



Church Leadership Connection  
Connecting | Discerning | Calling

## Ministry General Information

Ministry Name First Presbyterian Church	Presbytery Western North Carolina	Synod Mid-Atlantic
Email kberry@fpcnewton.com	Preferred Phone 828-464-0648	Website Address www.fpcnewton.org
Mailing Address 701 N Main Ave, Newton, NC 28658-3145	Alternate Phone/Email	Community Type Town
Congregation or Organization Size 101-250 members	Curriculum NA	Average Worship Attendance 90
Church School Attendance 25	Statistical Report <a href="https://ogaapps.pcusa.org/api/report/21012">https://ogaapps.pcusa.org/api/report/21012</a>	
Intercultural Composition White: 98%, Black/African American/African: 2%		Released Date 2/6/2025

## Information about the Position

Position Requirements	
Position Type(s) Solo Pastor: Installed	Language Requirements English
Experience Required 2 to 5 Years	Statement of Faith required? Yes
Employment Status Full-time	Are you open to a clergy couple? No

Ministry Requirements
Church Mission/Vision Statement First Presbyterian Church -Newton welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from or why you are here. We are Christ's people and this is Christ's place with our doors wide open. Through Christ we worship, grow, love and serve as we care for one another and our community. We

seek to live together as a family of faith, joyfully

welcoming all people to share in this journey with

us.

Our vision is to allow our love of Christ to shine through our

members bright enough to shed light on our community, nation,

and world. To break barriers and make connections that build healthy

relationships between God and members of our community.

To connect older generations with younger generations to spread

love the way God intended. Thus, continuing to represent solid foundations while growing beautifully into the future and beyond.

"Beloved, let us love one

another for love is from God;

and everyone that loves is

born of God and knows God."

1 John 4:7

Tasks, expectations, duties, supervision, assignments, and responsibilities for the position

Plan and coordinate worship services with Director of Music. Lead weekly and special/seasonal services, possibly including an additional Sunday worship service.

Provide hospital, home bound and crisis visitation. Train, support and guide the Care Team. Encourage and be a resource to couples and families within the congregation. Provide counseling as appropriate. Be actively involved in fellowship activities.

Develop and train CE leaders so that each member may know and participate in the mission and ministry. Provide educational opportunities for spiritual growth. Lead Elder training, confirmation and short-term classes for adults.

Moderate Session. Assist the Session in leading the church. Empower staff and volunteers through training, support, direction and leadership. Staff Personnel, Finance and Membership Committees. Attend other Session committee meetings, as needed. Actively support the Presbyterian Women and the Men of the Church.

Support Missions committee in local and global initiatives. Participate in mission projects, as appropriate. Distribute Deacons Fund monies under Session guidelines.

Conduct a program of health and spiritual well-being, both personally and in collaboration with the Personnel Committee.

Develop specific personal and ministry goals for carrying out the mission of the church.

### Compensation & Housing

Minimum Effective Salary  
65000

Housing Type  
Housing allowance

### MDP - Narratives

How would you describe the congregation's/organization's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

From the Mission Study Survey, specific areas of ministry rise to the fore: Worship, Music, Mission and Congregational Caring. These are central to the mission of FPC.

Music is central to the worship experience. It is enhanced by organ, piano, dedicated choir and handbells, and other instruments.

How would you describe the congregation's/organization's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

FPC is active in many local and community missions including:

Sunday Community Suppers; The Corner Table; Annual Rise Against Hunger packaging events; March Madness annual food drive for Ashure Ministries (Cooperative Christian Ministry) and provide warehouse space for Ashure

FPC has been involved with the presbytery Guatemalan mission. Members of FPC have led the Presbytery of Western NC in this effort. FPC has a sister church in Guatemala, El Redentor.

Adult Fellowship Dinners and events encourage interaction among members.

What is the nature and context of the community in which your congregation lives out its mission/vision? How will you address the emerging needs that are impacting your community?

Newton is a thriving, growing, relatively prosperous town that serves as the county seat of Catawba County. The population is diverse in age, socio-economic status and ethnicity.

FPC listens to Christ's call to welcome all of God's people. We are inclusively open to and affirming of all races, genders, gender identities, sexual orientation, socio-economic groups, ages and backgrounds.

In living out Christ's kingdom we offer facilities to various organizations in the city and county: A kitchen and fellowship hall used by Senior's Morning Out and Meals on Wheels; Sunday Community Supper; Classrooms used for a homeschool program; Shower Ministry for the homeless; Offering the Fellowship Hall as a community meeting space.

The congregation is generally in harmony on social issues. We believe that God calls all of us to recognize God's light, beauty, and the uniqueness in every individual, all of whom we are called to welcome and love.

FPC understands Christian calling in the world to be not just other-aware but self-aware.

The number of traditional churches is declining. A significant challenge will be to address this trend with pastoral and congregational energy and imagination. We are open to exploring and implementing different approaches to worship, technology and facility use.

How will this call help complement the responsibilities of other staff/volunteer positions, and the life of the congregation/organization, so that you may accomplish your short and long-term goals for ministry?

This call is for a pastor who will be the primary spiritual leader and face of the church in the community. The pastor will moderate a strong and competent session. The pastor will inherit an excellent team of staff and volunteers to support and collaborate with in the running of our church both day-to-day and in strategic planning and execution. The staff works well

How will this call help complement the responsibilities of other staff/volunteer positions, and the life of the congregation/organization, so that you may accomplish your short and long-term goals for ministry?

together, behind the scenes to maintain the near 40,000 square foot facility, enable fellowship nights, special gatherings, outreach programs, worship leadership, and much more. A major role of the pastor will be to continue this excellence and empower the staff in new and challenging ways.

Adult Sunday School is an important activity taught by volunteers from within the class as well as outside speakers. We cover topics ranging from world religion to issues of Christian ethics.

Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have, to lead the congregation towards the vision and mission established.

The congregation is well educated in large part. We lean in a progressive direction. We appreciate thoughtful sermons with new perspectives and relationships to current experiences and events. We look forward to strengthening our adult and youth education programs.

We welcome an approachable pastor with strong communication and people skills, an ability to manage their own energy and well-being, and a desire to be part of a loving and active church family. Living in the community is considered important. Stewardship and pastoral care throughout the congregation will be a priority.

Knowledge of Scripture and its implications for daily living

Effective leadership abilities including communication, teaching and consensus building

Understanding of the diversity and opportunities of our community

Recognition of the importance of the growth of our church

Passion for increasing community and congregational engagement

Ability to manage his/her own energy and well-being

Celebrate the imperfections of church and family life in a Christ-like fashion

Pastor sets goals for his/her continuing education

The pastor should demonstrate, in life and in thought, being a person of God who loves the Church as an organization and as a congregational entity.

What areas of ministry do you expect the person called to be responsible for? Share specific tasks, assignments, and programs.

Plan and lead worship; Build relationships with congregants and provide pastoral care in personal visits, personal communication and presence in times of crisis; Strengthen a "Welcoming Culture" within the church; Collaborate with all committees on their missions; Teach and/or arrange for adult education; Moderate Session; Be available for special ceremonies – weddings, baptisms, funerals; Participate in outreach ministries and special events in the community; Work collaboratively with staff and volunteers; Improving stewardship; Work collaboratively with other churches in the community on emerging community needs.

The pastor will strive to ensure that every member of the congregation feels heard and included. The pastor should be willing to engage all members and visitors. God's presence should be demonstrated through attention, empathy, and all possible avenues of spiritual connection.

The pastor should recognize the increasing importance of technology in the life of the church.

### Optional Links

First Presbyterian -Newton - Church website - <https://fpcNewton.org>

City of Newton - Local Government Resources - <https://Newtonnc.gov>

Ashure Ministry - Crisis Ministry, Food Pantry - <https://ashureministry.org>

Catawba County - County Government Resources - <https://Catawbacountync.gov>

The Corner Table - Soup Kitchen - <https://TheCornerTable.org>

City of Conover - Local Government Resources - <https://Conovernc.gov>

### References

Reference #1

Rev. Connie Button  
Former Interim Pastor  
252.904.9736  
Cmbutton@yahoo.com

Reference #2

Rev. Dr. Beverly Thompson  
Presbytery Co-Associate  
404.731.3281  
drbeverlythompson@gmail.com

Reference #3

Dr. Charles Davis  
Former member  
828.855.8891  
cbdavismd@gmail.com

### Self-Referral Contact Information

COM

Ann Philbrick

Email Address

[aphilbrick@presbyterywnc.org](mailto:aphilbrick@presbyterywnc.org)

Preferred Phone

615-922-0845

EP

Preferred Phone

Byron Wade

828-430-1515

Email Address

[bwade@presbyterywnc.org](mailto:bwade@presbyterywnc.org)

PNC

Address

Ann Sperry

803 Iris Lane Newton NC 28658

Preferred Phone

Email Address

828.244.7632

[dogsnoring@gmail.com](mailto:dogsnoring@gmail.com)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [CLC Manual and Forms](#)

Copyright © 2023 Presbyterian Church (USA)