

## Ministry General Information

Ministry Name	Presbytery	Synod
Erin Presbyterian Church	East Tennessee	Living Waters
Email	Preferred Phone	Website Address
info@erinpresbyterian.org	865-588-5350	www.erinpresbyterian.org
Mailing Address	Alternate Phone/Email	Community Type
200 Lockett Rd, Knoxville, TN 37919-4808		Suburban
Congregation or Organization Size	Curriculum	Average Worship Attendance
101-250 members	Feasting on the Word (PCUSA kids and youth) Adult 1 current semester: "Why are Presbyterians like that?" Adult 2 current semester: " Into the mess and other Jesus stories" by Debbie Thomas	66
Church School Attendance		
27		

Intercultural Composition

White: 98%, Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian: 1%, Black/African American/African: 1%

Released Date

12/10/2024

## Information about the Position

### Position Requirements

Position Type(s)

Solo Pastor: Installed

Language Requirements

English

Experience Required

No Experience/First Ordained Call

Statement of Faith required?

Yes

Employment Status

Full-time

Are you open to a clergy couple?

Yes

### Ministry Requirements

Church Mission/Vision Statement

Our mission:

The mission of Erin Presbyterian Church is to **belong** to the diverse family in Christ, love and accept all as

God's children, become disciples who embody and share the gospel, and serve our church and beyond.

Our vision:

Unified in Christ, we seek to create harmony in a diverse community through compassion, mutual respect, and love.

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

The solo pastor of Erin Church will:

- Preach and lead worship on Sunday mornings and for special services throughout the year (Christmas Eve and Holy Week, others as needed)
- Lead and collaborate with the worship team to plan and produce regular and special worship services
- Lead and support staff, which includes an administrator, a family ministries director, a youth director, an organist, and a choir director who also serves as webmaster and oversees sound, lighting, and livestreaming
- Provide pastoral care, visiting members in hospitals and care facilities and those dealing with illness, bereavement, or other concerns
- Perform weddings, baptisms, funerals, and celebration of life services
- Offer pastoral counseling and spiritual support to members
- Act as moderator of the Session
- Encourage and advise ministry and support teams and be a resource to them
- Support Discipleship and Christian Education programs and teach Sunday school or other studies as needed
- Support the Creative Expressions ministry and embrace the creative gifts of members and others
- Support the church's Outreach ministry and Matthew 25 initiatives
- Be involved in the fellowship of Erin Church
- Be involved in the community and develop relationships with community partners
- Be involved in our presbytery and help connect members with the wider denomination
- Cultivate relationships with people in the community who may be interested in joining Erin Church

## Compensation & Housing

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Minimum Effective Salary

70000

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?

“Unified in Christ, we actively seek to create harmony in a diverse community through compassion, mutual respect, and love.”

These words of Erin's vision structure our life together and in the world. On a recent Sunday, a class studied the beatitudes not as comforting platitudes but as a challenge to carry out God's upside-down plan. In worship a piano and organ arrangement of “Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring” inspired us to praise God as Christians have for centuries, and a jazzy choral response based on the Gloria Patri reminded us that the gospel truly is good news! The choir sang of God's unchanging love and peace, and the sermon challenged us to ask God for sight, even if it means seeing things we'd rather ignore. And during the benediction and doxology we turned to face one another, prepared once again to go and live out our faith. After church, we packed buckets with cleanup supplies to send to our mountain neighbors who are still recovering from Hurricane Helene.

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Erin gathers as family, welcoming newcomers as they are and inviting them to journey with us. Our education and fellowship programs equip us to grow as disciples and care deeply for one another. Our prayer life knits us into one body. In theater, choir, and handbells we share our creative gifts. Our outreach programs manifest our Matthew 25 commitment with partners near and far. Unity, harmony, compassion, mutual respect, and love—these are gifts we share with each other and offer in the world God loves.

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?

For almost 150 years Erin Church has served residents of Knoxville, a vibrant city near the Smoky Mountains and home to the flagship campus of the University of Tennessee. The city and our neighborhood continue to grow, with businesses, public enterprises such as TVA and Oak Ridge National Lab, and a rich community of artists and makers, theater, and music from opera to bluegrass. We have innovative restaurants and brewpubs; one even shares our parking lot!

Young families are buying and renovating 1950s suburban homes, drawn by convenient neighborhoods, good schools, and safe parks. Young professionals fill apartments and condos, and more are being built. Established families settle in upmarket homes both old and new. But moving to a new city or a different part of town can be lonely. Since 2022 we've welcomed 13 new members looking for a spiritual home and a place to belong. Throughout Knoxville, homelessness and economic instability have increased as prices rise; we joined a Habitat build last summer, and we regularly serve at a food pantry. We're active in Justice Knox, a coalition of churches seeking solutions to the root causes of challenges people in Knoxville face. Our online series, Bridge Builders, tackles the distrust and division in today's political climate through learning about racism, poverty and homelessness, LGBTQ+ concerns, Christian nationalism, and other hot topics. We still have much to do together and we seek God's guidance as we grow in faithful service.

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?

Erin's future pastor will work alongside us to achieve our vision and mission. Our capable staff includes a church administrator, family ministries director, youth director, organist, and choir director (who also manages our web presence and oversees sound, lighting, and video production). They each work 15 to 30 hours per week; the pastor is the only full-time staff. Though we hire contract employees for specific tasks, we are a congregation of volunteers, not spectators, who put our faith into action through our church. Most of Erin's work—both inside and outside our walls—

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happens in our ministry teams: Worship, Discipleship, Outreach, Fellowship, and Creative Expressions. The dozen members of the Outreach team plan and communicate monthly mission activities. Members manage our work with Justice Knox, and our Bridge Builders program is entirely planned and led by members. The Sonshine children's theater program contracts with a director and music director, but all production elements—building sets, running sound and lights, gathering props, making costumes, and creating posters and programs—are handled by parents and church members.

We want a pastor who will be involved in the daily life of our congregation and who will complement our efforts by encouraging members to participate, motivating and supporting leaders, serving as a resource and sounding board, and helping us recognize God's direction as we seek to bring Christ's hope, love, and peace to everyone around us.

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.

We seek a new pastor who communicates well in writing, sermons, classes and meetings, and one on one. She should be curious, thoughtful, and always ready to learn. We don't need our pastor to be the smartest person in the room; he should be flexible and open-minded, yet unafraid to preach God's word as grounded in study and guided by the Spirit. Her sermons and teaching should be intellectually challenging, but at the same time she should welcome the basic questions of those who are new to the faith and support and encourage religious refugees who are, sometimes painfully, challenging the beliefs they grew up with and searching for what they can save.

He shouldn't shy away from difficult topics, mediating disputes thoughtfully and with love. Our staff, leadership, and teams don't need a micromanager, but we do want someone who is not afraid to lead when circumstances require it. Because personal connections are the heart of who we are as a church, we want a pastor who is relatable, open, and honest, someone who will get to

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know us as individuals. We want a pastor who will reach out to newcomers and let them know they are welcome here. We understand that no one is without flaws, and we promise to pray faithfully for our pastor and for his or her ministry with us. Most of all, we seek someone who will walk with us, share in our work and in our lives, and pray for us, sincerely offering God's strength, calm, wisdom, and above all, love.



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

We expect our new pastor to embrace the broad duties of a solo pastor: preaching each Sunday, teaching Sunday school and other groups occasionally, and conducting weddings, baptisms, and funerals. She should develop relationships with our members, be an active participant in congregational life, and support and counsel members in times of crisis.

He should lead our Worship team and offer insight, advice, and encouragement to all of our ministry and support teams, particularly the Discipleship and Outreach teams. While we would welcome a new pastor who engages in music, dance, drama, writing, or the visual arts, all we expect is that he value creativity and embrace the gifts of members and friends of the church, recognizing the effectiveness of creative gifts in worship and their special ability to express Christ's message and convey God's love for the world.

The pastor plays a vital role in connecting Erin Church with other congregations in our community, our presbytery, and the larger denomination. He or she should be involved in our community, developing relationships with our partners such as Justice Knox, the Word Players, and Abridged Brewery. We have signed on as a Matthew 25 church, but would welcome guidance in exploring what more that could mean for our congregation. Finally, our new pastor should be known in our neighborhood as a fitting representative of Erin Church, its vision, and its mission.

## Optional Links

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## References

**Reference #1**

Rev. Wyn Bryant

Retired minister in Presbytery,  
friend of the congregation

865-254-1114

wynbryant01@gmail.com

**Reference #2**

Yvette Freter

Former Erin Church member  
and elder

865-816-0276

yvettefreter@gmail.com

**Reference #3**

Cecilia Stinnett

Former Erin Church member  
and elder

865-406-1405

irisluvr63@gmail.com

## Self-Referral Contact Information

**COM**

Wendy Neff

**Email Address**

wendy@presbyteryeasttn.org

**Preferred Phone**

8654055475

**EP**

Wendy Neff

**Email Address**

wendy@presbyteryeasttn.org

**Preferred Phone**

8654055475

**PNC**

Don Quinley

**Preferred Phone**

865-742-1019

**Address**

125 Barrington Dr. Oak Ridge Tennessee 37830

**Email Address**

pdonaldquinley@gmail.com

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