

Full time Associate Pastor Position
Overbrook Presbyterian Church
6376 City Avenue Philadelphia , PA 19151
<http://www.overbrookpresb.org>

Mission Statement

“Overbrook Presbyterian Church actively seeks to worship God, serving each other and the world through a welcoming, loving, and inclusive ministry.”

OPC is known as the “Church at the Crossroads,” and has opened its doors to diverse communities for years. OPC ministers to all through its various educational and mission programs. The church regularly provides food to our unhoused neighbors; our preschool provides a progressive learning environment for 75+ children. Each year we partner with Heeding God’s Call a memorial for gun deaths in Philadelphia. We collect supplies for teachers in our area and our youth take regular mission trips in urban and rural areas. In 2018, the PCUSA certified us as an Earth Care Congregation. Additionally, OPC supports not-for-profit groups by providing space in our facilities. These groups have been a source of energy and revenue for OPC. Partners for Sacred Places has recognized OPC as a model for shared space programming. During the last few years of the Covid pandemic, OPC has adapted to meet the changing needs of our congregation and our community. We currently have regular Sunday services both online and in person each week. We concluded our weekly racial justice vigil that lasted two plus years at our street corner.

Overbrook Presbyterian Church Vision for Ministry

Our vision is lived out as an intentionally welcoming congregation of remarkable diversity in terms of race, culture, ethnicity, age, economic status, education, and sexual orientation. Theologically, members confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, subject to no further doctrinal affirmation. A spirit of inquiry centered by the authority of scripture allows persons from many backgrounds to find nourishment here. We believe that it is important to love God not only with the heart, but also with the mind. So, we take a thoughtful approach to the Christian faith that is open to new insights and leaves room for asking questions. In our congregation, there exists a wide variety of theological viewpoints, and we respect that diversity without expecting everyone to come down in the same place. Worship is grounded in traditional forms energized by active lay leadership. Overbrook’s preachers have inspired us by making profound biblical insight accessible for all. An exceptional Director of Music heads our amazing choir and handbell choir. Education is a lifelong process, and we have a strong Christian Education program. Beyond our traditional programs, we seek spiritual fulfillment throughout all aspects of congregational life and strive to learn from each other and newcomers

Our prayer is that the Associate Pastor will help ground our work in Christ's teaching, help grow our congregation, and build new connections with the larger community and to the Presbytery. The two major responsibilities of the Associate Pastor will be to lead OPC's Youth Ministry and Adult Education. The Associate Pastor will also be called upon to provide inspirational preaching and spiritual leadership that reinforces our mission of welcoming, loving, and transformation and speaks to our diversity. We expect the Associate Pastor will preach 8-10 times a year. Additionally, the Associate Pastor will assist and support our senior pastor, thus allowing Pastor Adam to add attention and responsibilities to underserved ministries. Finally, the role of Associate Pastor is to help understand OPC's past and assist us in discerning God's will for our future.

Position Description

Overbrook Presbyterian Church is seeking to interview all candidates including candidates of color (Afro-American) that would reflect our multi-cultural congregation for the Associate Pastor position. We are looking for someone who is warm, generous, communicative, dynamic, and energetic. Our Associate Pastor must have strong organizational skills and a highly collaborative spirit, as well as being a keen, caring listener. We are looking for an Associate Pastor who engages well with our youth, nurtures families, and appreciates how the wisdom and experience of our elderly congregants enriches us. It is important that our Associate Pastor be someone who will establish a positive, supportive relationship with our youth, communicating directly with them, lifting them up as valued congregants, implementing activities that foster interaction among them, and gently guiding them in their relationship with the church. The Associate Pastor should also be comfortable and eager in interacting with our large number of elderly congregants who play an active and vital role in the life of our church. Our Associate Pastor would need to have strong theological knowledge and enthusiasm and skill in Christian education. He/she/they must appreciate and relate well to the diversity of the OPC congregation and be adept at inspiring and working with individuals who represent a wide range of ages, ethnicities, orientations, identities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and political views. The church, likewise, would welcome a candidate who embodies the rich and diverse tapestry of God's creation

Associate Pastor's Responsibilities

YOUTH MINISTRY Convene and lead the Youth Ministry Committee to develop programs to provide educational, fellowship, and service events for grades 6- 12. **EDUCATION** Supervise the Director of Children and Family ministries to coordinate and align educational goals and programs for children, youth, and adults. Convene and lead an Adult Education committee with the purpose of developing weekly programs for adult learners. **GROWTH** Recognizing the church's need for growth and implement measurable programs which foster growth in youth, families, adults, and senior populations. **PASTORAL CARE** Work closely with our Parish Care Associate by attending weekly care meetings and by making hospital and home visits, as necessary. **PASTOR ASSISTANCE** Coordinate and assist with Pastor in worship duties by preaching and leading worship, attending worship planning retreats twice a year, and officiate weddings and funerals as needed.

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact Herbert Brabham at hbrabham@rcn.com or Bob Kothari at akothari0511@gmail.com co-chairs of OPC Associate Pastor Nominating Committee