



## Ministry General Information

Ministry Name

Sixth Presbyterian  
Church

Presbytery

Pittsburgh

Synod

The Trinity

Email

office@sixthchurch.org

Preferred Phone

412-421-2752

Website Address

www.sixthchurch.org

Mailing Address

1688 Murray Ave,  
Pittsburgh, PA  
15217-1460

Alternate

Phone/Email

Community Type

Urban

Congregation or

Organization Size

101-250

members

Curriculum

Growing in Grace

and Gratitude,

Feasting on the

Word, Big God,

Big Questions

Average Worship

Attendance

120

Church School

Attendance

35

Intercultural Composition

White: 91%, Hispanic/Latinx: 3%, Asian/Pacific

Islander/South Asian: 3%, Black/African

American/African: 2%, Multiracial: 1%

## Information about the Position

## Position Requirements

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### 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

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### Church Mission/Vision Statement

We are an open and affirming community of faith in Jesus Christ. At home in an urban neighborhood of many faiths, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. In worship, study, and fellowship, we celebrate our Presbyterian roots and find joy in our diversity. We strive for the grace to love one another as we seek deeper understanding of life in the Spirit, working for justice and serving as stewards of God's wondrous creation.

### Tasks, expectations, duties, supervision, assignments, and responsibilities for the position

1. Lead worship and preach at regular and special worship services, providing for substitute preachers when necessary

2. Officiate at sacraments, weddings, and funerals
3. Coordinate with the Director of Children and Youth Ministry, the Director of Music, the Worship Committee, and congregants to lead a spiritually rich worship service and to create other opportunities for spiritual connection and enrichment
4. Pray for the congregation
5. Serve as head of staff and the administrative leader for church operations
6. Provide pastoral care to the members of the church community and be available for personal counseling and spiritual guidance
7. Be available as a resource person for educational programming, youth organizations, and other groups of the church
8. Lead the congregation in reaching out into the community and performing its ministry of healing, justice, and reconciliation
9. Serve as the moderator of session and the congregation, upon appointment by the Presbytery
10. Provide leadership to the board of deacons and/or other organizations within the church
11. Represent and strengthen Sixth Presbyterian Church's connection with the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly

## Compensation & Housing

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Minimum Effective Salary

58000

Housing Type

Housing allowance

## MDP - Narratives

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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 faith is rooted in understanding Christian scripture and values; in particular, we strive to follow Jesus' new commandment to "love one another." We seek a pastor whose ministry to the congregation and to the community helps us realize that vision of God's will on earth.

Sixth is often described as a progressive congregation; we are also recognized as a very active and engaged member of Pittsburgh Presbytery and participate at General Assembly. Our worship service honors Presbyterian tradition, guided by the PCUSA Directory for Worship and Book of Common Worship. Sermons generally follow the appointed texts of the Revised Common Lectionary. The Glory to God hymnal, with its breadth of music traditions, provides the mainstay for congregational song, complemented by generally classical sacred music offered by our choir, organist, and guest musicians.

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We know that we are called to be responsive to the world beyond our walls, to “act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly” with God. When we see injustice in society or in the frightening ways the earth itself is changing, we want to act. And we do. But we struggle with understanding whether what we do is enough, with accepting the limitations of our ability to act, and with fearing that our actions are limited by personal discomfort.

Finally, in the spirit of St. Augustine's confession, we offer this: we are so comfortable with analysis that we often avoid absorbing the reality of grace — for ourselves and for others.

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?

Pittsburgh is a city of neighborhoods. Sixth is at the heart of a diverse neighborhood with a rich history of Jewish roots and a future marked by international individuals and families. Our neighbors live in many faiths; we honor them and regard them as sources for enriching our own faith.

Our pastor serves as a leader in the city, with a particular responsibility in today's world of showing the community through word and action that being a Christian means loving others and working for holy justice for all. We need a pastor who builds interfaith relationships and serves as a community leader on issues such as LGBTQIA+ inclusion, climate justice, racial/economic/social justice issues, and gun safety.

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We are known in Squirrel Hill as “the church on the corner.” We welcome all who come through our doors, and seek justice as a loving neighbor to both our immediate and larger regional community: participating in events, hosting protests and concerts, providing warm coats and hot meals. Many congregants are drawn to us for our justice mission; others initially meet us through the providence of proximity. Balancing our role as a very local asset with our broader responsibility to the greater community is important for our leadership.

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?

Sixth Church has strong lay leadership, and accomplished staff members in Christian education, music, and office administration. We work well as a team, supporting each other, complementing each others’ gifts, and respecting our different strengths.

Our called pastor will be a collaborative leader of these teams of member volunteers and staff, recognizing that their strength allows the pastor to focus on duties of pastoral care and worship while also providing guidance and direction to us as we carry out committee and task force responsibilities.

We draw energy for this work through worship and education, and look to our pastor for leadership in both areas. We seek preaching that unpacks the history and context of the Word, connecting the Scripture to the ways we are called today —

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individually and as a congregation — to live our faith through action. We need to be reminded to put our hope in God who makes all things new, that God alone has the power and generously uses that power to “renew our strength” so that we can “run and not grow weary, walk and never tire.”

We are children of God; we become sick, stumble spiritually, face death and other life challenges. In these times, we need a pastor who knows us and who finds energy in pastoral care work.

We must steward resources wisely, particularly our endowment. We are moving toward a new stewardship model with an emphasis on planned giving, and need a pastor who can both guide us and reassure us as we embrace these changes.

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.

In what ways can we grow in faith, personally and collectively? In what ways can we enlarge the circle of our church family? We seek an experienced preacher and teacher with deep theological grounding and interfaith experience who can lead us thoughtfully in addressing these questions — and then shepherd us forward with wisdom, humor, and compassion for our shortcomings, helping us to avoid complacency.

Our participation in worship, study, and social justice work are important to us. We thrive on intellectual study and discussion, yet want to be open to being moved by the spirit. In seeking richer

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engagement and growth in our spiritual lives, we recognize that we can be reluctant to live our faith outside our comfort zones, our habits, and our practiced ways. We need guidance in honoring traditions while being responsive to change that will make Sixth even more welcoming to new members, many of whom may have no experience with church traditions. We are looking for a caring leader who can help us discern God's plan for us as individuals and as a body.

We long for stronger connections between members, and seek a leader who can empower staff and church members who have gifts in this work. We value the personal relationships our pastor nurtures within the congregation as much as the active work the pastor performs outside our walls; both are key to our faith journey as a community and as individuals.

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

We are a pastor-centered church. While our lay strengths support the pastor's call in areas such as social justice, worship, and Christian education, we seek a pastor who is our leader in worship and spiritual development, evidenced especially through their preaching. We welcome a variety of approaches to understanding scripture, and value a pastor who can approach the text from different, nuanced, well-researched angles — from the personal or topical to the exegetical.

We seek a pastor who embraces pastoral care of the congregation through compassionate awareness of members'



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personal needs and fears and direct relationships with congregants.

We seek an experienced administrative leader who can effectively engage with and respectfully guide the work of committees and staff. Administrative responsibility is an important part of this position. Sixth is a good and happy place to work and worship; we know that the satisfaction of staff contributes to the smooth operations that allow a pastor to pastor and that help the congregation reach its organizational goals.

## Optional Links

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**More Light Presbyterians -**  
More Light Presbyterians is a non-profit organization dedicated to allowing the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society. Sixth Presbyterian Church has been a More Light congregation since 1997. - <https://mlp.org>

LAMP (LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh) - LAMP's mission is a ministry at the intersection of LGBTQIA+ and Christian identities through connecting folks to God, each other, and resources inside and outside of faith communities. Sixth Presbyterian Church is a member church, and members of Sixth serve on the board of directors. -

<https://sites.google.com/view/inclusivepcusapgh/>

Lazarus Fund - The Lazarus Fund Ministry Team's mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by providing financial assistance to families and individuals of Allegheny County for rent, mortgage payments, security deposits, and utilities, enabling them to overcome their economic difficulties through the grace and love of Jesus Christ. Sixth Presbyterian Church offers financial support, leadership and volunteers to the Lazarus

fund. -

[https://www.pghpresbytery.org/justiceministries/lazarus\\_fund/](https://www.pghpresbytery.org/justiceministries/lazarus_fund/)

### **Garfield Community**

Farm - Garfield

Community Farms mission is to get food to people in our neighborhood through a weekly farmer's market, donations, and a CSA subscription program.

Sixth participates with this organization through volunteerism and financial support. -

<https://www.garfieldfarm.com>

### **Hot Metal Bridge Faith**

Community - Hot Metal

Bridge Faith Community

hosts The Table which is a free community meal held twice a week. Sixth

Presbyterian Church

provides volunteers and financial support to this organization. -

<https://www.hotmetalbridge.com>

### **Earth Care Congregation:**

PCUSA - Earth Care

Congregations churches

take the "Earth Care

Pledge" and complete

activities and projects in

the fields of worship,

education, facilities and outreach all focused on stewarding God's earth. -

[URL:https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earthcare-congregations/](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earthcare-congregations/)

**Sixth Church Website -**

The Sixth Presbyterian Church website that includes basic information about the congregation and specific information related to our mission work. -

[www.sixthchurch.org](http://www.sixthchurch.org)

**CeaseFirePA -**

CeaseFirePA organizes with communities closest to the issue of gun violence, holds those in power accountable, and maximizes the strengths of every member in its broad coalition, understanding that the strongest work is done by many. Sixth Presbyterian Church is actively involved in campaigns organized by CeaseFirePA and supports the organization financially. -

<https://www.ceasefirepa.org/>

## Self-Referral Contact Information

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Preferred Phone

Brian Wallace

412-323-1402

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