

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

**Mif #: 04939.AC1**

**Ministry General Information**

<b>Ministry Number</b>	04939
<b>Ministry Name</b>	Witherspoon St. Presbyterian Church
<b>Mailing Address</b>	124 Witherspoon St. Princeton, NJ 08542
<b>Phone</b>	609-924-1666
<b>Fax</b>	609-924-0365
<b>E-Mail</b>	witherspoon@verizon.net
<b>WWW Address</b>	www.witherspoonchurch.org
<b>Ministry Size</b>	101 - 250 members

<b>Ethnic Composition</b>	
	Asian 1%
	Black or African American (African Native, Caribbean) 90%
	Hispanic Latino/Latina, Spanish 1%
	White 8%

<b>Average Worship Attendance</b>	65
<b>Church School Attendance</b>	23
<b>Curriculum</b>	Seasons of the Spirit (K-7); Urban Ministries Curriculum (8-12)
<b>Certified as eligible for participation in the Seminary Debt Assistance Program</b>	False
<b>Yoked</b>	False
<b>Presbytery</b>	NEW BRUNSWICK PRESBYTERY
<b>Synod</b>	SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST
<b>Community Type</b>	Town

Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization [Show Statistics](#)

**Information about the position**

<b>Position:</b>	Pastor (for a designated term)
<b>Experience Required:</b>	2 to 5 Years
<b>Specific Title:</b>	
<b>Employment Status:</b>	Full-time

<b>Language Requirements:</b>	
	English

<b>Other Language:</b>	
<b>Statement of Faith Required:</b>	True
<b>Clergy Couples:</b>	True

**Training/Certificate Requirements:**

**Other Training:**

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**Brief Church Mission Statement:**

- To provide a warm, deep-seated, God-centered spirituality and minister to all who are in need of God's grace
- To commit to Christian Education and social justice through Bible study, service, mentoring, youth activities, lectures and programs
- To draw from the rich cultural, artistic, political, theological and intellectual resources of the Princeton community
- To celebrate and preserve the rich heritage and tradition of African-American Christian pioneers and to serve the surrounding community
- To actively encourage everyone to share her/his unique gifts and talents

**What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry:**

We see ourselves as a people of faith bound together as one community by a shared history and an abiding faith in the prophetic biblical power of God's grace and love. This faith is actualized by a scripture based belief in Christian education, youth ministry, social justice ministry, and worship replete with the Word of God as it is revealed in music and verse. We are interwoven with like-minded people of God by mutual respect, collaboration and outreach. We are mindful that the least among us must compel our attention and advocacy. We envision a future of growing relevance, reaffirming stability, and a continuing legacy of African American heritage and tradition that will leave on the memory of those who follow, "well done my good and faithful servant."

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

Members of the congregation have fought and continue to fight for affordable housing in Princeton, in light of the town's changing demographics. A recent victory is the designation of our neighborhood as an historic district that should stem the increase of high-priced housing in this historically poor and working-class neighborhood. We donate food to area food banks, school supplies for area youth, and support local crisis ministries.

We value participation in joint worship, fellowship, and programs with other historically Black churches in Princeton. In this way, we know and love our neighbors, share our unique heritage, and strengthen our impact on political decisions made regarding our neighborhood and town.

Our community outreach includes organizing a bi-lingual block party; organizing flea markets run by the youth of the church; inviting friends and neighbors to the annual Presbyterian Women Palm Sunday Tea; visiting and caroling at a nursing and rehabilitation facility; offering Vacation Bible School; participating in voter registration activities; providing meeting space for Alcoholics Anonymous, a health information and screening event, and other community groups.

We have supported members of the congregation who participate in mission activities, including trips to Ghana, West Africa. We also provide scholarships for students' school fees in Ghana and the local community.

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

- Our designated pastor will:
- Be a leader and a teacher with enthusiasm, wisdom and compassion to motivate us to live as God's people, grow in faith, attend worship regularly and participate in all aspects of church life.
  - Help us discern how to minister to people in our neighborhood, demonstrating the love of Christ in meaningful and tangible ways.
  - Bring emphasis and energy to enrich the vitality and growth of programs that are multigenerational.
  - Lead us in developing long-term strategies for church growth and financial stability.
  - Build on our legacy as a church rich in racial/ethnic and socio-economic diversity to
    - o stimulate growth in the congregation;
    - o develop strategies to be a vibrant, active church in the community, collaborating with other churches and organizations;
    - o be a beacon of hope and joy in our town, our nation and in the world;
    - o remain on the forefront as a change agent for the justice issues in our community and nation, such as racism and mass incarceration.
  - Provide pastoral care to church members.
  - Work together with members in all aspects of our church's life giving advice and providing leadership to fulfill our mission.

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

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The person we are looking for is

- Motivated by God’s love, inspired by Christ’s teachings, directed by the Holy Spirit and firmly grounded in knowledge of scripture.
- Confident, purposeful, and enthusiastic in leadership with strong and articulate communication skills.
- Skilled in developing lay leadership with qualities necessary to provide strong oversight to the church’s boards and committee structures.
- Able to supervise staff effectively, provide leadership in and identify lay leaders to attend to the church’s financial matters to reach stewardship goals, and give the same attention to property management.
- Effective in connecting with and is welcoming to everyone including various ethnicities, nationalities, socioeconomic levels and people who identify as LGBTQ+.
- Able to use current technology and social media as tools to fulfill and promote the church’s vision and mission.
- Passionate about sustaining and increasing church growth among youth, adults, and families; increasing the church’s visibility and awareness in the community; leading us with a vision for the church to make a difference in our community and in the world.
- Spiritually vibrant and able to strengthen our Church’s ministry to all people.

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

The Pastor will have primary responsibility for leading Sunday worship; presiding at the Lord’s Supper; performing Baptisms, weddings, funerals and other religious rituals; teaching the Word; providing pastoral care, and organizational management. Specifically,

- Lead and support staff: Christian Education Director, Music Director, Secretary, and Sexton.
- Collaborate with the Music Director to select music for worship services.
- Provide pastoral care and other support in crisis situations, together with Deacons and Elders.
- Actively reach out to friends, visitors and the community to encourage new membership.
- Participate in capital campaigns and annual fundraising to ensure financial resources sufficient for the church to thrive. Participate in the annual budget process. Understand the finances of our church affiliated organization, The Paul Robeson House of Princeton.
- Moderate Session effectively in collaboration with Clerk of Session. Ensure Session and congregational committees function effectively and achieve desired results.
- Attend key Session committee meetings.
- Actively lead within the Presbytery and bring our church’s perspective to their deliberations.
- Develop a voice representing our church in important issues impacting our community, our nation and the world. Provide vision consistent with our traditions of social justice and respect for our history, while looking to the future.
- Ensure that our church has a web presence that is current and welcoming.

#### **Optional Links:**

- [Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church Website](#)
- [Witherspoon St. Presbyterian Church on Facebook](#)
- [Witherspoon-Jackson Neighborhood becomes Historic District](#)
- [www.Princetonnj.gov](http://www.Princetonnj.gov)
- [About Mercer County NJ](#)
- [Princeton Public Schools](#)
- [About Elizabeth “Betsey” Stockton](#)
- [About Paul Robeson](#)
- [About Rev. William Drew Robeson](#)

#### **Leadership Competencies:**

Compassionate

Preaching and Worship Leadership

Spiritual Maturity

Public Communicator

Decision Making

Organizational Agility

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Strategy and Vision
Financial Manager
Interpersonal Engagement
Flexibility

<b>Compensation and Housing: Cost of Living Calculator</b>
<b>Minimum Effective Salary:</b> \$79,000
<b>Housing Type:</b> Manse

<b>References:</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Numbers</b>	<b>Relation</b>	<b>Email</b>
Mrs. Nancy Prince	700 Hollinshead Spring Road, Skillman, NJ 08558-2029	609-759-3479	Friend of Witherspoon; Paul Robeson House Board	princenancy4@aol.com
Rev. John White	Princeton Theological Seminary, 204 Templeton, Princeton, NJ 08542-0803	609-921-8300; 412-508-000	Former Pastor	john.white@ptsem.edu
Rev. Michael Livingston, Executive Minister	The Riverside Church NYC	212-870-6798	Friend of Witherspoon St. Church	mlivingston@trcnyc.org

<b>Has the Pastor Nominating Committee and Search committee affirmed its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?</b>
Yes
<b>Version Track Info: This MIF was last updated on 04/12/2017</b>

<b>Self-referral Contact Information</b>	
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