



**Church Leadership Connection**  
 \_Connecting | Discerning | Calling

### Ministry General Information

Ministry Name First Presbyterian Church	Presbytery Western Colorado	Synod The Rocky Mountains
Email admin@fpcdurango.org	Preferred Phone 970-247-3175	Website Address www.fpcdurango.org
Mailing Address 1159 E 3rd Ave, Durango, CO 81301	Alternate Phone/Email	Community Type Small City
Congregation or Organization Size 119	Curriculum Adult: Leadership directed / Youth: Rotating Leadership / Children: Mixed curricula	Average Worship Attendance 75
Church School Attendance Adult: 10-12 / Youth: 8-10 / Children: 2-5	Statistical Report <a href="https://ogaapps.pcusa.org/api/report/1276">https://ogaapps.pcusa.org/api/report/1276</a>	
Intercultural Composition White: 87%, Hispanic/Latinx: 9%, Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian: 3%, Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous: 1%		Released Date

### Information about the Position

Position Requirements	
Position Type(s) Solo Pastor: Installed	Language Requirements English
Experience Required 2 to 5 Years	Statement of Faith required? Yes
Employment Status Full-time	Are you open to a clergy couple? Yes

Ministry Requirements
Church Mission/Vision Statement Know Jesus, Live in the Spirit, Join in the Father's Work.
Tasks, expectations, duties, supervision, assignments, and responsibilities for the position See FPCD Solo Pastor job description at <a href="https://www.fpcdurango.org/church-news/pastor-nominating-committee-materials-for-candidates/">https://www.fpcdurango.org/church-news/pastor-nominating-committee-materials-for-candidates/</a>

Compensation & Housing
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Minimum Effective Salary

73000

Housing Type

Housing allowance

## 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?

Our congregation strives to fulfill our mission statement to "know Jesus, live in the spirit, and join in the Father's work." As we look to the future with God's grace and guidance, we envision a vibrant congregation made up of people of all ages, a congregation that welcomes people of diverse backgrounds, all races, ethnicities and genders, and in all phases of their journey with Christ. We imagine a congregation that gains insight and strength not only from studying the Bible, attending Sunday worship, Sunday School, and in small groups but also from the experience of creation, prayer and interaction with others. We envision a congregation dedicated to helping the poor and needy and striving for a just society.

We live out this vision by being a welcoming congregation to all. We have Children's Church each Sunday morning and our "Red Door" youth program each Sunday evening. We have an adult Sunday School, and several small groups focused on Bible study or insights from more contemporary literature. We have an outdoor activities group that monthly celebrates God's creation with camping, hiking or snowshoeing events.

We live out this vision by addressing our community's needs. We open our church facilities to groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and two local Scout Troops. Our church supports local community service groups with our time, talents and money as outlined in more detail in question 2.

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?

We are a small church with a congregational wealth of skills, training, experiences, and eager hearts, seeking to live in the Spirit by welcoming all. Our post-worship Fellowship Hour forms new friendships and strengthens old ones. Each Spring, Deacons deliver gift bags to our Veterans of Faith, members who blessed us with 80+ years of life, faith, and service. Special events include a community Easter Buffet & Egg Hunt, Summer Church Picnic, Deacon's Emergency Fund Dessert Auction, Halloween's Light Up the Night (non-scary displays, candy, & hot cider), Christmas Community Caroling, wedding & funeral receptions, and our "Better Together" service projects 4X per year with friends & neighbors. We seek to know Jesus by increasing bonds and knowledge with Adult Sunday School, a Red Door Youth Program, dedicated prayer warriors, and in-person & Zoom Bible studies, and we want to expand all these areas. We seek to join the Father's Work by increasing engagement and helping those with physical and spiritual needs. For example, we prepare meals at Manna Soup Kitchen monthly, Bell Ring for the Salvation Army, support the unhoused with Laundry Love, and the newly housed with Housewarming Love, donating household items via inter-church efforts. We have a Medical Lending Closet with walkers, wheelchairs, etc. available to the community. And we partner on work projects with a Navajo Church in New Mexico. We financially support community, national, and global partners.

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?

To help us Know Jesus, our pastor preaches and teaches Christian Scripture, leads worship, offers spiritual counsel, challenges the congregation to follow Jesus, learn and grow in Christ, and creatively share the Good News. Our pastor emphasizes scripture, relating it to our contemporary church, community, nation, and world. We aim to apply the teachings of Jesus to our own lives and families, and extend our welcoming outreach to visitors, seekers, and the Durango community. The pastor, with the Elders and Deacons, participates in new member classes, trains church officers, and encourages education

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through Bible studies, seminars, film series, etc. Our pastor especially supports our Red Door Youth Group and younger families. **To help us Live in the Spirit**, our pastor, with Deacon and Elder support, provides pastoral care and spiritual direction. The pastor conducts weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Our pastor supports individuals and families as they deal with life's events, including visiting the sick and homebound, listening, and offering comfort. The pastor may refer people needing long-term counseling or support to appropriate health providers in the greater Durango community. **To help us join in the Father's Work**, the pastor supervises and guides our small paid staff and works with the Session and Deacons to develop and execute programs. The pastor encourages, helps create, and ensures church communications are timely, accurate, coherent, and theologically consistent.

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.

Our last pastor lovingly brought us out of a divisive period of plummeting attendance and failing support. We need another socially engaging leader, well-versed in scripture and theology, with a talent for Christ-centered preaching. We seek a pastor to comfort and guide us with scriptural wisdom while continuing their own journey with Christ. We want to maintain a Presbyterian, biblically-focused worship service while welcoming new ideas and all styles of uplifting music with our accompanist, choir, and praise band. A compassionate pastor, aided by our Deacons, will visit the sick, injured and homebound, and provide spiritual counseling. Our new pastor will be passionate about helping us reach the local community and share the gospel. We are rebuilding our numbers, and a top priority is finding, encouraging, and supporting new members, especially younger families. We need a non-judgmental pastor who welcomes people where they are on their spiritual path. We want our church and its leadership to encourage seekers and visitors and cultivate strong spiritual growth and relationships with God. We want a pastor with exciting ideas, who will collaborate with Elders and Deacons to implement them. As growing our small group ministries is a priority, our pastor should equip and empower lay leadership to take on new roles and tasks. With the help of staff, Elders and Deacons, the pastor will manage our administrative functions to ensure the church's continued operation and success.

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

As detailed in the FPCD Solo Pastor Job Description, we prefer a pastor with ministry experience who can energetically assume a broad range of responsibilities. As our Teaching Elder, we seek someone who enjoys teaching and explaining the Word of God and fosters a welcoming and non-judgmental congregational environment. Along with Deacons and Elders, they will provide congregational pastoral care. The pastor must responsibly and reliably manage our staff and work with our Session and Deacons to ensure we operate the church successfully and carry out our mission effectively. This requires spiritual guidance, open communication, effective listening, and compassionate collaboration to resolve issues and conflicts. Our pastor should come with ideas and enthusiasm for growing our congregation, especially young families and those with children, while embracing our multigenerational congregation. They would engage with the greater Durango community, have a spirit for mission (particularly local hands-on efforts), and encourage outreach programs. We would be blessed to call a person with a joyful heart and sense of humor who can laugh and cry with us, relate to everyday life and contemporary issues, and lead us to be better Christians. While a Solo Pastor call is demanding, we honor the value of one's personal life and professional development. We anticipate a wonderful and long-lived partnership to help us **Know Jesus, Live in the Spirit, and Join in the Father's work**.

## Optional Links

Supplemental Information - MDP, Job Description, etc - <https://www.fpcdurango.org/church-news/pastor-nominating-committee-materials-for-candidates/>

## References

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