

Souderton Mennonite Church

Ministry Description

Title: Pastor of Discipleship

Time Commitment: Full-Time Salaried (45 hours a week)

Accountability: To Pastoral Team Leader

General Description of Purpose: The Pastor of Discipleship will equip and empower the SMC congregation to grow as lifelong disciples of Jesus. Specific leadership focus will be given to the overall faith and life formation of families, children, youth, and young adults.

Qualifications:

1. Has a living, growing relationship with Christ Jesus.
2. Nurtures self through spiritual practices for personal faith development and growth. Has the ability and spiritual gifts to nurture and cultivate spiritual development in others.
3. Has experienced a call to serve God, and the church, through pastoral leadership.
4. Committed to SMC's vision, mission, and policies, as well as Anabaptist teaching, values, and ethical standards for credentialed leaders as set forth by Mosaic Mennonite Conference and MC-USA (see page 2 for list of documents to be familiar with and the six core competences for lifelong learning).
5. Able to effectively equip and empower others for ministry.
6. Has the desire to see people grow in their relationships with Christ, church, and community.
7. A seminary degree is preferred, but not required.

Description of Responsibilities:

1. Lifelong Discipleship

- Give oversight, in coordination with other pastors, to baptism preparation
- Give oversight to Formation Team in providing leadership and direction to Sunday School ministry (selecting curriculum options, planning SS electives, etc.)
- Equip and empower Director of Youth and Children's Ministries in their respective roles (selecting curriculum, Bible studies, resourcing, etc.)
- Oversee men's ministry (Bible studies, relationship building opportunities, etc.), connect groups, Bible studies, triads, and small groups ministry
- Give oversight to creating discipleship opportunities for Wednesday Community Nights

2. Young Adults

- Give oversight to ministry with young adults and post-high school – relationship building, resourcing, equipping and empowering volunteer leaders, etc.

3. Families

- Give leadership, vision, and oversight to help nurture Christian faith and life within families

- Encourage and equip families to nurture and strengthen relationships with one another (i.e. marriage, parent-child, etc.)
- Encourage inter-generational learnings and connections
- Explore creative ways to connect with families in community, and the local schools

4. Preaching, Teaching, Worship, Events

- Preach approximately 1-2 times per month
- Teach Sunday School electives on occasion
- Participate in Sunday morning worship – i.e. worship leading, congregational prayer, special events, etc.
- Participate in weddings, funerals, and dedications, as requested

Self-Care

1. Maintain a support system that encourages a balanced and healthy pastoral ministry. This may include spiritual direction, coaching, a clergy care group and/or personal counseling.
2. Maintain a schedule that prioritizes spiritual practices to deepen a vital relationship with God through a spiritual ‘rhythm and rule’ that nurtures personal development.
3. Maintain personal Sabbath time by setting apart time each week to restore your spirit.

Documents

Each pastor at Souderton Mennonite Church is expected to be familiar with the following documents:

1. *1995 Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.*
2. *A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership* polity manual for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA.
3. Mosaic Mennonite Conference Guidelines and Expectations for credentialed leaders.

Each pastor, as part of their ongoing continuing education and personal development as a pastoral leader, is expected to demonstrate accomplishment/willingness to grow in the following 6 Mennonite Church USA Core Competencies:

1. **Biblical Story:** firmly grounded in the Biblical story and foundational theology in order to preach and teach the Word of God for life transformation.
2. **Anabaptist/Mennonite Principles:** understand and will value core Anabaptist values, beliefs and practices.
3. **Christian Spirituality/Discipleship:** willingness to grow in a spirituality that is continually being shaped by the everlasting love of God, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
4. **Self-understanding and self-awareness:** seeks a healthy sense of self and a capacity to enter into and maintain healthy relationships with others.
5. **Contextual awareness and missional leadership:** willing to grow in ability to recognize, interpret and redemptively engage the natural, cultural, ecclesial and global environments of this ministry context.
6. **Leadership:** willingness to grow in capacity for leadership.