

Full Time – Solo Pastor

United Church of Canandaigua – Presbyterian/Baptist

11 Gibson St.

Canandaigua, NY 14424

585-394-0503

pnc@uccdga.org

<http://www.unitedchurchofcanandaigua.com>

Membership: 410

Average worship attendance: 250

Sunday School attendance: 95

Our church is a member of the Geneva Presbytery and Synod of the Northeast as well as the American Baptist Churches of New York State.

Our mission statement:

The United Church is a single congregation representing two major denominations; the Presbyterian Church USA, and the American Baptist Churches USA. We are united in name, and in our mission “to know, love, and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.” We believe this mission is rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and recognizing biblical authority. God is our Creator and He has given us His God-breathed Word which is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) We are called to believe and obey His Word. We believe we need to stand boldly on biblical truth, contend for the faith, equip people with answers to questions, and to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone who will listen.

Our vision for ministry:

We are a biblically-focused, family-oriented church with a long history of ministries for children and adults, a heart for missions, and a desire to worship our Lord through word and music. Believing the Bible is God-breathed and true, Christian education for all ages is vital. We desire all ages to study and know the God of the Bible so that we may live faithfully. Thus, our education programs are Christ-centered and Bible-based to live out this vision as disciples. We desire to remain strong in our mission giving and participation, contributing to local and international causes. In worship, we feel called to continue in the rich tradition of hymns, choir, and organ music. We offer open communion, inviting others in faith to join us. We welcome people to join as Presbyterian, American Baptist or United (with no specific denomination) and practice two forms of baptism. We plan to be intentional about increasing connections within our own community (especially with young adults) and our participation in local mission opportunities. There is interest in establishing healing & prayer services and other ways of connecting with God through worship. We are exploring using technology for accepting tithes/offerings electronically, growing our presence on social media platforms, and updating our church website. Looking to the future, we see many opportunities to continue what we do well, remaining open to the Holy Spirit who guides and directs us as we look for ways to grow.

How we connect with our community:

Our church is called to reach out and address the many needs of our congregation and the community. The worship, instructional, and fellowship opportunities we offer to members, visitors, and the community are the foundation for how we serve others. In addition, church members give to the local food pantries, serve at an urban outreach community center, and faithfully give to special offerings which help members and the global community. The church has active boards and committees which also support a wide variety of missions. The

Board of Stewards ministers to our aged and homebound members. The children's and youth committees organize numerous projects to serve members and the community including: sending care packages to members, collecting school supplies and Christmas gifts for needy families, organizing fundraising events to support local missions, and hosting mission trips. All youth programs are open to young people in the community. The Outreach Committee welcomes visitors and supports new members. The Mission Committee serves the community on a broad level to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ locally, nationally, and internationally through our two-denomination affiliations.

To this end, we offer:

- Sunday School (children and adult)
- Adult education (small groups, retreats)
- Christian camperships
- LOGOS Youth Club (grades 2-8, including community)
- VBS
- The Cause (grades 9-12)
- Canandaigua Churches In Action (including a food pantry)
- Flower City Work Camp
- Additional mission opportunities

How this position will contribute to our vision:

First and foremost, we see our next pastor as a teacher. We are hungry for weekly sermons that are biblically-founded, delivered in a confident, personable, and genuine manner, and free from political bias while expounding on biblical truths as they apply to our lives today. Historically, our pastor has formed strong personal relationships with our members, including our youth. We believe that a personal relationship with our pastor plays a significant part in faith-formation for both young and old. We look forward to a pastor who will pray for us, encourage us, teach us God's Word, and partner with us in our church life. We desire for our next pastor to play an active role in our youth ministries and participate in adult/family activities outside of Sunday morning. We expect our pastor to actively participate in our weekly LOGOS Youth Club (grades 2-8) and The Cause (grades 9-12). Additionally, our pastor is to remain connected with "special members" who may be physically disconnected from our church due to age, illness, or other contributing factors. Ideally, our next pastor has a passion for connecting with the college-aged and young adult community to draw them to Jesus Christ and our church. In short, we desire our next pastor to be a friend of ours, walking with us as brothers and sisters in Christ, guiding and teaching us as we strive to walk closer with our Lord and Savior.

The pastor we are seeking:

Our next pastor will have a heart and desire to form personal relationships with the members, and have a welcoming heart for guests and visitors. We believe that it is through these personal relationships that ministry opportunities are born and faith is strengthened. (S)he will have excellent communication skills and will deliver biblically-oriented, engaging, and inspirational sermons each Sunday. (S)he will have a passion for working with youth and young adults and will be an active participant in youth and young adult activities. Our next pastor will be a strong leader, enthusiastically guiding our church as it strives to fulfill its mission. While possessing strong

leadership qualities, our next pastor will be fully aware that our church has a dedicated team of talented staff/directors that are charged with overseeing specific ministries of the church. Delegation and cooperation with staff is essential for our church to operate effectively. Our next pastor will be well-educated, have a passion for teaching, and (s)he will pass on knowledge in a way that is not arrogant or boastful. (S)he will be welcoming to all who come to our church, yet we expect him/her to share our traditional views, including our stated belief that marriage is between one man and one woman. Above all, our next pastor will have a heart for Christ, a deep understanding of the Bible, and a passion to share the good news of the gospel to all who enter the doors of the United Church of Canandaigua.

Pastoral responsibilities:

The primary responsibility of the pastor is to commend the gospel to all persons and communicate its joy, grace, and mercy. (S)he is responsible for studying, teaching and preaching the Word, for celebrating baptism and the Lord's Supper, and for praying with and for the congregation. Along with the ruling elders, (s)he is to encourage people in the worship and service of God, equip and enable them for their tasks within the church and their mission in the world, to exercise pastoral care, and to participate in governing responsibilities. (S)he is to share in the ministries of compassion, witness and service.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Presiding over Sunday worship services, with the requisite preparation
- Presiding over funeral and wedding services with preparation
- Moderating the Official Board (required in the Presbyterian Church, but not the American Baptist Churches)
- Head of Staff
- Making hospital visits, as needed
- Visiting "special members", including serving communion during Advent and Lent, in conjunction with the Director of Visitation
- Counseling, as needed and within narrow boundaries
- Participating in committee meetings of the church
- Actively participating in Youth Club
- Actively participating in The Cause
- Leading communicants/baptism classes, as needed
- Leading adult classes, as needed
- Participating in denominational activities

If you feel called to apply for this ministry, please submit a cover letter, resume/CV, and a Statement of Faith to pnc@uccdga.org. Any questions about this position can be sent to pnc@uccdga.org.