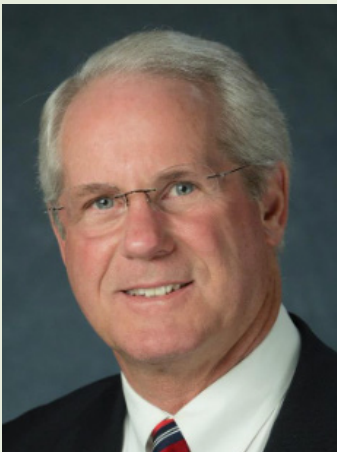
- Diaconate
- Room in the Inn winter shelter at CPC
- Teacher of Inspirations class for adults with special needs
- Leader for Special Needs respite programs (Special Saturday and VSBS)

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

- Humble and collaborative leadership
- Expository preacher/teacher of God's Word
- Trust builder and keeper
- Good and faithful servant of God
- Spirit led visionary
- Supporter of disability ministry

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I desire to be led by God to look forward in the search for the next senior pastor while being informed by my long-term past experience at Christ Presbyterian Church. I also want to represent the congregation and share their insight with the search committee. I would be honored and humbled to serve the congregation in seeking out a senior pastor to lead us through our next season as a church body.



Steve Shores
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 1998

Ministries Served

I attend CPC, OHB with my wife Lynne. Our membership started in 1984, the first Sunday CPC began services at 2323 Old Hickory Blvd. I was among a group of Deacons and Elders who went as a leadership team with Scotty Smith to establish Christ Community Church in Franklin. We returned to CPC around 1998 and have been here ever since.

I served as a Deacon for approximately 10 years and was Chairman of the Diaconate for two years prior to our return to CPC. We are actively involved in Paul Lim's Learning Group handling behind-the-scene duties and needs. Other involvements include attending David Filson's Biscuits & Bibles men's study on Wednesday mornings; volunteering with the church's bereavement group; volunteer in VBS (summer 2023); serving on the Host Team on Sunday mornings and long-term participation in CPC Connect Groups.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

- A man who is after God's own heart; who loves Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.
- Has a heart for people.
- Strong interpersonal skills and communication skills.
- A passion for God's Word and is able to clearly teach it.
- Has the personality and skillset to fit well with CPC's current pastors.
- Able to build relationships at all levels.
- A heart for CPC's existing ministries and a desire to develop others as needed.

- Focused on the local church and perceptive to local community issues as well as world issues to which CPC should attend.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

In my career I spent 33 years recruiting senior leadership positions for Hospital Corporation of America and Quorum Health Group in both their corporate and hospital-based facilities. Much of my corporate experience involved identifying, screening and interviewing candidates (including reference and background checks) for specific positions. I believe the skillset that developed over that time would be beneficial for identifying potential candidates for our Sr. Pastor position.



Rob Wheeler Old Hickory Blvd Member Since 2018

Ministries Served

Elder, Care Committee, Learning Group Leader/Teacher, New Members Class Teacher

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

If selected for the pastoral search committee, I'll not only be keeping in mind shepherding, teaching, theology, and cultural engagement, but also our recently modified organizational structure and it's need for a humble, servant leader, who has a history of developing environments where staff, and fellow pastors experience grace, patience, and flourishing as a team.

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I'm a husband to Lisa, father of four, a grandfather, and work as a Licensed Professional Counselor. I completed MDiv and MAC degrees from Covenant Theological Seminary. In addition to my work as a counselor, I lead Friends of L'Abri Nashville, and work as a volunteer staff with the Rabbit Room. In the past I've served as a commissioner from Christ Presbyterian to the Nashville Presbytery and the General Assembly. Through contracts with the PCA's benefits program, a core of my counseling practice is with clients who are PCA pastors, staff, and their spouses. Our family moved to Nashville from England in 2016 in order to take a role as Covenant Seminary's site director in Nashville. During my time as a student at Covenant, I was tasked with leading a small team of faculty and staff through a redesign of their field education program. The program we set in place specifically emphasizes future pastors' capacity to reflect upon their leadership in seasons of relational conflict.



Ed White
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2013

Ministries Served

I am honored to be nominated as a potential member of the pastoral search committee only such that the Lord so desires. I am a Nashville native growing up in West End United Methodist Church and concurrent with my marriage to Kathy in 1974. We began worshipping at First Presbyterian Church where Kathy and I headed up the Junior High Youth Group for four years. We were amongst the group of founding members of Christ Presbyterian Church in 1981 and, except for a relatively short time span of attending Christ Community Church, have worshipped at Christ Pres for this time frame since 1981. Within the Church, I have been involved (pre-COVID) with the Inspirations Class; presently co-lead a Church Fellowship Group; have attended various Sunday School classes over our years of attendance. We have four children, all of whom attended Christ Pres Academy, and during the formative years of the school I was in a variety of Committee leadership positions.

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

It is first imperative to have a clear and well-defined job description of the responsibilities of the Senior Pastor as well as a very well defined organizational chart which incorporates the responsibilities of our Elders and Associate Pastors. For me, critical traits of an ideal Senior Pastor for Christ Pres would include:

- Solidly grounded in knowledge of and standing for all key principals of our Faith and defined as absolute truths of Scripture
- A solid belief in the inerrancy of the Bible
- Willingness to stand in a gentle/non-judgmental but non-compromising position for those truths of Scripture that are applicable to Social issues of today that are negatively impacting our society and so many Church denominations
- Married, preferably with children in order to have a deeper understanding of today's challenges within a family
- Very strong communication skills with which to teach through Sermons and other opportunities within our Church
- An instinctive love of people and sincere desire to interact with people in the congregation in an informal basis when opportunities arise outside the normal Sunday times
- Knows the difference between "Managing" and "Leading" and subscribes to the style of "managing" projects and tasks while "leading" people in a positive/encouraging/re-enforcing style designed to facilitate the success of all those on his team and desirous of giving credit to others on the team for successes.
- Of critical import will be the new Pastor's desire to partner with and incorporate properly our existing Associate Pastors; Satellite campus Pastors; Teaching Elders; specifically Lee Eric Fesko/David Filson/Russ Ramsey/ Todd Teller in these positions at present with their positive and enthusiastic support of the new pastor. They, as a team, are critical for the success of our church.
- Willingness and desire to maximize the skills of our present teaching staff/pastors in areas related to the congregation—sporadically sharing the pulpit for sermons when appropriate
- Reflect very strong teamwork and partnership skills in dealing with the various departments of the church as well as school leadership
- As appropriate, be involved in funerals, weddings, marriage counseling—realizing we have other associate pastor staff who might be the more appropriate person
- Understand and fully embrace the priority of his individual focus on Christ Pres Church and its members
- Fully support the existence, role, and potential growth of Christ Pres Academy as a high

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priority of the Church

My Desire to Serve on this Committee

I believe that we are facing one of the most important decisions in the history of the Church—not simply in the choice of the “man” to be in this role, but in allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our every step in this process. I was a founding deacon of our church. I love our church and know it is Kathy’s and my spiritual home. I love Scott Sauls and consider him to be one of—if not the very best—pure teachers of Scripture through his sermons I have ever known, and at the same time, believe it to be important that this role have a more specific and somewhat different job description and responsibility. I have been involved in a professional business for 49 years with approximately 40 of those years in a leadership role. I understand the criticality of the establishment of the right culture and work environment which begins with the “leader,” and in this case, the hiring of that specific person to accomplish or oversee the many building blocks and tasks producing this desired environment. I strongly believe this desired result can be accomplished at Christ Pres with the choice of the right leader; the establishment of the properly defined job description with skills matching the job role; the correct oversight and feedback from the appropriate small group of elders to the pastor; and the annual combination of properly formatted performance appraisals for all employees; and undoubtedly one of the most important items—a properly phrased work environment survey completed annually by all employees and reviewed by appropriate staff and elder leadership. I desire to help in this process in any manner directed by the Lord, and if not on the nominating committee, in any other manner He so desires.



Josh Willhite
Old Hickory Blvd
Member Since 2009

Ministries Served

Session as an Elder, Vacation Bible School, Kids’ Elementary Message

Ideal Traits of a Senior Pastor

- One who is unwaveringly committed to preaching the whole counsel of God (Titus 1:9, Acts 20:27).
- One who holds in tension the humility as a “servant of Christ and steward of the mysteries of God” (1 Cor. 4:1), and the resolve as one made “an overseer” by the Holy Spirit to “care for the church of God” (Titus 1:7, Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2).
- One who is a wise and discerning steward of the resources entrusted to his care and oversight (1 Cor. 4:2,7; Titus 1:7).
- One who is hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:7) both to members (long-time and new) and visitors alike.
- One who is gentle (1 Tim. 3:2) in teaching, instructing, and (when necessary) rebuking (Titus 1:9).
- One who is “not domineering over those in his charge, but an example to the flock.” (1 Peter 5:3)

My Desire to Serve on This Committee

I wish to combine my fallible gifts of wisdom and discernment with other committee members’ gifts in an effort to prayerfully identify the man of God’s choosing for His church at CPC OHB. I believe my experience as a long-term member, recent ordination as an elder, and parent to 4 young children allows for a unique perspective during this search.

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