



CHEMISTRY
STAFFING

CHURCH & CANDIDATE PROFILE

PASTOR
Forreston Grove Church
Forreston, IL

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Forreston, IL



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POPULATION OF CITY

1300

POPULATION OF COUNTY

50,000 (Ogle County)

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Forreston Grove Church is uniquely situated on a rural highway between numerous communities. Though our address is Forreston, we have people attend from Freeport (pop. 24,000-approximately ten miles away), Shannon (pop. 1,000-10 miles), Lanark (1500, 12 mi.), and Polo (2400, 12 mi.).

WHY PEOPLE LIKE LIVING HERE

Our area is blessed with some of the richest agricultural land in the Midwest which has allowed both farms and communities to prosper. We have gently rolling hills that provide beautiful views—and our church sits at the top of one of those hills. Our small towns are very welcoming and boast schools with great academic and athletic accomplishments. We also are only 100 miles from Chicago which provides us close access to all the amenities of a world-class city. We have ample opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities nearby and at numerous state parks and recreation areas. Admittedly our winters can be cold, but they are not long in duration. Our beautiful spring, summer, and fall weather more than compensates.

CHURCH HISTORY

We're a community of farmers, office workers, homemakers, teachers, and tradesmen. We're moms and dads, husbands and wives, singles, kids, and friends. Some of us have deep roots in the area, while others are new transplants. But at Forreston Grove, we're all family.

During the great western push in the mid-1800s, Forreston Grove Church was founded in 1865 by German immigrants starting a new life in America. The congregation began as groups of like-minded believers meeting in homes weekly for Bible study, prayer, and hymn singing, which later developed into a German-speaking congregation that met for worship on the current spot we still meet today. The first church and manse were constructed in 1866, both of small stature and resembled log cabins. Though modest, these buildings served our fledgling church well for over 25 years, until a new, spacious building was built in 1889 for the price of \$4000. This church building served the congregation of Forreston Grove well for 64 years until it was destroyed by fire in 1953. This fire also destroyed the grove of trees that served as the church's namesake. A new stone church (our current building) was built and dedicated in 1956. In 1976 the manse was sold and moved to a new location and replaced by the present manse, which serves as the pastor's

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home. In 1991 Forreston Grove withdrew from the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA) over concerns about growing theological liberalism within the denomination and later joined the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA) in 1997.

Today Forreston Grove Church is a Christ-centered, Bible-believing family of believers boldly proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to our community. We remain grateful to past generations for their faithful service and example, and strive to carry the light of the gospel forth to our own generation.

VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Forreston Grove Church is a Bible-believing, evangelical, and reformed church affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Our mission is "To Know Christ and Make Him Known." Our vision is to be a growing and thriving light for Jesus Christ in our community.

We live this out through engaging our local community with the truth of the Gospel. We value engaging, Christ-centered preaching that is applicable to the daily life of a believer. We also value consistent and clear explanation of the Gospel for those who are not yet trusting in Christ. We reach our community with the Good News in a variety of ways, but one of the primary outreach programs is our Wednesday night Pioneer Club. We are blessed with 75-100 children who come from various spiritual backgrounds at this program which meets for ten weeks in the fall and ten weeks in the spring. We value our community and expect any pastor to be fully engaged in the life of the community (e.g. schools, civic organizations, etc.). We also place a high priority on missions and support missionaries all over the world.

Our priorities fit into four main categories:

- Engaging preaching and teaching of God's Word
- Visiting the sick, elderly, shut-ins
- Active participation in our programs
- Full engagement with the community

We are:

- Bible-believing. We believe that the Bible is God's inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word. It is the final authority over our doctrine (what we believe) and our practice (what we do and how we live).
- Evangelical. We are a gospel-driven church. This means that our faith and hope is based on the good news that Jesus Christ lived, died, and was resurrected so that we might receive forgiveness and new life. Because this gospel



changes everything, we want to intentionally share this good news with the world by our words and deeds.

- Reformed. We hold to the historic Christian faith as outlined in the 16th century Protestant Reformation. Simply put, we believe that we are saved by God's grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ alone, to the glory of God alone. God rules absolutely and perfectly over all things (even when it's hard for us to see) and is making everything new through the gospel of Jesus.

AVERAGE WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

Pre-COVID-90
Post-COVID-75

OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY WORSHIP GATHERING

Our Sunday service is one hour that is a simple service of music, confession of sin, prayer, and preaching of the Word. Music is a combination of hymns and praise songs accompanied by piano and organ. Sermons are generally 20-30 minutes, expository in nature, engaging with illustrations—even humor—and relatable application. We do not want a seminary course, but have a desire for clear, solid, loving, applicable teaching for all people no matter where they are in their walk with Christ.

WORSHIP STYLE OF YOUR CHURCH

We have traditional hymns and simple, older praise songs with piano or organ accompaniment and occasional music ministry guests who may play guitar, other instruments, and more modern numbers.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FACILITY

We have a beautiful, well-cared for church that was built in the 1950s and new renovations in 2012 included the addition of a new pastor's office. Our sanctuary features stained glass windows, beautiful wood-beamed ceiling, and air conditioning. It seats approximately 200 and has handicapped-accessible elevator. We recently had many of our pews refinished and installed new carpeting. We have multiple classrooms, a fellowship hall and full kitchen. We have a renovated manse on site with 3-4 bedrooms and two full baths. Our trustees have historically done an excellent job of caring for, maintaining, and updating our grounds and facilities.

OVERALL BUDGET (THIS FISCAL YEAR)

\$152,000 operating fund; \$50,000 benevolence/missions

OVERALL LONG-TERM DEBT OF THE CHURCH

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DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION AND/OR OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

We participate in the local community Council of Churches for summer VBS.

GOVERNANCE & POLITY

We believe in the plurality of eldership and strive to come to a place of mutual agreement when decisions are made. We have deacons who oversee ministries to the needy and trustees who care for the building and property. All these roles are held by men. The elders and deacons are ordained; trustees are not ordained.

CURRENT PAID STAFFING LEVEL

Our head pastor is full-time, and our church secretary is a part-time hourly position.

MAJOR MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

Christian education ministries include Sunday School for ages 3-adult, Women's Ministry (Bible studies, service groups, etc.), Pioneer Club (Pre-school-8th grade), Adult Study/Scribe School, just starting new Jr. & Sr. High Youth Fellowship and Young Adult Fellowship (post high school- age 30) groups.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Pioneer Club, Community VBS, community concerts

IN THE MOST GENERIC SENSE, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CHURCH THEOLOGICALLY?

Conservative, Evangelical

Published Theological Statement:

Westminster Catechism

- We believe that the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments only, is verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit, is inerrant in the original manuscripts, and is the infallible and authoritative Word of God. (John 6:63, John 17:8, I Corinthians 2:13, II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21)
- We believe that the one triune God, Creator of all things, exists eternally in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19)
- We believe that Adam, created in the image of God, was tempted by Satan, the god of this world, and fell. Because of Adam's sin all mankind have guilt imputed, are totally depraved, and need to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit for salvation. (Genesis 3:6-8, Romans 5:12, I Corinthians 15:21-22)
- We believe that Jesus Christ is God, born in a virgin, died vicariously, shed His blood as mankind's substitutionary sacrifice, rose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate. (Luke 1:31&35, John 1:1&14, Acts 1:9, I Corinthians 15:3-4, Ephesians 1:19-20, Hebrews 2:14, Hebrews 4:15, Hebrews 7:25-26, I Peter 1:18-19)



- We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, that salvation consists of the remission of sins, the imputation of Christ's righteousness, and the gift of eternal life received by faith alone, apart from works, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God. (John 1:12-13, John 3:5-6, John 14:6, John 15:5, Acts 4:12, Acts 10:43, Romans 3:20-26, Romans 4:17-5:1, Romans 5:6-8, Romans 5:12-21, I Corinthians 1:9, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 1:7, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 2:5-11, I Timothy 2:5, Titus 3:5-6, I Peter 5:10)
- We believe that the return of Jesus Christ is imminent and that it will be visible and personal. (Matthew 24:27-31, Acts 1:11, Revelation 1:7, Revelation 19:11-16)
- We believe that the saved will be raised to everlasting life and blessedness in heaven, and that the unsaved will be raised to everlasting and conscious punishment in the lake of fire. (Psalms 16:11, Daniel 12:2, Matthew 25:31-34, Romans 6:23, I Corinthians 2:9, I Corinthians 15:42-43, Ephesians 2:1-3, I Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 20:11-15)
- We believe that the Church, the body of Christ, consists only of those who are born again, who are baptized by the Holy Spirit into Christ at the time of regeneration, for whom He now makes intercession in heaven and for whom He will come again. (John 3:3&5, Romans 12:3-5, I Corinthians 12:13, II Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:13-20, Ephesians 3:6, Ephesians 4:11-16, Ephesians 5:30, Philippians 3:20, Colossians 3:1-4)
- We believe that only those who are thus members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church. (Romans 2:28-29, Romans 9:4-6, Galatians 6:14-16)
- We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation. (Matthew 26:26-27, Acts 2:38, 39, 41, I Corinthians 10:16, I Corinthians 11:23-26, Galatians 3:17, 18, 29)
- We believe that Christ commanded the church to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, baptizing and teaching those who believe. (Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1: 8)

WHAT THEOLOGICAL HILLS WILL YOU DIE ON?

- We are a Bible-believing, biblically reformed church that holds to salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ, covenant baptism of both infants and believers, men in ordained office, and plurality of elders. How those beliefs are manifested in the life of the church (i.e. sprinkling vs. pouring baptism) are open to negotiation, but the basic tenets of the Christian faith are non-negotiable.
- We believe that God saves those who are His, even Armenians, but would not be comfortable with Armenian or Dispensational approach to Bible teaching. We are pretty settled on amillennialism.

HOT-BUTTON SOCIAL/CULTURAL ISSUES FOR YOUR CHURCH

- We feel the pressure on other social issues but hold to a traditional Christian view as stated in the Scriptures on these.



BIGGEST CHURCH 'WINS' IN LAST 18 MONTHS?

- COVID brought a myriad of wins and challenges for us. Despite our pastor leaving for another call in April, we were able to begin to worship in June. Worshipping outside in summer 2020 was a win and a pleasant change of pace. We did our best to follow the guidelines of the rulers and governing authorities that we could and had no COVID outbreaks connected to our gathering for worship.
- We have filled the pulpit Sunday by Sunday with some very excellent preaching.

BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHURCH IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

- We have started a youth group and young adult group and look to re-start our Wednesday night Pioneer Club post-COVID in the fall.
- The culture, in general, seems to have a greater appreciation for connectedness, belonging, and community than existed pre-COVID.

CHURCH'S BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR THE FUTURE

- Reconnecting with our youth who may have felt displaced as their programming was canceled during Covid.
- As our accompanists age, our worship music is going to be the subject of discussion.
- Our area does not have a high population turnover, so a stable to declining population—typical in Illinois—could be a very real issue.
- The long-term profitability of the agricultural industry is also important for our church finances.

TITLE OF POSITION YOU ARE HIRING

Pastor

FULL TIME POSITION?

Yes

OVERALL DESCRIPTION OF THIS POSITION

Head pastor of Forreston Grove Church:

The pastor at Forreston Grove is moderator of the Session and has many roles: leading worship, care for the flock, visiting the sick and elderly, involvement in all programs and activities, and engagement in the community. We expect our pastor to pray for and lovingly care for the needs of the body at Forreston Grove with a spirit of grace, humility, gentleness, and humor. We would like a pastor to be approachable by both members of the flock and the community and joyfully minister to needs as he sees them.



REPORTING RELATIONSHIP

The Session

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

- Engage both the flock and the community in a manner that is so Christ-like that it becomes infectious and people at church grow in their faith and become so enthused that they invite people to experience the grace of Christ at Forreston Grove Church.
- The practical applications of the Christian faith become so tangible that everyone in the community notices.
- Families flock to Forreston Grove because the love for the Lord and the love for one another is so contagious, and our joy and hope is evident to all.

DO YOU HAVE A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THIS ROLE?

A Head Pastor at Forreston Grove Church is responsible for overseeing the ministry of the flock, weekly preaching and worship leadership, teaching (varied opportunities here from Bible studies to adult Sunday School to younger ages depending on giftedness), visitation of sick and shut-in, full involvement in the life of the community at large. Our secretary handles clerical responsibilities, our treasurer handles financial details, and clerk of Session does some administrative tasks.

AGE VS. EXPERIENCE

We are not as concerned about age as we are overall fit. We want a man who is loving, joyful, wise, and energetic.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

As we are at this time a member of the PCA, any pastor we would call would have to meet the standards of the denomination. However, there is some flexibility in those standards in the form of exceptions. A pastor who is reformed in perspective and holds to covenant baptism should have no problem being approved by the PCA.

HOW IMPORTANT IS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION TO YOU?

Not important, however, our culture is very mid-western. A PCA pastor from the South may struggle with our culture.

WHAT SKILLS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SPECIFICALLY?

Readily evident giftedness for teaching and preaching as well as an overall love for the Lord and a love for people. Wisdom, grace, humility, and humor are all desirable traits.

WHAT TECHNICAL ABILITIES (IF ANY) ARE REQUIRED?

Computer skills, Planning Center, AV, Video Editing, etc., and musical skills - would all be a plus.

EQUIPPER OR DOER?

Doer

ATTRACTIVE VS. MISSIONAL

We are probably more missional, but we do not want to be UNattractive and hope that people come to church who have not yet placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

BUDGET AREA SUPERVISION

Our budgets are handled by our trustees who oversee the general fund. Our Mission Committee develops the mission budget.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS DESIRED

Loving, joyful, humble, able to laugh at self, Christian maturity and wisdom, gentle, calm, patient, engaging, and warm.

WHAT WOULD IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFY SOMEONE?

On-going struggles with immorality; not being reformed in Biblical perspective also would disqualify.

URGENCY

5-we are doing well.

FINALLY...

Our perfect hire would be an energetic, engaging, loving pastor with readily evident giftedness in preaching and teaching. We desire the scriptures to be communicated in a way that is relevant and understandable, not simply a theological study. We want someone who has a heart for all age groups and a desire to be part of the day-to-day life of the church and community. Outward-facing community involvement in ministry is very important to us. Our pastor would have ample time to be involved in school activities, field trips, coaching, or other community involvement, and we would view that as part of his ministry. An evangelical outward-facing philosophy of ministry would be desirable, while still caring for the needs of the saints and his own family. This is not a pastorate for someone who wants to spend all his time in the office, studying and writing books.

Our culture is probably better suited to a pastor with a Bible Church mindset who will perform covenant baptism and hold to a biblically reformed view of the scriptures.



Public Job Posting

Pastor

Forreston Grove Church

Forreston, IL

Forreston Grove Church in Forreston, IL is in search of a Pastor. This PCA church is looking for someone to oversee the ministry of the flock, preach weekly and lead worship, teach at various studies, and be fully involved in the life of the community at large. They want Forreston Grove to be a place families flock because the joy, hope, and love for the Lord and the love for one another are so contagious.

What you'll be doing:

- Teaching and preaching
- Implementing and leading programs and ministries
- Community building
- Visitations to community members who are sick/shut-in

What you need to have:

- An evangelical, outward-facing philosophy
- An energetic and engaging personality
- Ability to teach Scriptures clearly
- Humility and joy
- A heart for all ages of people

Our area is blessed with some of the richest agricultural land in the Midwest which has allowed both farms and communities to prosper. We have gently rolling hills that provide beautiful views—and our church sits at the top of one of those hills. Our small towns are very welcoming and boast schools with great academic and athletic accomplishments. We also are only 100 miles from Chicago which provides us close access to all the amenities of a world-class city.

Does this sound like a place you'd like to serve?

Apply here: www.chemistrystaffing.com/forreston-grove-pastor