

Pastor Position (Preaching and Teaching)

St. James Church
Louisville, KY

Position Information

Job Title: Pastor, primarily responsible for Preaching and Teaching (Seminary trained)

Commitment and Compensation: As this is primarily a Preaching and Teaching pastorate compensation and ministry hours will be negotiated during the interview process. The proposed compensation for this pastorate is between \$25,000 and \$35,000 per year, and a negotiated sabbatical leave.

Association: Evangelical Association

Worship Style: Classical and liturgical worship

Church Size: 81 (active members), average Sunday attendance 40-60

Contact Information

Organization Name: St. James Church

Contact: Church Office

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Louisville, KY 40215

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Church Website: www.stjameslou.net

Church Profile
St. James Church
an

Evangelical and Reformed Congregation

Overview

St. James Church is an Evangelical and Reformed congregation located in Louisville's South End and is a member of the Evangelical Association. The church was established in 1914 and has been located in the same south Louisville neighborhood since that time. The congregation calls itself "Evangelical" because it holds the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only infallible criterion of faith and life, and it accepts the interpretation of the Holy Scripture as found in the symbolic books of the Lutheran and Reformed churches. These books are "The Confession of Faith" (Westminster Confession of the Reformed Church- 1787-1789 American Revision version), "Luther's Catechism," and "The Heidelberg Catechism." The congregation accepts these only in so far as they agree in their differentiating points allowing everyone freedom of conscience in interpretation.

St. James has a strong music ministry with both vocal and handbell choirs, and an active outreach program catering, primarily, to local community concerns. The church has a membership of 81 and in 2019 the average attendance at Sunday worship was 48.

The purpose of the church, as outlined in its constitution, is:

“The avowed purpose of this organization shall be the worship of the triune God, the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the teaching of the Faith and its practical significance, the practice of loving service toward the needy, the building of the kingdom of righteousness, the furtherance of Christian unity, the fulfillment of the gospel in our daily lives, and the promotion of Christian fellowship.”

St. James Evangelical and Reformed Church had its beginning on June 7, 1914. In the 1950’s, when the Evangelical and Reformed Church merged with the Congregational Christian Church, St. James became a part of the United Church of Christ. In October 2007, the congregation voted to leave its association with the United Church of Christ and recaptured its historical Evangelical and Reformed roots. In 2015, the congregation voted to become a member of the Evangelical Association.

Worship

St. James practices classical and liturgical worship, with an emphasis on reading scripture, congregational singing, and exegetical preaching. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and significant days in the liturgical year. St. James acknowledges Pedobaptism and Believer’s baptism. For those baptized as infants or children the Rite of Confirmation is practiced once the child reaches an age of discernment, the typical age is 8th grade.

The adult vocal choir rehearses and leads worship weekly. St. James also has a handbell choir that rehearses weekly and leads in worship as called upon.

Ministries

Christian Education

St. James offers Sunday School classes for ages ranging from pre-school to adult, using curriculum from both Standard and Lifeway Explorer. The average Sunday Attendance in 2019 was 17. Mid-week Bible study with an emphasis on addiction recovery occurs on Wednesday evenings at St. James. Throughout the year additional topical Bible studies and discipleship opportunities are made available.

Evangelism and Missions

With the recapturing of our historical call and purpose, St. James has over the last decade renewed its commitment to ministry and evangelism. A Saturday morning breakfast, in conjunction with a food pantry and clothes closet was started, and we partner with South Louisville Community Ministries to meet the physical needs of indigent people in the community. St. James hosts an annual Health Fair, participates in Operation Christmas Child and directly supports overseas missionaries Gary and Connie Burkett of Kanisas Call, and a missionary couple serving in a closed country with the Evangelical Association.

Church Governance

The congregation is the primary governance of the church. The congregation elects Church Council members to act on its behalf to oversee the business and ministry of the church. The Council is composed of eight members and the Pastor(s) is an ex-officio member.

Through due diligence and stewardship St. James carries no financial debt.

A copy of the St. James Constitution and Statement of Belief is available on the church website.

Facilities

The church's facilities include the main building, erected in 1950, and an annex. The main building houses the sanctuary which comfortably seats 300, a fellowship hall with a kitchen, and Sunday School rooms. The building contains provisions for providing handicapped access to the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. The annex building houses the church office, a conference room and a three-bedroom apartment which is currently being used by a seminary intern and his wife.

Membership

The membership of St. James varies in age from infants to those persons 80 years and older. We have an active membership of 81 and an average worship attendance of 48 in 2019 with peak attendance of 86 during the year.

St. James welcomed 8 new members in 2019, mostly from the surrounding community. With the emphasis on Reformed theology and teaching St. James' worship attendance has been increasing, and recently seminary students have found St. James a place where they can participate in ministry while completing their program requirements.

Congregational Challenges

- St. James is located in a changing neighborhood. The neighborhood reached an economic low in the early 2000's. 40215 was listed among the fastest gentrifying neighborhoods in the United States in 2017 with rising median household incomes, property values, and residential educational levels, as well as displacement. The neighborhood continues to experience the effects of drug and alcohol prevalence and addiction.
- Over half of St. James' attending membership lives more than 10 miles from the building. This creates a challenge for multiple gatherings during the week
- The median age of the congregation is in the 50's
- 50% of the congregation rarely participates in any activities beyond the main Sunday morning gathering
- St. James' budget declined 4% from 2018 to 2020
- St. James has buried 32 members since 2010 and seen 3 baptisms since 2005

- Some of the oldest members of the congregation remember when the sanctuary was regularly filled with 350 attenders on a Sunday. The newest members have come to St. James because of; reformed identity, baptismal unity, or the outreach programs to indigent population.
- Physical age does not correlate closely to understanding of Christian faith and tradition. Sunday school classes continue to reflect age demographics, while increasing need for basic discipleship of new believers has been identified.
- St. James is served by 2 accessible elevators, but a direct internal elevator from the fellowship hall to the sanctuary is not available.

Ideal Preaching and Teaching Pastor Candidate

The congregation has come to expect specific duties and responsibilities from the ministerial staff for Sunday services. The ideal preaching and teaching candidate shall endeavor to fulfill the following duties.

- Exegetical and expository preaching
- Encouraging and teaching the congregation to fulfill its stated mission and the Great Commission
- Equipping the congregation to disciple one another and new Christians in the faith
- Focus on Biblical truth, application for daily life and its relevance in today's culture
- Enthusiasm for proclaiming the gospel message that inspires the congregation to be salt and light
- Be aligned with the Biblical teaching on the qualifications for elders and deacons. (Titus 1:5-9, 1 Tim. 3:1-7, 1 Peter 5:1-4)

Louisville

Information about the city of Louisville may be found at the following websites:

www.Gotolouisville.com

www.greaterlouisville.com

www.louisvilleky.gov