


CIF #: 11812.AA1

Church/Organization General Information

Church/Organization Number	11812
Church/Organization Name	Oconeew Presbyterian Church
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 1377 Watkinsville, GA 30677
Phone	706-769-4514
Fax	
Church E-Mail	opcadmin@opcusa.org
WWW Address	http://www.opcusa.org/
Church/Organization Size	251 - 400 members
Ethnic Composition	African American 1% Caucasian 98% Hispanic Mexican / Central American 1%
Average Worship Attendance	210
Church School Attendance	30
Curriculum	OPC uses a variety of curricula for different age groups.
Certified as eligible for participation in the Seminary Debt Assistance Program False	
Yoked Church	False
Presbytery	NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
Synod	SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC
Community Type	Town
Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization * (Show Statistics)	

 Data availability is not guaranteed

Information about the position

Position: Pastor (Head of Staff)

Experience Level: Four or more years

Employment Status: Full-time

Language Requirements: English

Brief Church Mission Statement:

We, the members of Oconee Presbyterian Church (OPC), a loving family of faith, believe that God calls us to • Invite in all people to discover constantly the love and grace of Jesus Christ. • Build up one another in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, encouraging everyone to discern and use their gifts. • Send out empowered disciples to our community and the world to share God's love in word and deed to relieve suffering in Christ's Name.

We envision OPC as a dynamic, thriving community of faithful followers of Jesus Christ in the heart of Oconee County, Georgia, accessible and available to serve the needs of the community. Sited next to Athens-Clarke County, home of UGA, and forty-five minutes east of Atlanta, we are where young people love to be, single people feel included and appreciated, families of all kinds find support and encouragement, children are nurtured and cherished, seniors are honored, people of all ages connect with God and one another, diversity is celebrated, and disciples are empowered to serve.

Brief description of the church/organization's programs or accomplishments:

OPC began as a New Church Development in 1999. Rev. Pam Driesell and “missionary members” from area churches began worshipping in homes, a storefront, a clubhouse and a school.

In 2001 with 100+ members, we purchased 15 acres and worshipped al fresco while building a multi-use 15K sq ft building dedicated in 2004. We received a \$50K grant for our commitment to evangelism, missions, and innovative worship and discipleship, and continue to be a fiscally responsible congregation.

We strive to be a community of faith that is Christ-centered, connected and mission focused. We come to WORSHIP at OPC and leave to BE the church. We are a tithing church and believe in hands on mission work. We host and participate in numerous community support groups.

Led by an experienced director, our music program includes an adult choir, a bell choir, and seasonal children’s choirs and ensembles. We utilize both contemporary and traditional hymns during our Sunday worship service.

A community band and jazz ensemble call OPC home, as does a home-schooled group of children. Our lighted ball field and fully equipped outdoor pavilion make us a chosen host to numerous soccer, baseball and softball teams.

Retreats, small groups, youth and prayer groups, and fellowship opportunities from member sport teams to newly begun Wednesday night suppers are all part of life at OPC. Our programs are as different as we are, developed from the talents of the congregants.

Gifts, Skills and Experiences the congregation possesses to fulfill its mission:

We ...

- are a group of diverse individuals who gather to support one another as we strive to love God with our heart, mind and soul.
- COME to worship and leave to BE the church
- are creative and generous in stewardship—sharing our time, talents as well as treasures.
- aspire to be accepting, authentic, and welcoming.
- are a kind-hearted congregation, responsive and compassionate to those in need, both of our church and in the larger community.
- encourage and support everyone's participation in worship, including children and youth.
- come from many different faith backgrounds and offer a myriad of experiences and resources.
- are an educated, energetic, innovative, hands-on group willing to get dirty to get it done.
- reflect the demographics of the area and include those who have just recently moved here as well as those whose local roots go back multiple generations.
- are a congregation awed by what God has accomplished through us in just over 10 years and excited about what lies ahead.
- include business owners and educators, farmers and professionals, students and retirees, families with children and those without, singles of all ages, married, divorced - and loving of all.
- are involved and active in Oconee County and the surrounding areas.
- are a local community proud of its congenial residents and high-achieving schools.
- are reformed and always being reformed by the word of God.

Key theological issues of the church and society that are reflected in the ministry of the congregation/organization:

Our guiding principles are defined by God's mission in the world revealed in Jesus Christ who came to seek and save the lost • Genuinely reach out to others

Our highest calling is to learn to love God with our heart, mind, soul and strength; to learn to love one another as Christ has loved us; and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves • Share & thus receive God's love

Worship is the heart of our life together; the work of God flows from the Spirit-filled worship of God • Routinely involve all ages in worship

Scripture, faithfully interpreted in the power of the Spirit, is our guide for faith and life • Lectionary study class

We keep our hearts and minds open believing that the Spirit will lead us to do new things and be new people as we listen to God through prayer, scripture and fellowship with one another • Reformed & always being reformed

Fun is another word for the fruit of the Spirit, joy, and is a sacred activity • Fellowship abounds

We practice forgiving one another. Accepting God's forgiveness, we freely extend forgiveness and caring to one another • Non-judgmental congregation offering mutual forbearance

We strive to live as servants in the world • Tithe to support missions

We seek to be faithful stewards, doing all things with excellence and integrity • Share our time, treasure & talents

We believe in the power of prayer • Committed prayer group since 1999

We bear one another's burdens • Sustained outpouring of love shared unconditionally

References:

Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
Rev. Jim Bowden	174 Takeda Way; Athens, GA 30605	706-549-8687	Retired - Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA	bowdenj218@yahoo.com
Rev. Anna McArthur	1921 Allgood Rd.; Athens, GA 30606	706-296-5925	Member of OPC & former UGA Campus Minister	revmcarthur@aol.com
Becky and Joe Frank	984 Lakewood Rd; Denison, TX 75020	903 816-0124	Former members of OPC & Session	beckykfrank@gmail.com

Position Description

A. Major Responsibilities:

We seek a Pastor who will lead us with grace-filled energy. At OPC, you will

- provide spiritual leadership to all
- work w/the worship committee & music director to plan and facilitate weekly & special worship services
- provide leadership through Session
- identify & nurture leaders to fulfill the needs of the congregation
- provide care, including home visitation
- develop meaningful interaction opportunities for the M/HS youth
- assist others in reaching out to visitors & members, to welcome them & encourage them in the work of Christ in our world
- supervise 3 paid PT positions, Min. of CE, Dir. of Music, & Admin. Office Asst., and numerous volunteers
- perform other duties, in consultation w/Session, based on your gifts

We seek a pastor who will live in our community. We desire an experienced & organized leader/teacher who, with the support of an experienced Clerk, will guide the Session in the continued growth & development of OPC as a spiritual & active body. We intend to retire our building debt through a capital campaign, thus enabling us to further enhance the connectivity of staff, membership, & local community to one another, & provide the foundation for greater works.

A cordial and supportive Session, a congregational care network, enthusiastic volunteers, & the goodwill of the congregation from youth to elderly members await you if called to OPC. With a compassionate leader, we are a community that stands ready to embrace our next phase of growth.

B. Characteristics and qualifications needed

We

- Seek—an experienced and organized leader, who teaches while preaching; an intellectually curious individual who connects biblical lessons to the real world, teaching and demonstrating to us how to live as Christians in a contemporary world.
- Embrace – creative sermons that include modern examples of God’s call and love, peppered with humor and humility, which culminate with a call to action.
- Come—to OPC from a variety of backgrounds and localities and look for a genuine and personable leader to join our church community.
- Desire—an open-minded, creative, lectionary led pastor who is tolerant of others to be the face of OPC in our local community.
- Pray – for a pastor who can creatively interpret OPC and maximize our talents in order to project and meet our needs a pastor who can help position us as true servants in the world.
- Hope – for one who responsibly delegates and creates leaders among us. Our pastor will enjoy and engage the children and youth in meaningful participation in the life of the church.
- Share—a love for all people, churched and un-churched, and recognize that in a new pastor we will welcome a fellow sinner who embraces OPC as a refuge from judgmentalism and a sanctuary of spiritual honesty.

Primary Skill Choices:

Administration of Programs
Communication (Written / Oral)
Community Service and Leadership
Congregational Fellowship
Development of New Educational Experiences
Evaluation of Program and Staff
Organizational Leadership and Development
Pastoral Care
Preaching

Stewardship and Commitment Program

Compensation and Housing: ([Cost of Living Calculator](#))

Minimum Effective Salary:\$55,000

Housing Type: Housing Allowance

Geographic Choices: Unlimited

Has the presbytery's Committee on Ministry thus counseled with the Pastor Nominating Committee regarding Equal Employment Opportunity?

Yes

Has the Pastor Nominating Committee affirmed to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?

Yes

Version Track Info: This CIF was last updated on 7/20/2011

Self-referral Contact Information

EP: Rev. Kenyon G Meek, Jr/
Edith Covert, Assoc.

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