RENEWAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church Information Packet



Dear Pastoral Candidate,

Praise and thanks be to God for your interest in the Senior Pastor position at Renewal Presbyterian Church in West Philadelphia! On behalf of the congregation, leadership, and staff, it is with much prayer and anticipation that we seek God's will and grace to provide us with a pastor to help lead us into the next chapter of gospel ministry here at Renewal. To that end, we hope that the information in this packet will help you understand who we are as a congregation.

We are humbled and thankful to God for your interest in Renewal and look forward to hearing from you.

In Christ,
Renewal West Philadelphia Pulpit Search Committee
(Stephanie Fahringer, David Kim, Eunice Ko, Isaac Kwon, Melissa Tang, Joanna Tzen)



Overview: Renewal Presbyterian Church was birthed in 2006 out of Emmanuel Church, a Korean-speaking immigrant congregation in West Philadelphia, with a vision to become a neighborhood-focused, multi-ethnic church. Our heritage remains an important part of who we are and the story God has written for our congregation. At the same time, over the years our church has grown from being predominantly a second-generation Asian American commuter church into a congregation whose members now largely live in West Philadelphia and represent a growing spectrum of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We want to honor and build upon the strengths of our immigrant roots while continuing to grow in diversity, learning from one another, and celebrating the many cultures and experiences God has brought together in our church.

We seek to love God and love our neighbor in a Christ-centric way that builds up the church and presents a winsome gospel witness to our West Philadelphia neighborhood, a religiously, socioeconomically, and ethnically diverse community. Over the years, Renewal West Philadelphia has also planted several churches (in the Main Line; in Center City Philadelphia, and in Cherry Hill, NJ). We are in a season now where we are seeking to refocus our mission in West Philadelphia, in addition to exploring next steps for our denominational home (see below). We hope to find a candidate who will seek to understand the journey our congregation has been on, honor our past, and help shape and honor our hope and vision for the future in service to the glory of God.

Our Denominational Journey: In 2006, we joined the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) denomination, which limits ordination to men — a position we accepted at the time as scriptural and familiar, not considering another option. Over time, it became clear our governance and institutional culture were hurting women in our community.

In 2021, a group of esteemed women leaders serving at Renewal met with the Session and Staff to share their experiences of past and current hurts experienced by women in the church, including concerns related in part to the culture and structures of male leadership within the PCA. Their conversations sparked a deep process of study, listening, and reflection as the leadership team sought together to discern a path forward that honors the gifts and leadership of both women and men for the flourishing of the church. The Session and Staff consulted

counselors, held book studies and listening sessions, and took concrete steps to acknowledge and address past wrongs. Out of this process came the formation of a Women's Council, the hiring of a female Executive Director, and more intentional participation of women onstage in our worship services. This journey continues to shape how we think about leadership, relationships, and the ways we can better recognize and celebrate the gifts God has given to women and men in our congregation.

The leadership team planned to continue this conversation along with the whole congregation but discovered that questioning complementarian teaching was incompatible with remaining in the denomination. Our church no longer held this conviction unanimously, and many of us believe Scripture allows for a different view. After prayer, discussion, and a congregational vote, we made the difficult move to leave the PCA.

In November of 2025, Rev. Kyuboem Lee was appointed as Interim Lead Pastor to provide guidance and shepherding to the congregation through this period of discernment and in 2026, an Interim Accountability Board was created. A year-long congregational journey followed to learn about complementarianism and egalitarianism and how the congregation and church leadership viewed this should be reflected in church polity in light of the Bible's teachings. Renewal has since embraced an egalitarian position and continues to seek a denominational home (see *Statement Concerning Renewal's Governance, June 28, 2026*).

Where We're Headed: Renewal has been in a lengthy and significant season of transition for the past five years. This has included the conclusion of a 14-year season of faithful service by our previous Senior Pastor, Dwight Yoo; the planting of several churches in recent years (see above); the challenges and opportunities of navigating the post-COVID era; and a season of discernment around our denominational affiliation and questions related to gender roles and leadership in the church (see above). We are seeking a senior pastor who will be able to provide steady leadership for a congregation that consists of some who are weary of transition, some who are excited at our new directions, many who are a bit of both, and others who are newer and less aware of this long history. We hope that this new senior pastor will be able to shepherd our congregation through the final phases of our denominational search process, and we also hope that this senior pastor will thoughtfully guide our whole congregation in learning how to champion female leadership for the flourishing of both men and women in the church.

Because of the demographics of our congregation and neighborhood, we seek a senior pastor who can help the congregation grow in cultural awareness and competency as we seek to celebrate the ethnic and cultural diversity within our church and love our diverse neighborhood and city well. We also seek a senior pastor who has a vision for how best to minister to a relatively transient congregation. Because of our proximity to many educational institutions, a portion of our congregation cycles through in 3-5 year stints, while another portion is rooted in the city. Overall, our hope in this next season is that God would form us to be a Christ-centered community that reflects Jesus authentically and tangibly to our neighborhood for many years to come. We look forward to who God will send to shepherd us in that journey.

Who We Are



Sunday Worship: Renewal Presbyterian Church gathers for Sunday worship in our building at 4633 Cedar Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143. This location is central to the surrounding West Philadelphia neighborhoods of Cedar Park, Garden Court, Spruce Hill, Kingsessing, and Walnut Hill because of its proximity to Baltimore Avenue and Clark Park. Our building has a sanctuary on the ground floor, Sunday School in the basement, and a meeting space and offices on the second floor. We seek to make the most of our building for the edification of our congregation but also for the benefit of our community. Many neighborhood groups use our building for meetings and gatherings, and people can frequently be seen enjoying our garden and outdoor seating area.

Number of Members: 100 (including youth communicant members)
Average Sunday Attendance: 150
Community Groups: 6

Our congregation has grown over the years in age diversity and today is made up of many families with children in the home or in college, mid- and late-career professionals, young professionals, graduate students, and a large college ministry formed mostly of undergraduates from the nearby University of Pennsylvania. As we have noted above, we are located in West Philadelphia, which has been a historically black neighborhood with periods of disinvestment that has been in a period of transition for the last 15-20 years; the neighborhood now has several pockets of working class immigrants, and many young professionals and young families of higher socioeconomic status who are predominantly white but also include Black, Asian,

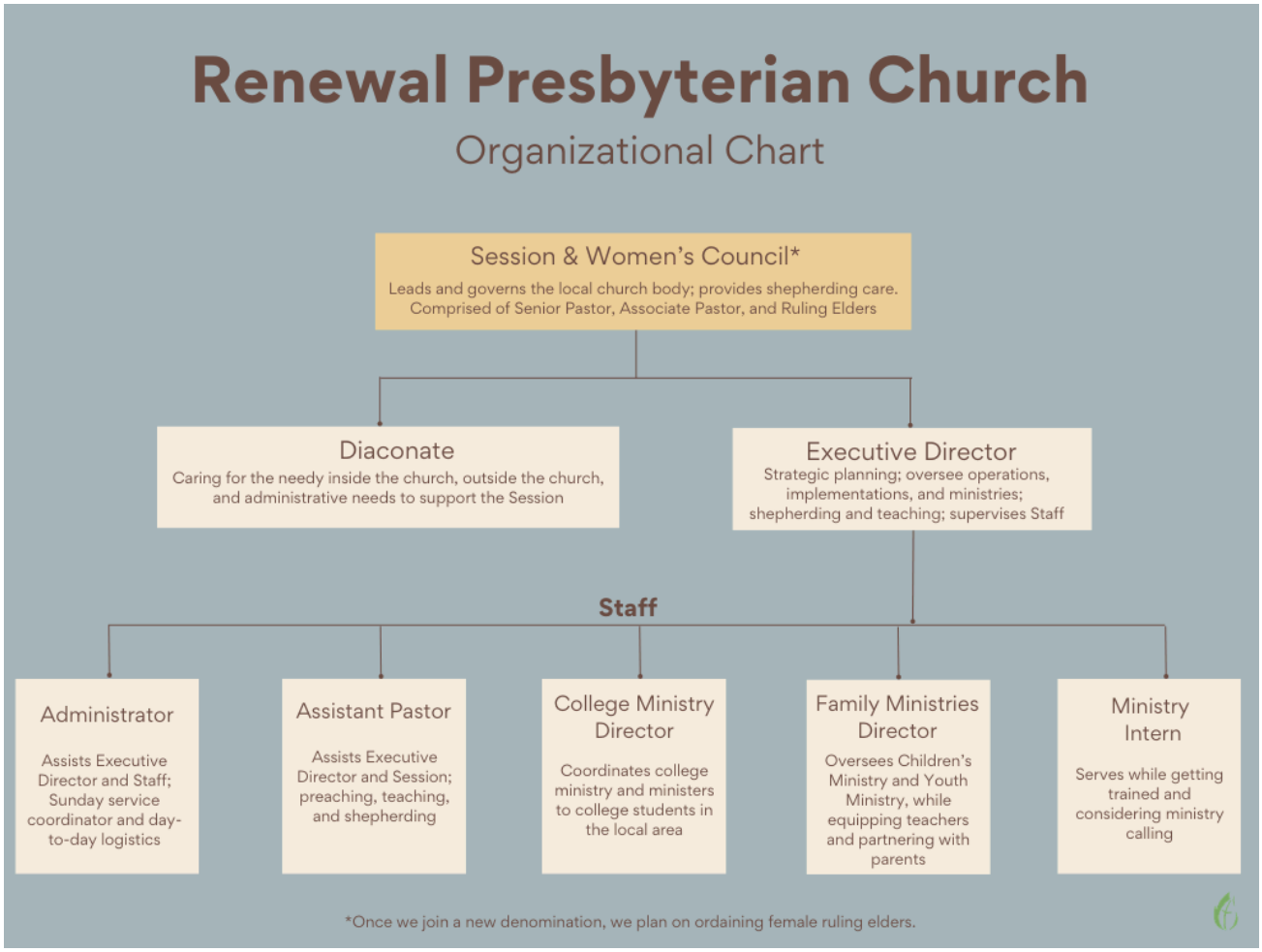
Latino, and other ethnic groups. As referenced above, our congregation has grown in ethnic diversity over the last several years that is more reflective of our neighborhood; while we are still predominantly pan-Asian, we have growing numbers of people from White, Black, Latino, and other ethnic backgrounds. Our hope is our senior pastor will walk alongside us as we continue and seek a deeper relationship with our very diverse neighbors.

We generally experience an influx of newcomers during August and September as people relocate for new jobs or academic programs. It is our hope to connect all interested visitors to a Community Group (CG), which is one of the primary ways Renewal gathers to live out the gospel and mature together in community and to spread the gospel incarnationally through word and deed. CGs generally meet weekly or biweekly and can be organized by location, life stage, or availability.

Leadership

At Renewal Presbyterian Church, our leadership structure is comprised of several key groups that guide and support our congregation:

- **Staff:** Our staff team provides leadership and support across various ministries, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the church. This includes pastoral care, preaching, discipleship, worship coordination, outreach efforts, and administrative functions to ensure the church runs smoothly.
- **Session and Women's Council:** The Session is responsible for the spiritual oversight and governance of the church, ensuring alignment with our mission and values. The Women's Council works alongside the Session, to ensure women's voices and perspectives are represented in the church's strategic discussions.
- **Diaconate:** The Diaconate focuses on mercy ministries and practical service, addressing the needs of our congregation and the broader community.



Ministries

Renewal offers a variety of ministries where members can serve and grow in community, including the Children's Ministry, Youth Group, Welcoming Committee, Praise Team, Multimedia Committee, Communications Team, and Treasury Committee. We are also actively engaged in outreach and service through ministries such as Micah 6:8 Committee, Missions Committee, and supporting the nearby Lea Elementary School. Additionally, we provide opportunities for fellowship and discipleship through Community Group (CG), Moms Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, and Summer Connections. For more details about these ministries, please visit our website.

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SENIOR PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Renewal's Core Values
Our Foundation: The Gospel – The foundation and fuel of our core values is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is at the center of everything we are and do as a people. *Gospel Worship, Gospel Transformation, Gospel Community, Gospel Spreading, Gospel Mercy & Justice*

Position Description: Senior Pastor
Renewal seeks a Senior Pastor to lead the church in pursuing its vision and living out its values. Renewal Church is an urban church located in the Cedar Park neighborhood of West Philadelphia. The congregation is made up of college students, graduate students, professionals and families with a Sunday attendance of approximately 150. The Senior Pastor would be supported by a leadership team that includes an Executive Director, Family Ministries Director, College Ministry Director, Session, Women's Council, and Diaconate.

We seek a humble, servant-hearted leader who embodies grace, wisdom, and a love for people, whose life and ministry reflect the biblical qualifications for elders as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. They should have a deep commitment to biblical truth, a passion for discipleship, and a heart for both the church and the city. We desire a pastor who is a faithful preacher of God's Word and a shepherd who cares deeply for the congregation—walking alongside them in their spiritual journeys, encouraging them in their faith, and equipping them for gospel-centered living. We are seeking someone who fosters a deep, Christ-centered community, while also welcoming newcomers and engaging the broader city of Philadelphia.

Qualifications
- Meets the qualifications for elders and overseers in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1
- In full agreement with Renewal's core values
- Must have an M.Div from an accredited seminary
- Ordained (or Licentiate) and willing to transfer into the denomination that our church is discerning to join
- At least 10 years in full-time pastoral ministry, including 5 years of "senior-level" "executive/senior-level" pastoral experience.
- Strong biblical teaching, pastoral care, and leadership development skills
- Spiritually mature team player
- Passion for and commitment to urban ministry, discipleship, and community building
- Cross-cultural and intercultural fluency
- Proven record of effective leadership

Responsibilities

Word and Sacrament

- Serve as the primary preacher, delivering gospel-centered, theologically sound, and contextually relevant sermons
- Plan and prepare worship services in collaboration with the Staff, particularly the Executive Director
- Administer the sacraments
- Lead and oversee Adult Education, including Bible and Theology classes, Premarital counseling, and Marriage and Family enrichment, in partnership with Session, Women's Council, Executive Director, and Family Ministries Director

Pastoral Shepherding and Care

- Provide pastoral care, addressing the mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of congregation
- Officiate special services: baptisms, weddings, and funerals
- Model love for Christ and community

Leadership and Discipleship

- Oversee the health and well-being of our church and leadership
- Help guide the vision for Renewal in partnership with church leadership
- Clarify the church's identity and mission, ensuring alignment with Renewal's core values and engagement with the city
- Raise and equip future leaders and pastoral interns through training and discipleship
- Develop and strengthen the Session, Women's Council, and Diaconate to foster collaborative leadership and healthy decision-making
- Collaborate on human resources strategy with the Session, Women's Council, and Executive Director to on-board and off-board staff
- Facilitate the church's strategic planning processes in collaboration with the Executive Director, Session, and Women's Council, and convert ideas and strategies into action
- Collaborate with Executive Director and Staff on Sunday planning and operations, and lead implementation for ministry and mission in coordination with ministry leaders

Community and Outreach

- Lead the church in fostering a Gospel-centered community built on authentic relationships
- Encourage and equip the church to love and serve the City of Philadelphia, particularly in areas of justice and mercy
- Guide the congregation in engaging with the local West Philadelphia community and the broader city (e.g., through building relationships with surrounding community and organizations)

Denominational and Ministry Partner Engagement

- Participate in the meetings and responsibilities of the presbytery upon joining a denomination

- Keep the Session and Women's Council informed on presbytery activities and decisions
- Moderate Session meetings, collaborating with the Executive Director to organize the docket
- Represent Renewal and build broader ministry partnerships in Philadelphia

How to Apply

To apply for the position of Senior Pastor at Renewal Presbyterian Church in West Philadelphia, please send an email to session@renewalchurch.org and include the following:

- Cover Letter
- Résumé
- Links or video/audio recordings to several sermons of your own choosing

After reviewing these materials, we may reach out to invite you to submit a longer application and references to continue the candidating process.

We thank you for your interest in Renewal Presbyterian Church in West Philadelphia!

If you would like to recommend someone for the role of Senior Pastor, please email session@renewalchurch.org.