

Ministerial Vacancy - First Presbyterian Church, Belfast



First Presbyterian (Non-subscribing) Church, Belfast is the city's oldest place of worship. Its congregation was established in 1644 and it has played an active and varied role in civic life. First Church is proud of its heritage and the liberal Christian tradition to which it belongs - which includes links to Unitarianism. It is a community that values diversity, intellectual enquiry and engagement with the world. And we are a congregation united by open-minded faith and friendship - a place where tradition is respected and renewed and ideas matter.

We wish to appoint a **full-time Minister** to lead our congregation in this next, and important, phase of its development. It's an exciting role at a time of transition for First Church and the wider Belfast community. We are looking for someone **who shares (and will uphold) the values of our congregation** and who can help to secure its future. We expect that our new Minister will have **well-developed pastoral and communication skills** and that s/he will have **demonstrable, and broadly-based, experience** in areas relevant to the work and witness of First Church and the needs of its people.

In appointing a new Minister, we want someone who will: **nurture and develop** our congregation; **encourage and facilitate** its relationship with the denominational traditions to which we are affiliated and belong; **harness the talents and diversity** of church members; and **extend our role and voice** in city life - **making connections** with other faith traditions and communities and **exploring the relationship** between religion, society and the world of ideas. And we want someone who is **as passionate about the benefits and continued relevance of a liberal faith as we are...**

We invite applications from suitably qualified candidates (who will have a **primary degree and a qualification in Theology and pastoral care as a minimum**) and who have **at least 5yrs' experience in a congregational, or equivalent, setting** to have included **dealing effectively with organisational and people issues and external relationships**.

Specifically, our new Minister will be responsible for:

- **leading Sunday worship and church activities** throughout the year;
- **providing pastoral care and support** for church members;
- **facilitating the church's links and engagement with the wider community;**
- **working with the church Committee and congregation to develop and deliver an agreed annual plan and to identify longer-term strategic priorities;**
- **online, social media and other church-related communications activity;**
- **maintaining the distinctive witness, heritage and character** of First Church and securing its future as an inclusive, dynamic and diverse community.

This position will attract a salary of **£25,200** as a full-time minimum, subject to review based on skills and experience. We expect to purchase a **church-owned manse for the post-holder**, or to make a monthly allowance for these costs based on agreed denominational arrangements.

Applications should include: **a full career history** with details of all relevant qualifications and experience; and **an accompanying statement** of no more than **1500 words** describing your reasons for applying for this role and the contribution that you could make to First Church, its present and future. You should also include the names of **two referees** with direct knowledge of your work.

Applications should be sent to **Dr Pamela Topping**, Hon Secretary, First Presbyterian (Non-subscribing) Church, Belfast secretary@firstchurchbelfast.org no later than **22 June, 2018**.

This post is exempt under s70 of the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998. An enhanced Access NI Disclosure will be required for candidates shortlisted for the final stage/s of the selection process.