

Grace Church
Buckhannon, West Virginia
A Church Plant



Summary

This call is written with the hopes of finding a full time Planting Pastor from the Presbyterian Church in America as our core group begins the journey of establishing itself in the name of Christ in Buckhannon, West Virginia for the sake of the Gospel and the to the Glory of God as a member of the New River Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America.

Our core group of nearly thirty meets weekly in a golf course clubhouse owned by one of our members, and has been established as a means to worship according to conscience after searching in good faith for a local congregation that holds the beliefs of historical Christian orthodoxy and having found none within a reasonable distance.

Many in our congregation are recent converts within the past two and a half years as a result of the efforts of the core group and have been established in their faith according to the historic Reformed confessions, predominantly the Westminster Standards.



Location and Opportunity

Though the municipal limits of Buckhannon have a population of only 6,000, it is also the only city in a county of 25,000. These 25,000 people of Upshur County call Buckhannon home. An additional 75,000 people live within thirty minutes of Buckhannon in the surrounding counties and have no access to a church of any Reformed stripe within a reasonable distance.

The mission field, therefore, is home to 100,000 people who have to this point largely experienced liberal Methodism associated with West Virginia Wesleyan College, KJV-Only Independent Baptist Churches, and Pentecostalism/Charismatic Non-Denominational Churches.

The need for solid preaching and belief is great, and the opportunity is limitless. An energetic but wise leader could have, with God's blessing, great success in building a thriving community in this location.

Buckhannon boasts many wonderful restaurants, great local schools, and many arts and cultural events throughout the year. Outdoor opportunities also abound in the region, such as golf, hunting, fishing, hiking and camping.



Financial Information and Fundraising

It is the opinion of the Core Group that a starting annual compensation package of \$80,000 would be necessary for the Planting Pastor to live comfortably in Buckhannon. Though it appears more remote on the map, Buckhannon is a cultural hub for Central West Virginia and has a higher cost of living.

This \$80,000 dollar package may be delineated however most convenient for the Planting Pastor, but a simple break-down may look like this:

<i>Salary</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>
<i>Housing</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>Insurance & Retirement</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>

The Core Group currently contributes roughly \$30,000 per year to a church fund with less than \$300 in expenses monthly (\$100 of which is a contribution to another ministry).

It is our intent to begin fundraising this summer and to build an account of an additional \$30,000 to offset the fundraising efforts of our Pastor.

With the annual contribution flow of \$30,000 and an account of \$30,000, the Core Group should be able to finance \$60,000 out of the \$80,000 necessary for the first year of ministry. This is a conservative estimate, and it is possible that the Core Group will be able to finance more of the cost.

Additionally, the Core Group has not yet reached out to outside sources such as other more established churches to request contributions toward our efforts.