

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mif #: 12123.AA1

Ministry General Information

Ministry Number	12123
Ministry Name	The Open Door, PCUSA
Mailing Address	801 North Negley Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Phone	NA
Fax	NA
E-Mail	pnc@pghopendoor.org
WWW Address	https://www.pghopendoor.net/
Ministry Size	Under 100 members

Ethnic Composition	
	Asian 2%
	Black or African American (African Native, Caribbean) 2%
	Hispanic Latino/Latina, Spanish 2%
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 1%
	White 93%

Average Worship Attendance	72
Church School Attendance	31
Curriculum	31 children ages 2 years through 6th grade 2-4 year olds: God Loves Me from Faith Alive Christian Resources. 5-9: Growing in God's Love: A Story
Yoked	False
Presbytery	PITTSBURGH PRESBYTERY
Synod	SYNOD OF THE TRINITY
Community Type	Urban
Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization Show Statistics	

Information about the position

Position:	Co- Pastor
Experience Required:	First Ordained Call
Specific Title:	
Employment Status:	Open to both

Language Requirements:	
	English

Other Language:	
Statement of Faith Required:	True
Clergy Couples:	

Training/Certificate Requirements:	
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Other Training:

Brief Church Mission Statement:

“Creating passageways to God, others, and the world in the way of Jesus”

The Open Door is a community of shared practices, whose life in Christ and through the Holy Spirit cultivates authentic, vulnerable, and diverse spaces for connection and transformation. We long for these gifts to be expressed more deeply in the life of our church community and more broadly in the places where God sends us.

What is the congregation’s or organization’s vision for ministry:

The Open Door began as a church plant, attracting students who were struggling with the religious traditions of their upbringing. In the following years, the Open Door moved to an arts-based community center called the Union Project. We structured our community around five practices: Listening, Learning, Eating, Encouraging, and Giving. These practices guide everything we do.

The Open Door does not own a building; instead, we own a farm where we realize much of our ministry. Garfield Community Farm is a tangible example of God’s reclamation—a thriving green space which was once barren land. Our farm provides fresh produce and educational opportunities with our neighbors and volunteers, and seeks to demonstrate God’s restoration of creation through urban agriculture in the Garfield community. The farm is not an effort to proselytize but a sincere reflection of our belief that we are an incarnation of Christ wherever we find ourselves in the world.

The Open Door is both traditional and transformational: giving orthodox expression to radical ideas. We seek to lean into the friction and struggle that come with an emotionally honest spiritual journey. We share hope for the Kingdom of God, which is coming and is already here. Liturgical, ecumenical and theological diversity guide our ethos of “generous orthodoxy”—a reshaping of old expressions into new ways of living out community with, before, and through God.

How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency:

The Open Door is a home for those in need of spiritual restoration. Through our farm, we grow food for our community and provide a safe space for our neighbors to engage with Creation. The majority of our non-personnel budget is dedicated to ministries both local and abroad that provide housing, food, education, and community engagement. We are committed to embracing an ever-reforming understanding of God’s continual revelation in our cultural context. We do this by embracing our differences in political alignment, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Our desire is to welcome all into the contemplation of God’s Truth.

The Open Door takes seriously the obligation to grow and change. What begins with discernment must end in action. Garfield Community Farm was an action that grew out of the five practices, and we are earnestly seeking ways we can increase its impact in the community.

For many years the Open Door has grappled with Pittsburgh’s racial history and a deep desire to be part of the racial healing of our city. This has been a genuine struggle. After an extended discernment process, we crafted a new mandate to “cultivate authentic, vulnerable, and diverse spaces for connection and transformation.” With these watchwords in hand, we find ourselves on the cusp of action. In this next season, we are committed to living out those words—taking them from aspirational to incarnational. We are looking for a co-pastor who can share, inform, and lead that transformation.

How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals:

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This is a co-pastor position whose role is to help facilitate our Sunday worship, oversee our committees, and keep us connected in meaningful and productive ways to the greater Presbyterian community. At its core, the position needs to fulfil two primary tasks.

The first task is to preserve what works about the Open Door. We need someone who can effectively work alongside our co-pastor in leading our community in its areas of health and strength—this includes modeling genuine spiritual maturity, facilitating hard conversation, and fostering a contemplative space of peace and grace.

The second task is to help us grow. For many years, the Open Door avoided anything that resembled evangelism (possibly in reaction to the “winning souls” approach many of us grew up in). This was necessary work, but after fifteen years, our community has reached a point where we need to look outward. A tight-knit community can be hard to break into, and we have a lot to learn about how to truly open ourselves to others—to bring people in and share with them the gift of community that we all enjoy. We know this will require serious change and the attendant growing pains—we are prepared to do that work. We seek a leader with strong vision and the ability to communicate that vision to the congregation and the community, someone who can work effectively with our co-pastor and Session to discern what God has for the future of our church, and steadily guide us toward that vision.

Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and or organization:

We are looking for a spirit of humility, someone without a dogmatic mind. Our services are expressed through orthodox liturgy but with a core understanding that nobody is mandated to follow out of a need for performance. We need someone who is unafraid of owning mistakes or changing their mind. Someone who sees personal vulnerability as a strength. Someone who can work effectively alongside our co-pastor. Someone who can remind us that God does not want perfection but perfect acceptance of God’s grace. We also want someone with the strength to challenge our small community. To help us confront the legacy of the Church—both good and bad—and lead us helping heal the world. We need someone who is willing to step in and mediate disagreements. We need someone with organizational vision and interpersonal skills: they must be able to coordinate the work of leadership groups so that the big-picture goals are being executed and people are keeping to meaningful deadlines. Additionally, they must have strong administrative skills, and be comfortable delegating responsibilities and holding volunteers accountable to their duties. We want someone who is willing to accept the involvement of other church leaders as well. They must be comfortable connecting our congregation to the larger Presbytery and to other churches in our neighborhood. We are committed to worshipping alongside our sister congregations, such as Valley View.

What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

This role, with our current co-pastor, will co-lead our Sunday worship service, share guidance and oversight of our committees, board of deacons, and Session, as well as help manage relationships with our mission partners. We expect this co-pastor to offer a sermon 2-3 times per month, take a primary organizational and administrative role, and provide guidance to our spiritual formation ministry.

The Open Door has a legacy of partnering with other churches and organizations throughout Pittsburgh—believing that our strength comes in our relationships. We are looking for someone who can continue to build those relationships and find new ways to grow this interconnected faith/service community. We expect this co-pastor to wholeheartedly support the farm and contribute in whatever way is suitable to their particular giftedness. An ideal candidate will blend the contemplative spirit of the Open Door with our activist aspirations.

Where mutually beneficial, we are a church that historically offers some measure of flexibility and creativity in designing a job that will best fit us as a church and the uniqueness of the candidate. Under certain circumstances, we are open to either full-time or part-time candidates. We will support a part time candidate in finding or creating a collaborative position. For example, a candidate may be employed by the Open Door for 32 hours, and have a spiritual direction, counseling, or other practice that would compliment the co-pastor position.

Optional Links:

<https://www.pghopendoor.net/>

<http://www.garfieldfarm.com/>

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Leadership Competencies:
Preaching and Worship Leadership
Spiritual Maturity
Communicator
Culturally Proficient
Willingness to Engage Conflict
Organizational Agility
Strategy and Vision
Collaboration
Interpersonal Engagement
Bridge Builder

Compensation and Housing: <u>Cost of Living Calculator</u>
Minimum Effective Salary: \$51,846
Housing Type: Housing Allowance

References:				
Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
Rev. Chad Collins	409 N Fairmount St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206	412-708-6158	Pastor of Valley View Presbyterian Church (sister)	cdcollins2124@gmail.com
Rev. Marlaena Cochran, Chaplain, Family Hospice	NA	412-726-3335	former member, seminarian under care, and financia	marlaenacochran@yahoo.com
Rev. Laura Bentley, Director of Faith Formation at Community Presbyter	306 Roosevelt Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15215	724-549-2306	former member and seminarian under care, Sanctuar	lbentley.pgh@gmail.com

Has the Pastor Nominating Committee and Search committee affirmed its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?
Yes
Version Track Info: This MIF was last updated on 10/20/2020

Self-referral Contact Information	
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Church Leadership Connection
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