**CLC, Ministry Information Form**  **March 18, 2023**

**What is your congregation’s Mission Statement**

We are a part of the family of God.

From many occupations and diverse in background, we are united in our beliefs in Christ Jesus

God’s grace and love are at the heart of our fellowship binding us unto Christ and one another

Our worship, founded upon the deep and rich tradition of the church, places scripture at the center of our lives.

A rich variety of music fills our worship with joy and meaning as we celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ.

**Narrative Questions**

1. **What is the congregation’s or organization’s vision for ministry? Additionally describe how this vision is lived out?**

We seek to be a family of God beyond the walls of our church by reaching out to the community, offering God’s grace and hope that we might bring light to the world. We are a family of God, standing with open arms to welcome others into our family of faith, hope, and love in the name of Jesus Christ.

We integrate within the Petersburg community (pop. 3100) on Mitkof Island, Southeast Alaska panhandle. Being part of the community is integral to our identity and to our mission of ministry to our neighbors, friends and family. Working together with other churches for the greater good of the kingdom of God is part of the larger ministry of offering a place for all. Enveloped within unique beauty of God’s creation, with Orcas, humpback whales, abundant bald eagles, and salmon all around. Short trips to spectacular glaciers, bear habitats, and world class recreation opportunities provide a person a lifetime opportunity to enjoy God’s beauty. We minister to people of the fishing, tourism, Coast Guard, forestry medical and construction trades. Building partnerships with AA groups and with the Tlingit & Haida Head Start Program, both of which use the church facilities as their meeting spaces, offers a way for the congregation to show the love that Christ calls us to with all our neighbors.

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

Petersburg is culturally diverse. Opportunities exist to reach out to the Alaskan Native Americans, Asian cultures, and Spanish speaking individuals. There are people in need of our help and emotional support in our community that we may be able to help through time, energy, and financial contributions. Understanding the needs of the community is vital to our presence in the various activities of this close-knit town.

1. **How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals?**

In 2020 Session discussed the book “Changing the Conversation, A Third Way For Congregations” by author Anthony B. Robinson. Session discussed ways to move our congregation into the future asking, why are we here? We are looking for a pastor with leadership qualities, experiences, and potential to motivate/inspire others, emphasize purpose, vision, and values. We seek a pastor to help us find our voice in the community and take a leap of faith into areas of ministry is important. Each step in our history and leadership has helped us find new ways to connect with our own gifts and reach those needing the love of Jesus. Evaluating our strengths and weaknesses will help guide us to extend our ministry. Seeing who we are from an outsider’s perspective and guiding us to find out who we want to be today/tomorrow is especially important. We are not always sure who we want to be going forward, so being empowered to live into the talents that God has given us excites us in this new chapter.

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

Adventure seeking. An ability to connect with other organizations in town, an ability to shepherd devoted & faithful members into seeing new horizons and an ability to empower and help guide a vision for the future. The person called to this place will need patience, insight, optimism, relationship building, community connection skills and a deep and abiding love for God and people. We’ve had exceptional leadership during turbulent times, yet the family atmosphere of the congregation is what sustains us. The person called here will need to be able to navigate various viewpoints and continue to dialogue with other churches. We are an older, active, resilient congregation with a core that’s been together for decades. We know how to survive turbulent times on our own. We can’t afford a secretary, but we have people to help do that work. We have people that clean and maintain the church. We have people who can accompany the pastor when visiting people and attending events. We have people that can supply the pulpit and perform communion. A part-time pastor is negotiable, living in Petersburg full-time and working 20-30 hrs/wk.

1. **What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?**
2. Lead Congregational Worship and Proclaim the Word of God – Provide an enriching experience of Sunday worship (We are all human and understand some worship will be more enriching than others)
3. Guide Transition – Help guide the congregation through a discernment process to help create a vision for the future of the church.
4. Pastoral Care – Provide support to people in need both inside and outside of the church, be open to listening.
5. Outreach – The Pastor will bear witness to Jesus Christ in the community by becoming a part of the lives of the people and happenings of this wonderful and unique community.