

# The Pastor We Seek Survey

## Summary/Overview

The survey that supports this summary delves deeply into Georgetown Presbyterian's search for a new pastor and spiritual leader for our congregation. Carefully crafted questions and subsequent responses have provided our Mission Study Team with a wealth of insight into the kind of person needed to fill this critically important role. This overview includes the most important highlights. Survey results such as graphs, pie charts, and more detailed information are available upon request.

Summarized, GPC is seeking a pastor who is actively involved with the congregation and is deeply committed to prioritizing and implementing the needs and programs of our community of faith. Our members desire a leader who dedicates significant time during their work week to local church initiatives and aligns the distribution of mission dollars with our community-focused vision. This approach reflects a broader trend within the PCUSA, where many congregations are shifting their emphasis toward local engagement.

Our ideal pastor will deliver sermons rooted in Scripture, moving and inspirational, designed to nurture the spiritual lives of our congregants. 72% of our members place a high value on preaching that emphasizes the Bible, indicating a strong preference for messages that are biblically grounded. While the primary focus should be on biblical teachings and Presbyterian theological beliefs, there should also be a willingness to address contemporary social issues when appropriate. Education is a high priority for our congregation emphasizing our desire for learning and spiritual growth.

We are looking for a pastor whose style is relaxed, informal, and socially engaging across all age groups. This person should be warm, approachable, and open to introducing new and challenging ideas that enhance existing church programs. Active participation in the life of the church, from regular services to special events, is essential.

Supporting and guiding our lay leadership and committees is a key responsibility, particularly in developing programs that respond to and reflect the diverse needs of our congregation. This includes initiatives for families with children and youth, which 67% of our members strongly support, as well as programs that engage and support our older members.

Our survey results paint a picture of a congregation that values inspirational and traditional preaching, educational credentials, effective church management, and a pastor who is both spiritually nurturing and deeply involved in the community. While there is strong support for many aspects of pastoral leadership, the congregation's views on social activism and justice are more nuanced-complex and beautifully diverse. Therefore, we are seeking a pastor whose leadership will offer a healthy balance of biblical preaching with meaningful ideas leading to discussion and dialogue regarding the inequalities present in our surrounding communities.

In the end, it is clear Georgetown Presbyterian Church seeks a pastor who is not only a strong spiritual leader but also an effective administrator, educator, counselor, and community member. This pastor should embody warmth, approachability, and a commitment to both the spiritual and practical needs of our congregation, ensuring that all aspects of church life are nurtured and supported.