

**Church Leadership Connection**  
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**Mif #: 03328.ADO**

**Ministry General Information**

<b>Ministry Number</b>	03328
<b>Ministry Name</b>	First Presbyterian Church
<b>Mailing Address</b>	495 Charles Avenue Alma, MI 48801
<b>Phone</b>	989 463 2940
<b>Fax</b>	989 463 2094
<b>E-Mail</b>	office@firstpres.net
<b>WWW Address</b>	www.firstpres.net
<b>Ministry Size</b>	101 - 250 members

<b>Ethnic Composition</b>	
	Asian 1%
	Black or African American (African Native, Caribbean) 1%
	White 98%

<b>Average Worship Attendance</b>	53
<b>Church School Attendance</b>	0
<b>Curriculum</b>	Various Contemporary Studies
<b>Yoked</b>	False
<b>Presbytery</b>	LAKE HURON PRESBYTERY
<b>Synod</b>	SYNOD OF THE COVENANT
<b>Community Type</b>	College

Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization [Show Statistics](#)

**Information about the position**

<b>Position:</b>	Solo Pastor
<b>Experience Required:</b>	First Ordained Call
<b>Specific Title:</b>	
<b>Employment Status:</b>	Full-time

<b>Language Requirements:</b>	
	English

<b>Other Language:</b>	
<b>Statement of Faith Required:</b>	
<b>Clergy Couples:</b>	True

<b>Training/Certificate Requirements:</b>	
---	--

<b>Other Training:</b>	
------------------------	--

<b>Brief Church Mission Statement:</b>	
--	--

# Church Leadership Connection

## The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Vision Statement: The First Presbyterian Church is, and will be, a church that experiences and shares God's love and compassion.

Mission Statement: The First Presbyterian Church will collaborate with Alma College to feed the body and soul of its congregation and the surrounding community.

### **What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry:**

Alma First Presbyterian aims to experience and share God's love and compassion. Our goal is to collaborate with Alma College to feed the body and soul of our community. We are searching for a spiritual leader who will help us implement this vision.

We are a small congregation with big plans. Service has long been our strength, from sponsoring community meals and food pantries, to partnering with community organizations that address short-term needs and long-term inequities, to raising awareness through educational programming, to housing community groups within our church. Our transition committee, having listened closely to our members' hopes and commitments, has identified a way to revitalize our church by building on this foundation. Here, our small size will prove an asset, for it allows our membership to be nimble, active and engaged.

Our link to Alma College will be another key asset for this transformation. Home to a vibrant campus ministry, the college seeks a partner who can help provide students the mentoring they seek and the service opportunities they desire. The church and campus will both benefit as we act on our mutual commitment to sharing God's love by addressing our community's many needs. The college chaplain has fully endorsed this partnership with our church, and will provide our new pastor with introductions to the campus and broader community, as well as ongoing collegial support.

### **How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency:**

Parts of Alma, the largest city in central Michigan's Gratiot county, are thriving. Our renovated 19th-century downtown, the PC(USA)-affiliated Alma College, our University of Michigan-affiliated hospital, the expansive Masonic Pathways assisted living facility, and many of our small manufacturers have weathered the recent downturn relatively well.

Yet other parts of our city and county face severe economic strain. Physical hunger is a real issue, and our church has tried to address it through programs like a food pantry, a weekly community dinner that serves 100, and partnering with others to support a community garden.

Alma has other needs as well. Our senior citizens have a long list of projects that would help them remain in their homes, and some of our congregation share these needs. College students want to help, but separated from familiar surroundings, they are not certain how to contribute. They hunger for mentors who can help them direct their passions and find their call. And many in our traditionally caring community long for a way past the divisions, hurt and anger our country has experienced in recent years.

No church can be all things to all people. But we know that Alma First, working in partnership with the college and other community organizations, can help address the physical needs that surround us. We likewise know that our church, acting in witness to and celebration of God's love, can help answer the spiritual hunger that surrounds us as well.

### **How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals:**

While every church seeks to grow its congregation, we do not believe in growth for the sake of numbers. Rather, we desire to grow to better serve our community. We seek a pastor who fosters the hope and confidence we need to attain this vision, an individual who is not afraid to try new initiatives but is self-effacing enough to learn from efforts that do not work. S/he should lead us in worship which is dynamic and engaging, providing a deep spiritual grounding to enrich our work and renew our commitment to helping others.

Our pastor must also minister to our congregation. Like all people we need reminders of how God calls us to serve our neighbors, and guidance in the choices we face in answering this call. Through words that inspire and pastoral care that helps us experience God's love, our pastor will highlight the opportunities that surround us, and help us identify how to best answer our community's needs.

Finally, our pastor will strengthen our budding relationship with the college, recognizing that the insights and energy that students bring will provide new opportunities for service. S/he must facilitate a welcoming campus outreach, identifying and promoting links that will help our church rethink its role in our community and help students address their own desires for service and spiritual growth. S/he must be willing to go to campus and meet students where they are, and be equally willing to invite them to join in our work.

# Church Leadership Connection

## The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

### **Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and or organization:**

Our pastor should be a spiritual leader, offering sermons that motivate, and leading worship that is joyful. S/he should remind us through word and deed of our call to demonstrate God's transformational love, helping us recognize the opportunities we have for such service, and know the blessings that accompany this work.

Our pastor should have strong interpersonal skills, offering pastoral care to an aging congregation as well as to students new to the challenges of independence. Both groups long for the comfort a concerned listener gives, and the hope found in a life of faith. S/he will need patience and perseverance when responding to these needs; contagious energy and a sense of humor will help as well.

Our pastor must be committed to service that addresses physical as well as spiritual needs. S/he should foster collaboration, and demonstrate a clarity of purpose that helps us find ways to further our mission.

Our pastor must have the courage to invite people to join our programs, and must make this invitation compelling through a deep commitment to others and a passion for God's word.

Our pastor must be action oriented, linking our church's past experiences and emerging hopes with our community's evolving needs. S/he must help us transform our commitment to change into the ongoing work of Christian service.

Our pastor will try new approaches and take calculated risks, since even projects that do not thrive will highlight opportunities to advance our church's future.

### **What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?**

Our pastor will perform ordinary pastoral duties, including preaching, administering sacraments, pastoral care, moderating Session, and serving as a resource for boards and committees. S/he will provide spiritual care, guidance, and leadership that helps members grow in their faith. S/he will encourage us to welcome into a community of faith people from diverse theological backgrounds.

Our pastor will maintain an ongoing presence at Alma College, working with the Chaplain to build relationships with students. S/he will welcome them to our church and our programming, and identify ways that our members can help support these students' needs. S/he will help us embrace this partnership by promoting efforts that benefit all parties.

Our pastor, through word and deed, will help our members experience God's love, and will motivate us to participate in service activities that feed the body and soul. Partnering with Alma College in these endeavors, the pastor will work with an AmeriCorps member assisting with our food programs.

Our pastor will guide our church into the future by reinforcing our commitment to our mission and to seeking new opportunities for growth.

As Head of Staff, our pastor will supervise, support, and guide all church employees. S/he will help them identify ways to further develop their gifts and skills. S/he will facilitate communication within the church, and help to coordinate our programming and align our activities and mission.

### **Optional Links:**

First Presbyterian Church of Alma: <https://www.firstpres.net>

Presbytery of Lake Huron: <http://www.presbylh.org>

Alma College: <https://www.alma.edu>

City of Alma: <https://myalma.org>

Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce: <https://gacc.gratiot.org>

### **Leadership Competencies:**

Preaching and Worship Leadership

Spiritual Maturity

Public Communicator

Advisor

Change Agent

**Church Leadership Connection**  
**The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

Strategy and Vision
Collaboration
Interpersonal Engagement
Motivator
Initiative

<b>Compensation and Housing: <u>Cost of Living Calculator</u></b>
<b>Minimum Effective Salary:</b> \$50,000
<b>Housing Type:</b> Housing Allowance

<b>References:</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Numbers</b>	<b>Relation</b>	<b>Email</b>
The Rev. M. Joy Smith	495 Charles Avenue, Alma, MI 48801	952-358-1856	First Presbyterian Church of Alma Transition Pasto	mjoysmith@gmail.com
The Rev. Dr. Andrew Pomerville	614 W. Superior St., Alma, MI 48801	517-927-5260	Alma College Chaplain	pomervillead@alma.edu
The Rev. Christina Jensen	218 E. Newark St., Ithaca, MI 48847	248-217-7178 (cell – pref	Neighboring pastor; past moderator of Session	pastor@ithacapres.org

<b>Has the Pastor Nominating Committee and Search committee affirmed its intention to follow the Form Of Government in this regard?</b>
Yes
<b>Version Track Info: This MIF was last updated on 03/04/2021</b>

<b>Self-referral Contact Information</b>	
<b>PNC:</b> Michael Selmon	<b>Address</b> 614 Pine Avenue, Alma, MI 48801
<b>Daytime Phone</b> 989-463-1178	<b>Office Phone</b> 989-289-7768
<b>Fax</b>	<b>Email</b> selmon@alma.edu