



Church Leadership Connection

Connecting | Discerning | Calling

## Ministry General Information

Ministry Name Pittsburgh Presbytery	Presbytery	Synod
Email info@pghpresbytery.org	Preferred Phone 412-323-1400	Website Address www.pghpresbytery.org
Mailing Address 901 Allegheny Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15233	Alternate Phone/Email	Community Type
Congregation or Organization Size	Curriculum	Average Worship Attendance
Church School Attendance		
Intercultural Composition		

## Information about the Position

### Position Requirements

Position Type(s) General Presbyter/Executive Presbyter/Presbytery Leader	Language Requirements English
Experience Required 5 to 10 Years	Statement of Faith required? Yes
Employment Status Full-time	Are you open to a clergy couple? No

## Ministry Requirements

---

### Church Mission/Vision Statement

Pittsburgh Presbytery is a covenant community of Jesus Christ that exists to assist and support the witness of our congregations and members as we actively participate in the mission of the Triune God in the world. To accomplish this, Pittsburgh Presbytery, through our commissions, staff, and ministry teams: - Gathers church leaders and connects them for shared ministry and mutual benefit. - Resources them through grants and collaborative sharing. - Advises and assists them through challenges and transitions. - Cultivates an environment that encourages them to innovate and experiment with new forms of ministry. - Equips and encourages them as they proclaim the good news of Christ in word and deed.

### Tasks, expectations, duties, supervision, assignments, and responsibilities for the position

Presbytery and Staff Leadership: Provide creative and visionary leadership, guiding and implementing strategies for Presbytery's life and mission in new and evolving realities and needs; Model and promote a culture of transparency, trust, and respect for and reconciliation of the racial, social, and theological diversity within the Presbytery; Serve as Head of Staff, lead weekly staff meetings Work with other leaders in preparing for Presbytery meetings and commission meetings; Prepare the annual budget in consultation with the rest of the staff and committee/team chairs Coordinate a comprehensive strategy for communication among congregations, ministers, Presbytery staff, and Presbytery's committees and commissions.

Congregational Assistance and Support: In coordination with the other leadership staff, direct and participate in the Presbytery's strategy for assisting, supporting, and equipping its congregations and members Visit with pastors, sessions, and congregations, including preaching and moderating meetings; Advise and assist pastors and congregations through ministry transitions and difficulties; Serve as an ex-officio member without vote on the Nominations Committee. Direct and coordinate the work of the leadership staff to provide staff liaisons for the commissions, ministry teams, and committees of the Presbytery.

## Compensation & Housing

---

Minimum Effective Salary

Housing Type

## MDP - Narratives

How would you describe the congregation's/organization's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

Pittsburgh Presbytery's new vision statement urges the Presbytery to support congregations in their missional callings. The specific strategies for this new direction are still evolving, but some components are already in place, such as our designation as a Matthew 25 presbytery. While several aspects of our work are ripe for creative rebuilding, what we know for certain is that Christ will always be at the center of all we strive to do. With more than 120 congregations inside a single county, we sometimes joke that Presbyterians here are "denser" than anywhere else -- but that also speaks to the bountiful variety of gifts our congregations and people possess. As a presbytery, we seek to enhance those gifts for the glory of God.

What is the nature and context of the community in which your congregation lives out its mission/vision? How will you address the emerging needs that are impacting your community?

Pittsburgh Presbytery remains one of the nation's largest presbyteries, built on its history of early Scots-Irish immigrants to western Pennsylvania. Just as Pittsburgh has remade itself after the collapse of the steel industry into a vibrant economy dominated by medicine, education, and technology, our presbytery seeks to remake itself for the future that God has in store for us. We acknowledge that this regional revitalization has not equally benefited all areas and all people, and our commitment as a Matthew 25 presbytery is to uphold those who have been disproportionately excluded, by working toward dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and building congregational vitality. As in the rest of the nation, the majority of our congregations are small, yet we also have medium and larger congregations with substantial financial resources. We recognize that the vibrancy of a congregation does not depend upon its size, and we seek to help every congregation fully use its gifts in our varied communities, which range from urban neighborhoods to wealthy suburbs to poverty-stricken towns and rural areas.

How will this call help complement the responsibilities of other staff/volunteer positions, and the life of the congregation/organization, so that you may accomplish your short and long-term goals for ministry?

The general minister will work with a stated clerk and two associate ministers, as well as support staff and volunteers on various commissions and teams, to guide us to where God is calling us. Together, they will be expected to support pastors, candidates for ministry, and congregations as they seek to discern the emerging kingdom of God in many different contexts, so that our congregations can embrace their increasingly diverse communities. The general minister will also be the presbytery's representative in building ecumenical and interreligious relationships.

Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have, to lead the congregation towards the vision and mission established.

We seek a general minister who can help us discern how the church should evolve in uncertain times like these, and will help us identify, equip and support leaders who can use their gifts, with optimism and humility, to shape the future God has in store for us. To succeed in such a call, the general minister will need to be able to foster strong relationships, to listen and make others feel heard, and to convey love and respect even when there is disagreement, relying always on the Holy Spirit. Collegiality and skillful communication among staff, pastors, and laypeople of the presbytery will be crucial in building trust among our people, with their diverse theological, racial and socio-economic backgrounds. Our next general minister also must be willing to learn to love our city and its varied neighborhoods, with all their idiosyncrasies.

What areas of ministry do you expect the person called to be responsible for? Share specific tasks, assignments, and programs.

In addition to the areas described above, the General Minister will be expected to work alongside fellow staff members to provide staff support to the various commissions, committees, and ministry teams of the Presbytery. They will be responsible for coordinating the work of staff members to best match their gifts, skills, and passions with the ongoing needs of the Presbytery. The full, unedited job description, is contained in the links section.

## Optional Links

Pittsburgh

Presbytery - - <https://www.pghpresbytery.org/>

Synod of the

Trinity - - <https://www.syntrinity.org/>

Christian Associates of

## References

### Reference #1

Rev. Forrest Claassen  
Executive, Synod of the  
Trinity  
(717) 737-0421  
fclaassen@syntrinity.org

### Reference #2

Vera Karns White  
Ruling Elder, Hiland  
Presbyterian Church  
412-877-9142  
verakarnwhite@gmail.com

### Reference #3

Rev. Liddy Barlow  
Executive Minister,  
Christian Associates of  
Southwestern  
Pennsylvania  
412-523-6736  
lbarlow@casp.org

## Self-Referral Contact Information

### PNC

Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss

### Address

Sunset Hills UP Church 900 Country  
Club Drive Pittsburgh PA 15228

### Preferred Phone

412-956-9438

### Email Address

revlaurastrauss@gmail.com

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [CLC Manual and Forms](#)

Copyright © 2023 Presbyterian Church (USA)