

April 2004

Newark Presbytery

General Presbyter Position Description

Position Purpose:

The purpose of the General Presbyter is to provide visionary leadership, practical support and pastoral care to the Presbytery and its members. This person will help us to implement our new mission oriented organizational structure, guide us in a continuing clarification of our vision and goals, and help us to address both the challenges and the joys of our rich diversity. This person must bring a desire to serve the width and breadth of God's family "with energy, intelligence, imagination and love."

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- To initiate new forms of ministry and new visions of worship and service
- To look holistically at the ministry and mission of Newark Presbytery, offering plans to address our challenges and building on our strengths
- To keep abreast of renewal resources and conferences, to help the Presbytery renew and revitalize our congregations for a new generation of believers
- To explore evangelism opportunities with changing communities
- To aid in the training of work group and committee leaders, equipping pastors, elders and leaders for evangelism, leadership and service
- To be the staff resource to Presbytery committees, in particular working closely with our revised Council, Trustees, Human Services Team and the Committee on Ministry
- To resource the work groups of our new mission structure and to oversee the administration of the Presbytery in keeping with mission goals and vision
- To coordinate the Presbytery staff through regular meetings and communication with the Human Services Team
- To serve as a counsellor to professionals and other leaders of the Presbytery and to be a pastor to pastors
- To be available to participate in the life of the churches of the presbytery, through a regular schedule of visitation, worship participation and faith-filled leadership
- To interpret policies of the PC (USA) to the public
- To relate to local seminaries, the Synod of the Northeast and the General Assembly to discover and share resources for our shared mission

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

We seek a minister or elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) who is an experienced leader with demonstrated skills as a transformational leader. The Presbytery is composed of 42 churches representing 12 different ethnic backgrounds

The person we seek will demonstrate:

- A deep, contagious, and abiding faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with a willingness to live the faith in daily life and work.
- A visionary, forward looking leadership style.
- An ability to develop lay leadership and encourage participation in the work of the Presbytery of Newark by all churches of the Presbytery.
- Solid experience as a middle governing body church leader.
- Sensitivity to the needs of a diverse community, the challenges presented by inner city and suburban churches and ministry.
- Integrity of character, maturity in faith and action.
- An ability to listen respectfully and fairly to all voices to facilitate healing, caring and a safe atmosphere for discussion of our work together.
- Respect for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and our Reformed theology, its history, its heritage, its polity, its processes and its mission in the world.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The General Presbyter we seek will have the following abilities, experience and skills:

- Visionary Leadership: One who can initiate creative models and practices of ministry.
- Organizational Leadership: One who can put feet to a vision and work towards clear goals.
- Equipping Leadership: A team player who will share ministry with Presbytery staff and presbyters. One who encourages participation and assists in leadership development.
- Pastoral Leadership: One who can confidentially care for the needs of others, in particular serving as a pastor to pastors and caring for leaders of struggling churches.
- Reformed Leadership: Experience and knowledge of Presbyterian polity, history and process.

PRIMARY SKILL CHOICES

Required:

- Communication (Written / Oral)
- Leadership Development
- Strategic Planning
- Spiritual Development

Desired:

- Congregational Redevelopment/Revitalization
- Defining Program Needs
- New Church Development
- Problem Solving / Decision Making
- Stewardship and Commitment Program
- Urban Ministry