

Presbyter for Relational Care

Job Description

God is calling the Presbytery of the James to do a new thing. Connection, communication, and collaboration among ministries and ministry leaders is the focus of our strategic vision - that we become a more relational presbytery led by **three** presbyters who are sent out to meet our people where they serve.

The mission of the Presbytery of the James is to support leaders, congregations, and ministries in growing followers of Jesus Christ who joyfully live out God's mission in the world.

These are the goals and objectives we hope our Mission Statement inspires over the next 5 years:

- Christ-centered Spiritual Growth, specifically as this relates to POJ staff resourcing and supporting church leaders, pastors, educators, and ministries.
- Communication and Coordination, specifically as these relate to connecting churches and ministries with one another and creating vital partnerships.

The Presbyter for Relational Care will partner with the Lead Presbyter for Vision & Collaboration and the Presbyter for Congregational Life in visioning how to support ministries in growing followers of Jesus Christ in the diverse contexts and communities of the POJ. Together, the three presbyters will encourage, support, and guide leaders and faith communities in connecting and better communicating with each other and in strengthening bonds with the presbytery. As a team, the three presbyters will model connectedness and consensus in leading the Presbytery.

This position focuses on care and relationships with pastoral caregivers, including ministers, educators, chaplains, and commissioned pastors who navigate the strain of faithful ministry in the midst of the drastically shifting landscape of Church and World. The position acknowledges the need for support for pastoral caregivers in equipping the body of Christ, nurturing Christ-centered spiritual growth, and the necessity of being the Church in the world.

The Presbyter for Relational Care understands the griefs, sorrows, joys, and challenges of serving the Church. They know God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary tasks while understanding how contextual expectations can diminish the human spirit. Recognizing the complexities of the Church and society, this person invests in supporting pastoral caregivers as they care for their communities.

They are a supportive listener, a faithful advocate, a judicious advisor, and, above all, a person of faith and character with a steady, non-anxious, and empathetic presence. This person is self-aware, differentiated, and trauma-informed, having the self-care practices and boundaries in place to offer support to those who need it.

The Presbyterian for Relational Care will:

- Provide pastoral support and oversight of the POJ members, setting a tone for the pastoral care of ministers, educators, chaplains, and commissioned pastors
- Develop and encourage clergy peer groups, create opportunities for imaginative and relevant Christ-centered spiritual growth and renewal, and arrange counseling support in conjunction with the Commission on Ministry (COM)
- Collaborate with the Lead Presbyterian for Vision & Collaboration and the Presbyterian for Congregational Life as staff persons and resources to the Mission Council & Trustees
- Serve as staff liaison to the Commission on Ministry (COM) and other presbytery entities as time permits; attend virtual and in-person POJ staff meetings as scheduled
- Work $\frac{3}{4}$ time (30 hrs/week)

The Presbytery of the James is seeking to hire three executive presbyters to work in concert as a team and guide the presbytery's mission: Lead Presbyterian for Vision & Collaboration, Presbyterian for Congregational Life, and Presbyterian for Relational Care.

To learn more and to see the other job descriptions, please visit:

<https://www.presbyteryofthejames.com/about/presbyters/>

Compensation and Housing: This is a $\frac{3}{4}$ time / 30 hours/week position, \$67,500

Interested candidates can view our Ministry Information Form (MIF) at the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection and submit their Personal Information Form (PIF) there, or send their information to Search Committee Co-Chairs, Rev. Jess Cook (revjesscook@gmail.com) and Barbara Flynt (barbara@brandermillchurch.org).