

Vacancy Announcement and Job Description: Preaching Minister
University Park Church of Christ
6420 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782
Telephone: 301-927-7277; Email: upcoc@verizon.net

Open Announcement: This announcement will remain open until the position is filled.

Resumes should respond to the qualifications and experience requirements set forth in this vacancy announcement and job description. Resumes may be filed by mail or by email at above addresses. References are required. We may contact employers and verify education.

Qualifications:

1. Ability to function sensitively and well in a multicultural, multi-racial, and multi-ethnic urban community and congregation.
2. Hold a degree from a university or college accredited by one of the regional accreditation agencies (for example, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges).
3. A degree in Bible, including Biblical languages, is desired but not required for the application.
4. Experience serving in some congregational ministry capacity for 2-5 years preferred.
5. Demonstrated ability and skills in preaching, as well as community outreach.
6. Has a deep love for Christ Jesus as Savior, and that love guides the applicant's every action.
7. Has a deep love for the Word of God and its power to help those who hear the Word to grow.
8. Has a deep love for all people: family, church, community and the lost.
9. Has a strong desire to work under and alongside the congregation's eldership.

Congregational Information:

The University Park Church of Christ has served the Hyattsville and greater Prince George's County, Maryland, communities since it opened in July 1960. The congregation's roots trace to 1924, when the 14th Street Church of Christ (now 16th Street & Decatur) began a Sunday School outreach in a storefront on Bladensburg Road, S.E., Washington, D.C. The Sunday school grew into the Avalon Heights Church of Christ. It later merged with the West Hyattsville Church of Christ to become the current congregation. Our community is urban and diverse in every sense of that word. We are located inside the Capital Beltway, only a mile

from the main campus of the University of Maryland and about two miles to our boundary with the District of Columbia. Our members are geographically spread through the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV).

We are a mainline congregation of the Churches of Christ in doctrine and practice. For instance, weekly communion, acapella singing and baptism by immersion for remission of sins are key practices of our faith. We currently have four elders and four deacons. Our attendance averages about 140. We contribute monthly support to a school for children in Kenya. We feel a strong calling to have the University of Maryland as a mission point. In 2016 we started "Terps for Christ" and had a campus minister serving until the summer of 2019. We are planning, after getting our preaching minister in place, to hire an associate minister to re-establish the "Terps for Christ" outreach and assist with worship.

Our congregation consists of African-Americans, Africans, Anglo-Americans, Caribbean Islanders, Filipinos, and Indians (from Asia). Our membership reflects the diversity of our community. We want to keep that diversity, because we steadfastly believe that is what the church of our Lord Jesus was intended to be. In addition, we are seeking ways to reach out to a steadily growing Hispanic population in our metropolitan area. Our goal is to mix all ethnic and racial, as well as socioeconomic, groups in one congregation -- not to have separate groups meeting under our umbrella.

Our previous preaching minister, Dorn Muscar, was here for over 8 years. He transitioned from preaching to a position in Christian higher education. He left on great terms and is willing to tell you more about the congregation. You can reach him at dmuscarjr@gmail.com.

Areas of Responsibility:

Preaching

- Weekly on Sunday mornings, and on Sunday evenings as directed by the elders.
- Exegetically sound, spiritually-formative, seeker-sensitive, encouraging, relevant & practical sermons.
- Sermon series should keep the congregation engaged.

Teaching

- Wednesday evening Bible study.
- Lead a Connection Group on Sunday Morning.
- Work with elders in selecting curriculum for Connection groups.
- Conduct one-on-one studies with visitors and members for growth in the faith.

Pastoral Care

- Work diligently to get to know each member personally.
- Be available to members before and after worship services and Bible studies.
- Visit members who are sick or shut-in.
- Follow-up with guests and visitors.

- Conduct Bible-based premarital counseling and perform weddings free of charge for those meeting our marriage policy.
- Conduct funerals for members free of charge.

Worship Planning

- Work with the song leaders to select songs and create the weekly worship slides.
- Create sermon slides to go with your sermon.
- Encourage more members to serve during worship.
- Work closely with the church secretary to produce the bulletin and provide announcements.

Community Outreach

- Continue to lead and initiate current outreach efforts as deemed beneficial by the elders:
 - School Supply Give Away
 - FriendSpeak/Chinese Outreach
 - Friends & Family Day
 - Warm Nights Communication with CCSI
- Listen to community needs and initiate new outreach efforts to bless our neighbors.
- Work with the elders to develop a strategy for evangelism & outreach.
- Be the primary point of contact and spokesperson for the congregation in the community at various events and meetings.

Leadership Development

- Work closely with elders and deacons. Plan to meet monthly with them.
- Meet at least monthly with just the elders.
- Help identify and encourage members to lead ministries and initiate new ministries.
- Supervise the day-to-day work of future ministers.
- Give attention to personal leadership development through reading and seminars.

Mission Advocacy

- Be a strong supporter of reaching college students through “Terps for Christ”.
- Be strong supporter of congregational involvement in Kenya with RingRoad Ministries and the Gabriella School.

Special Event Coordination

- Help find guest speakers for Annual Retreat, International Day and WatchNight Service.

Additional elements of the position:

1. *Office Hours Plus* – Maintain regular office hours in coordination with the elders. Be available to elders and members at hours other than office hours. Be available for community meetings at times other than office hours and at places other than the church building.
2. *Outside Preaching/Teaching Appointments* – When an outside organization (such as a university or another congregation of the church) offers the minister an opportunity to speak or teach, he will confer with the elders about whether he may accept the offer.
3. *Participate* in all public functions of the congregation.
4. *Residence requirement* – The preacher will reside within five (5) miles of the church building to be convenient for work requirements.

*It is recognized that a position description cannot cover all details of the duties of the minister; therefore, the minister and the elders may initiate discussions about changing the contents of this document.

Benefits in Addition to Salary

1. *Vacation* – Two weeks of leave.
2. *Sick Leave* –The minister will coordinate absences because of illnesses with the elders.
3. *Family Leave* – If the minister is required to be absent to care for a family member, the minister will coordinate absences with the elders.
4. *Paid Annual Conference for Spiritual formation.*
5. *One day off during the week in addition to Saturday.*
6. *Paid health insurance & dental plan.*
7. *3% matching funds for retirement plan after one year.*

Church Website: www.upcoc.com

For General Information about Maryland and Prince George's County:

<https://www.maryland.gov> (for state government)

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/> (for county government)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_George%27s_County,_Maryland (general information)

<https://www.pgcps.org/> (Prince George's County Public Schools)

For Real Estate Information:

<https://www.zillow.com/prince-georges-county-md/>

https://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-search/Prince-George's-County_MD

<https://www.remax.com/realestatehomesforsale/princegeorgescounty-md-p001.html>

(Note: These are only representative of real estate companies with websites for Prince George's County, MD. None of the elders at University Park has ownership or financial ties to a real estate company.)