

Job Description

Presbyter for The Presbytery of Southern New England

About the PSNE: The Presbytery of Southern New England is being recreated through the power of the Holy Spirit and love of Christ in community. We are discerning our call as a presbytery with the help of organization change consultant Howard Mason from New Possibilities Associates and our own Working Group within the Roundtable. Meeting in small and large groups, we have discovered that we prefer to be relational over structural; seeing PSNE as an organism rather than an organization; a body rather than a corporation; a family more than a business.

About the Position: The Presbyter for Southern New England (“The Presbyter”) position will replace our Transitional Presbyter and is 2/3 time (about 30 hours a week). The Presbyter will be an ordained teaching or ruling elder with significant experience in the PC(USA). They will be accountable to the Presbytery Roundtable through the Personnel Committee. They will work cooperatively with the Officers of the Presbytery including the Stated Clerk, and supervise the Presbytery Office Manager and the Financial Secretary.

Role of the Presbyter:

Living out the vows all teaching elders take, the Presbyter will serve the Presbytery with Energy, Intelligence, Imagination and Love.

Energy:

Our presbytery, like all ministry, is a work in progress; our life together is emerging. Therefore, we're looking for a leader who is open-minded and flexible and can help us be resilient in times of change. The Presbyter should:

- Be gifted at leading communities through adaptive change by modeling adaptability.
- Have the wisdom to identify when something (e.g. a ministry, a way of being, a pattern of communication) isn't working, and the ability to help the Presbytery shift gears and/or figure out how to otherwise be accountable for our brokenness.
- Be comfortable with traveling the geographic range of our Presbytery regularly, not relying on a central office location.
- Be alert for, aware of, and interested in the variety of situations that may come their way.

Intelligence:

We seek a leader who can skillfully engage in the administrative work of ministry. The Presbyter should:

- Support, meet and consult with COM, Roundtable, PY Leadership Team and the Presbyter for Discerning the Way on issues of concern/importance within the Presbytery.
- Facilitate an appropriate, thoughtful, and meaningful Presbytery presence at ordinations, installations, and other important events in the life of local churches within the Presbytery. While this **may** mean the Presbyter is present at a particular event, it should **not** be understood to suggest that the Presbyter's presence is universally necessary.
- Display depth and comfort in theological thinking; while they need not be a scholar, they should be ready, willing, and able to engage the Presbytery with an appreciation for our shared Reformed Tradition regarding scripture and its application.
- Display demonstrable gifts for the many ways we communicate, including especially social media and other 21st century media and communication technologies.

Imagination:

We seek a visionary leader who can discern and create vision and direction and who can skillfully communicate those ideas. The Presbyter should:

- Seek out and engage in conversations with denomination-wide groups to discern the direction of the church of the future e.g., Next Church, 1001 Worshipping Communities, GA and Synod.
- Recognize and report on innovative ideas about God's ongoing work in the world and where God is calling PSNE; work with Presbytery to imagine how these ideas might be incorporated to inspire and sustain the Presbytery.
- Meet with, support, and help groups who have ideas for, or are engaged in innovative ministries within the Presbytery.
- Inspire awareness of, and action towards the ministries and ministry goals of others within the Presbytery.
- Help other presbyters make connections between a particular ministry and/or resource in the Presbytery and their own ministry interests and capabilities.
- Help the Presbytery take what is tried and true, as well as recognize what isn't working, and conceive of how it could be reshaped and used in our current context.

Love:

Building, maintaining, and nurturing relationships will be a central facet of the Presbyter's work. We seek a compassionate leader who possesses a genuine, deep, and abiding love for people. The Presbyter should:

- Strive to be approachable, and convey a willingness and desire to walk with others in step with whatever their particular theology might be.
- Set a tone of caring for one another, working together, building new connections and imparting a sense of trust within and amongst the Presbytery.
- Acknowledge places of hurt and division, and advocate for healing in places where brokenness is identified.
- Acknowledge the power and value of collegial and communal gatherings, by helping create and support regional clergy groups, and meet with pastors in those groups if requested.
- Meet with and/or otherwise support Teaching Elders, especially those in Specialized Ministries, new pastors, pastors in transition, retired clergy, and others who might require and/or desire additional pastoral attention.
- When called upon to do so, provide truthful, loving references for members of the Presbytery to other Presbyterian or spiritual bodies.
- Work collegially with our Presbyter for Discerning the Way, to provide a pastoral presence for those churches leaving the denomination.
- Work collegially with our Minister for Pastoral Care for PSNE, supporting the groups and programs this person creates, as well as referring Teaching Elders in need of care.

Description of PSNE: The Presbytery of Southern New England is made up of 30 congregations, several fellowships, and about 150 Teaching Elders, with many serving in Specialized Ministries, or in UCC or other churches, as well as a number of honorably retired. We are a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA) overseeing Presbyterian congregations and ministers in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and parts of Massachusetts and are one of 22 Presbyteries in the Synod of the Northeast. At present, we are served by a Transitional Presbyter, a Minister of Pastoral Care for PSNE, a full-time Office Manager, a part-time Stated Clerk, and a part-time Financial Secretary.

**All inquiries are to be sent to searchpsne@gmail.com.