Sparta Presbyterian Church
Installed Solo Pastor, Full-Time or Part-Time, and First Called is Acceptable

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Church Mission/Vision Statement
Sparta Presbyterian Church exists to worship God and be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in the church, the community, and the world. In a rapidly changing world, we seek to foster a strong congregational identity and vitality by:

- Being a welcoming and safe place where all individuals are equally accepted for who they are and where they are on their journey of faith
- Growing in Christ through teaching and learning together and caring for one another
- Celebrating our unique heritage and rich traditions while being open to new and fresh ways to worship God
- Engaging our members to seek partnerships in the community to serve, as well as develop relationships with our neighbors
- Creating greater visibility in the community through signage, print media, digital media presence, and other means

Tasks, expectations, duties, assignments, and responsibilities:
The pastor will teach and preach the Word; prepare and conduct worship and special services; exhibit spiritual maturity; be available for emergency pastoral duties; maintain regular contact with congregants; conduct all types of pastoral visitations; inspire spiritual and numeric growth of the congregation; maintain a nurturing relationship with congregants; build trusting relationships with the congregation and community; and administer church affairs in coordination with the staff, committees, and the session.

Ministry Discernment Profile Narrative:
The person called to our church will serve as solo pastor and be responsible for all aspects of Worship including inspiring sermons that provoke thought and apply Biblical teachings to current concerns in our community and the world. Additionally, our next pastor will have a heart for congregational care for our members and friends through visitation and communication. They will be actively involved in the support of our food ministries and coordinate with other churches and organizations in the community to address needs and solutions.

The ideal pastor will provide key leadership and continue our long-term goal to grow our membership and attendance as we serve the needs of our community. Pastoral leadership will also coordinate with individual leadership in well-organized committees and groups to reach short term goals as they identify the needs of both the congregation and community. When needs are identified, they will be addressed by both tried and true solutions as well as innovative and creative solutions by integrating the specific skills of individuals to accomplish goals. Our groups and committees have strong lay leaders allowing them to flourish without overreliance on the pastor. Pastors are an integral part of each team to complement with spiritual guidance. There is an atmosphere of kind

cooperation in this church as we seek to become the hands, feet and heart of Jesus both in our congregation as well as the community. We need strong leadership to coordinate our efforts to the greatest efficiency.

We seek a pastor who embodies spiritual maturity, humility and passion for guiding God's people to grow in Christ through scripture, fellowship, and discipleship. This person must have a heart for people, demonstrating approachability and compassion, while providing attentive pastoral care through presence, listening, and encouragement. Strong interpersonal skills are essential, along with the ability to nurture relationships and create a welcoming environment where all feel valued and safe in their faith journey.

We seek a leader with vision and inspiration, who can engage and equip the congregation for ministry, celebrating our rich traditions and embracing new expressions of worship and service. They should be an inspiring preacher and teacher, able to deliver sermons that are both faithful to Scripture and relevant to the challenges of today, offering wisdom and hope that equip us to live our faith in daily life. A passion for community involvement is vital, as we desire a pastor who will be active beyond our walls, building partnerships, serving those in need, and strengthening our church's visibility and witness.

Personal qualities such as organizational skills, self-motivation, and effective communication are highly valued, as are patience and a sense of humor. We believe that with God's guidance, a small church can have a mighty impact, and we seek a pastor who will walk alongside us in fulfilling that calling.

Our next pastor will possess strategic planning skills, lead the church with vision, and engage and equip our members for service to the community. They will be responsible for our adult Bible study, coordinate our committees, moderate our session, supervise our administrative assistant, and coordinate music with our music director. The person will be available for emergency pastoral care and conduct home, hospital, care facility, and home-bound visitations. They will be the face of our church to the community at large and interact with other churches and community organizations to further the ministry goals of our congregation.

Sparta Presbyterian Church serves as the primary Presbyterian church in Alleghany County, located in the Northwest Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina and is well known for its friendly people and beautiful vistas. The congregation is known for being welcoming and inclusive, helping people feel at ease in their faith journey, and we strive to grow a vibrant and active Christian ministry. We seek to center around joyful learning and believe the Bible is the living Word of God and ministry of hope.

Many new members join our church through personal invitations and connections. Committees and individual member involvement engage the congregation in community activities, reflecting our strong community awareness and partnerships with local organizations, including a long history with hunger ministries. We welcome all to celebrate our unique heritage and rich traditions and are open to new and fresh ways to celebrate God. Many of our social activities revolve around serving food! The Session is

currently implementing strategies to create new street and social media visibility and ultimately attract visitors and potential new members.

Our ministry builds strong and meaningful relationships with both our congregation and community and offers multiple levels of support that often includes getting your hands “dirty.” We are a loving church and welcome diversity with abundant conversations, hugs, and genuine warmth. Sparta Presbyterian Church works with the county Ministerium to address community needs. We partner with Surry County’s Stone’s Throw Ministry to distribute food boxes to seniors and work with Solid Rock Food Closet to provide food for those in need. During winter, we provide gloves, hats, and scarves for those in need. We participate in the Empty Bowls campaign to provide backpacks for needy school children. Our facilities are used by AA, Al-Anon, a community prayer shawl knitting ministry, Quilters Guild, Retired Teachers Group, and Women’s Club. We are in continuous dialogue with community leaders to aid as needed. SPC is a Chamber of Commerce member and actively participates in community festivals and activities.

Sparta is an older community that attracts retirees, leading to high levels of volunteerism in many nonprofit groups vital to meet the needs of the community. However, 20% of the population lives below the poverty line, and mental health issues are a major concern. The suicide rate is more than twice that of NC and the nation, and drug use and food insecurity are also issues.

Sparta is the county seat of Alleghany County and is known for its natural beauty and outdoor activities. It is a vibrant town that celebrates its mountain heritage through music and arts. The community is safe, with low crime rates, and good air and water quality. High-speed fiber optics are available throughout most of the county.

Minimum and Maximum Effective Salary:
$55,000

Housing Type:
Open to either – A comfortable manse is available

SPC Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/SpartaPres
SPC Website - https://www.spartapresbyterian.org/
Alleghany Chamber of Commerce - https://www.alleghanycountychamber.com/

PNC Chair: David Moulton
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