

THE CHURCH OF GOD AT CORINTH

IS

SEARCHING FOR ITS FIRST CALLED MINISTER!

Come be our Pastor as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ...

... in the marketplace



... in the neighborhoods



... and in the sacred venues of our beloved city



Site of World-Famous Temple to Aphrodite

Come lead a church that wants to make its mark in history!

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

FOR LOCAL CHURCHES SEEKING NEW LEADERS

Date: **In the Second Year of the Roman Empire's Most Distinguished Emperor Nero Claudius Caesar Drusus Germanicus (55 C.E.)**

Church Name: **The Church of God**
 City, State: **Corinth, Achaia**
 Nation: **G r e e c e**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

1. Membership

	Last Year	5 Years Ago	10 Yrs Ago
a. # Church members	We have no	membership	roster
b. Average attendance at worship†	200?*	25?*	n/a
c. Average participation of children/youth in C.E.	Yes	Yes	n/a
d. Average weekly participation in adult education	Yes	Yes	n/a
e. # Members who are ordained clergy	0	0	n/a

† Estimated combined attendance at house churches all over the city

* We don't keep those kind of records...papyrus and vellum are too expensive

2. Profile of Congregation

a. Age

10 % ages 0 - 5
10 % ages 6-18
35 % ages 19-34
35 % ages 35-49
5 % ages 50-64
4 % ages 65-74
1 % ages 75 +

b. Family units

60 % families with children at home
10 % families without children at home
20 % single
10 % single parent with children at home

c. Education level of *male* adults

85 % illiterate
10 % barely literate
5 % quite literate

e. Social Status:

5 % middle class
60 % free menial worker
35 % slave
0 % retired

d. Occupation (present/past) of adults

10 % subsistence business
10 % subsistence tradesperson
7 % subsistence farmer
65 % subsistence laborer
5 % well born and/or successful business
3 % student/apprentice
35 % slave (incl. other categories—i.o.c.)
5 % former slave, but same job (i.o.c.)
12 % former sex trade employee (i.o.c.)

f. Describe the racial-ethnic makeup of your congregation

20 % **Hellenistic Jews: who once attended synagogue, but are no longer welcome; still practicing, but cannot speak Hebrew/Aramaic**

80 % **Gentiles: who are from numerous Greek, Roman, Asian, Mediterranean, Asian, and North African ethnic communities**

CHURCH FINANCES

	Last Year	5 Years Ago	10 Years Ago
3. Total Church Income			
a. Members offerings and pledges	Every week	Same	n/a
b. Interest from investment/endowments	<i>Huh?</i>	n/a	n/a
c. Principal reduction (invest./endow.)	<i>Huh? again</i>	n/a	n/a
d. Rentals	Rent--what?	n/a	n/a
e. Special fundraising for Jerusalem poor	In progress	0	n/a
f. Other	0	0	n/a

4. Total Operating Budget	This Year
a. Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support	The Apostle Paul will not accept any fee for his consultation services. He is self-employed and proudly, as we explain on page 4.
b. Our Church's Wider Mission Special Support	We are currently collecting a fund to be distributed by the Mother Church in Jerusalem to the poor believers there
c. Other gifts	Naturally we help out the local poor in our fair city
d. Current local expenses	What other expenses could there be?
e. Annual capital payments	Who needs capital payments for maintaining a church?
f. Other debt	Can't think of any. Except our debt to Christ...

5. Identify special offerings the church has throughout the year and the amounts from last year

The Apostle Paul has been on our case for some time now, admonishing us in two published letters (1 Corinthians 16.1-4 & 2 Corinthians 8-9), and using every tool in his rhetorical arsenal (cajoling, threatening, embarrassing, praising, begging, challenging, instructing—even a little self-pity) to get us to take up a generous offering from among our members for the purpose of providing financial relief to the abjectly poor members of First Church in Jerusalem.

6. Name the most significant local missions/ministries or agencies that were financially supported by your local church last year and the amount of support

We can't say specifically at this time, but it is probably much the same as those fourth century churches in Rome described by Emperor Julian the Apostate who, after trying to get his own religion started with a charitable mission department (and failing miserably at it), was heard to complain:

“Those godless Galileans, they not only feed their own poor, but ours as well!”

7. Indebtedness

a. Total amount of capital debt: \$ 0

b. Total amount of other debt: \$ 0

Describe: **As Paul taught us, we “owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”**

(Romans 13:8 NRSV)

8. Capital Campaigns: n/a

9. Assets held by the Church

a. Reserves (savings): \$ 0

b. Endowments/Investments: \$ 0

c. Describe buildings and property of your church except the parsonage

We own no buildings. We worship in each other's homes, or gather outdoors in a safe place to worship as a whole group. Why should we spend our very meager funds on a physical structure in which to gather once or twice a week? Are we not—together, all of us—GOD'S BUILDING, built upon the

foundation of Jesus Christ? And are we not—together, all of us—GOD'S HOLY TEMPLE, in whom dwells the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 3.9-17)

And by the way, what is a parsonage?

- d. If a building program is projected or underway, describe it, including estimated date of completion

Buildings designed expressly to house Christian congregations such as ours will not become popular for another two or three centuries—sometime after the development of a longing to institutionalize the Church.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF MINISTERIAL LEADERS

10. If your Conference has compensation guidelines, do you follow them?

_____ yes _____ no X not exactly

The Apostle Paul once shared with us the following piece of interesting animal husbandry wisdom:

It is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Or does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was indeed written for our sake, for whoever plows should plow in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits?

(1 Corinthians 9.9-11 NRSV)

So we do believe that we should financially support our pastor, but at present we don't have any clear guidelines on this—although it is rumored that he or one of his protégés might one day write something like this:

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching; for the scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves to be paid." (1 Timothy 5.17-18 NRSV)

We've never thought of comparing our pastor to a dumb beast of burden, but perhaps that's better than being called a weasel or a turkey...

- a. If the compensation package offered falls below conference guidelines, are you willing to have a pastor who is bi-vocational having a part-time position to supplement income?

 X yes _____ no

If the Apostle Paul can be a tent-maker on the side (Acts 18.3), our pastor can certainly have supplementary employment if (s)he wants to do so. The agora (marketplace) is full of tradespeople hawking their wares.

- b. Are you willing to help bi-vocational candidates locate other employment?
 yes no

11. Salary History

To provide a profile of salaries for the position you are seeking to fill, indicate salaries at the beginning and ending of the previous ministers' tenures. Do not include interim positions. If a parsonage was provided, please indicate.

We might very well take up an occasional collection for our pastor, but there would be no offer of a parsonage or housing allowance—we never heard of such a thing. Of course, if the pastor wants to stay for a little while in the home of one of our members, that would be okay.

12. During the above period, has your church failed to fulfill its financial obligations to its pastor?

To the contrary: against the common expectation that an authorized servant of God should receive financial support for doing ministry, the Apostle Paul argued that he had a right *not* to receive such support, if he preferred instead to be self-supporting (1 Corinthians 9). We have heard that the other apostles aren't very happy with Paul about this, but that is *their* problem!

13. Compensation offered

As the Lord leads members to give...

- a. Cash salary offered \$ **n/a**
- b. Housing: \$ **n/a**
 Housing allowance only Parsonage only Would offer either
- c. Customary benefits: **n/a**
 Vacation: ___ weeks annually after _____ (date)
 Maternity/paternity leave
 UCC retirement annuity: (_____%); ___ other retirement plan (_____%)
 UCC Life and Disability Insurance Benefits; ___ other life/disability insurance
 UCC Health Benefits; ___ other health benefits
 UCC Dental Benefits; ___ other dental benefits
 Social Security
 Continuing Education Funds: \$_____ annually
 Continuing Education Time: _____ weeks annually
 Sabbatical Leave: After _____ years for _____ months; \$_____ provided
 Books
 Other Benefits, Specify:

- d. Travel Reimbursement; no cents per mile, but: **Free sandals replacement every six months or 50 stathmoi* (whichever comes first)**

COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

14. Population

- a. Population of total city or town in which your church is located:
No census has been taken, but we are generally regarded as the third largest city in the Roman Empire.
- b. Describe the population by racial-ethnic category and identify the source of the information:
We have a very diverse ethnic population, with the bulk of our citizenship being comprised of *freed(wo)men* from all over the Empire who had once been seized or sold into slavery, were brought into the capital city, and then later were sent here to keep Rome from becoming completely overrun by foreigners. Virtually every language spoken in the Mediterranean basin can be heard in the agora.

15. Economic Factors

Identify major sources of employment/income in your community:

- a. **Maritime trade: Corinth guards *two* harbors on either side of a 4.5 mile isthmus between the Aegean and Adriatic Seas, over and through which most east-west trade between Asia and Europe travels, as well as north-south trade between the Peloponnese peninsula and the Greek mainland.**
- b. **Isthmian Games: Second only to the Olympian Games**
- c. **Sex trade (where there are sailors, athletes and their fans...)**
- d. **Retainer industry: The small wealthy elite class serves as patrons of a vast array of artisan endeavors, religious movements, and philosophical schools.**

* A *stathmos* (plural: *stathmoi*) is 25 km or about 1 day's journey.

16. General Description

- a. Describe three distinctive attributes of your community:
 1. **We are an amazingly diverse cosmopolitan community with many thousands of slaves, former slaves, immigrants, and “undocumented” workers. Despite such great numbers of impoverished and unskilled people, there is a “can-do” spirit here that inspires many to come to our city to better their economic circumstances.**
 2. **Our swirling cauldron of multiple ethnicities, of myriads of desperately poor laborers coming to Corinth to improve their lot in life, of opulent social elites who pull the political and economic strings while walling themselves off from the problems of the destitute masses, of spiritually hungry people passionately devoted to a myriad of Mediterranean deities and divinities, of itinerant philosophers, religious charlatans, flim-flam artists and prostitutes make for an exciting time to be the Church in the world. There is an unquestionable openness on the part of most Corinthians to new ideas and new ways of doing things. Surely the Gospel of Jesus Christ is meant for such as these!**
 3. **We have a very positive relationship with Rome now, which is to our advantage in that it is unlikely that we will be razed to the ground once again, as happened about two hundred years ago as Rome took possession of our Greek nation.**
- b. Identify major trends you envision in your community during the next five years:
 1. **Our maritime trade (with its attendant social ills) will continue to expand as Rome extends its Empire both eastward and westward.**
 2. **Religious strife will probably increase as new religious ideas and practices are introduced into the already volatile mix of sanctioned State religions and unregulated spiritual movements. Synagogue officials and our own Messianic Jews have already clashed on a number of occasions (Acts 18.1-17).**
 3. **Our burgeoning metropolis will be in a festive mood next year as it celebrates the centennial anniversary of its “re-founding” by Emperor Julius Caesar. His royal highness Nero Claudius Caesar Drusus Germanicus has been invited to grace our city’s festivities with his presence, which may prove to be a mixed blessing for Christians and other unauthorized religious groups here in Corinth, for we’ve heard that the Emperor sometimes does not look favorably upon new expressions of spiritual devotion.**

c. List several problem areas confronting your community that members feel your church should address:

1. **The steady increase in crime and venality.**
2. **The rampant epidemic of sexual promiscuity and religious prostitution.**
3. **The threatening tensions between the minority rich and majority poor.**
4. **The harsh treatment of many slaves, including those forced into sexual prostitution.**
5. **The widespread spiritual hunger that drives so many people into pagan cults and mystery religions.**

d. Indicate Mission Activities

1. In which your church participates as a part of its mission in the community:

We encourage our members to share their faith in Jesus Christ with their own families and neighbors, and we warmly welcome any and everyone who, searching for answers to life's deepest questions, attends a house church service of worship. And with our meager resources we try to help those who are truly destitute who come our way. We also provide some financial support for apostolic missionaries who evangelize here in Corinth and beyond.

2. In which your church expects the leader you are now seeking to participate:

We expect our new minister to take the lead in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by word and deed with the people of Corinth.

e. Describe how your church building is now being used by the community:

N/A – We don't have a building to be used by anyone.

We are God's "building." (1 Corinthians 3.9, 16)

f. Indicate the number of school districts from which members of your church are drawn:

_____ one _____ two _____ three or more **N/A**

What is a school district? A few young men are apprenticed to a tradesman, while most simply follow in the vocational footsteps of their fathers. All young girls prepare for marriage and motherhood, which occurs around the time of puberty. A mentored education (by a philosopher) is a luxury almost no one can afford.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

17. Identify major trends you envision in your church in the next five years

- a. **We will have to deal with several ongoing conflict situations that presently threaten to tear us apart—to wit: some members' casual acceptance of sexual promiscuity (1 Cor 5-6), civil lawsuits among members (1 Cor 6), marital discord (1 Cor 7), disagreements between our Jewish and Gentile members over kosher rules and eating meat sacrificed to pagan idols (1 Cor 8-10), questions of modesty in worship and acceptance of the poor by the rich in holy communion settings (1 Cor 11), unresolved questions about the manifestation of charismatic speech gifts in worship (1 Cor 12-14), and theological questions about the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15).**
- b. **We presently have no official leadership structure. We need to have our new pastor help us to become both better organized and more charitable in the way we work with one another. We also need that person to help us to put into practice the exhortations that the Apostle Paul delivered to us in his last letter.**
- c. **As we grow in numbers, it is possible that we will become more of a threat to the civil authorities and general population. Just as Emperor Claudius kicked all of the Jews out of Rome some years ago, so our local magistrates might demand that we vacate the city. We need a pastor who will have the courage to deal with the civil authorities and the wisdom to know how to help us maintain a good reputation in the local community.**

18. Planning

- a. All churches do planning. How would you characterize the way planning is done in your church?

We can't get along in worship, we have broken up into schismatic groups, we argue over theology and ethics, and we are behind in our goal to raise financial support for the poor in Jerusalem—how in heaven's name can we be expected to plan anything together?

- b. What expectations do you have of the person you are seeking in relation to the planning that takes place?

As stated above, we need a pastor skilled in bringing about a reconciliation of all the members so that we can boldly manifest the Gospel of Jesus Christ here in Corinth. Beyond that, we need a pastor who will help us to remember the priorities Christ has set for the Church—both in its ministry to its members and in its mission to those who are without God in this world and without hope in the next.

(Ephesians 2.12)

19. Reflections on Congregational Life

Comment on the following with what you believe to be the generally-held responses of the congregation.

- a. Identify the three most important events in the history of your church and the year:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Year</u>
1. Founded by the Apostle Paul after he became too hot for the local synagogue to handle	In the IXth Year of Emperor Claudius' reign (50 C.E. – see Acts 18.1-18)
2. Big church fight that almost did us in (see “b” below)	In the XIIth Year of Emperor Claudius' reign (53 C.E. – see 1 Corinthians 1-4)
3. Paul’s “fatherly” letter of rebuke/exhortation received and debated (Paul <i>may</i> have to write a second letter)	In the Ist Year of Emperor Nero’s reign (54 C.E. – see 1 Corinthians) (see 2 Corinthians)

- b. Identify the most challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years, and what the church learned from it:

Representatives of competing faith parties within the Wider Church came to Corinth shortly after Paul left and caused much division and dissension within our little congregation because they tried to get our members to embrace their respective understandings of what it means to be a Christian. As a result we now have groups within the church that can’t get along with each other—one group calls itself the Apollos Apostolic Church, another identifies itself as the Church of the Rock-Solid Simon Peter, a third faction is named St. Paul’s E. & R. (Elect and Righteous in Christ), and a fourth splinter group is “humbly” known as Christ’s Church. Our founder, Paul, wrote us a very strong letter challenging us to cease and desist with such divisive behavior, but sadly we are still fighting among ourselves. We need some kind of conflict resource team of experts to help us to become “one” again. Obviously we still have much to learn about being a *temple* of God and the *body* of Christ.

- c. Identify what the congregation intends to accomplish during the next three years:

It is our stated goal to mature as a church in every way so as to become the visible manifestation of the invisible Christ, who is the *head* of the *body* (that’s us!), as we are joined together by the *ligaments* of a shared faith and mutual service, until we actually become a perfected *humanity*—and a worthy witness to the love of God for everyone. (We got this idea from one of Paul’s sermons...he can’t resist *body* metaphors!)

- d. Describe how the church expects the person you are seeking to help your church reach these goals:

Our new pastor needs to be able to help us to *flesh out* this organic vision for the Church of Jesus Christ. We expect our pastor to teach and train us so that every member is then capable of ministering in some way for the good of all. To do this effectively our pastor needs to know when it is time to comfort the afflicted and when it is necessary to afflict the comfortable. (We have both types of members.)

- e. Chose the statement that most accurately describes the theological/faith stance of your church: *You may check more than one.*

- We tend to be theologically conservative.
 We tend to be theologically moderate to conservative.
 We tend to be theologically moderate.
 We tend to be theologically moderate to liberal.
 We tend to be theologically liberal.
 We tend to be quite diverse theologically
 Other

Comments:

To say that we are diverse theologically is an understatement. Positively, God is obviously still speaking! But negatively, we don't know how to handle a variety of beliefs and we don't know how to disagree without becoming disagreeable. The Apostle Paul, our beloved founder, is himself sometimes somewhat dogmatic and unbending in his understanding of faith and practice. But who can fault his resolute determination to insist that Christ-believing Gentiles may enter into full church membership without having to be circumcised, eat kosher, or celebrate Jewish holidays and festivals?

- e. Describe the educational program of your church:

1. Identify the curriculum/a used in your church school:

(Mostly) Oral testimony of Jesus' words and works

Torah: Pentateuch, Prophets, Other Writings

Letter of Paul

**Spiritual insights from Paul, Apollos, Simon Peter, and other itinerant Apostles
(as shared with us by their roving disciples)**

2. Indicate resources used for Confirmation:

We do not know what Confirmation is. The Holy Spirit through signs and wonders in a new believer's life confirms that his/her faith is genuine. Most of our new members are adults who, having come out of the synagogue as Jews or Gentile "God-fearers," heard the Gospel proclaimed and confessed faith in Christ. They are rigorously taught the (mostly oral) traditions about Jesus and his Judaic heritage.

- f. Describe how the church expects the person you are seeking to participate in the congregation’s educational programs:
Naturally our new pastor will be the principal teacher of what we all who are in Christ should believe.

- g. Describe how programs or ministries of your church are evaluated:
The Apostle Paul has no qualms about evaluating any and every aspect of our corporate life. And he is not hesitant to give out failing grades! We also grade one another’s schismatic groups, but that results in more bad blood and anarchy than anything else.

- h. Describe the strengths or positive qualities of your church:
As the Church of God in Corinth we are full of enthusiasm for the Good News of Jesus Christ and are willing to experience rejection and even persecution by outsiders if necessary in order to remain faithful to our calling as saints sanctified in Christ. We possess all of the possibilities of the future global Church. We possess too many of the problems—thus enabling us to serve both as a laboratory for the development of congregational faith and practice, and—when we fail to manifest Christ in our relations with one another—a warning for the future Church.

20. Indicate major boards, committees, groups, and organizations that are a part of your church, the frequency of meetings (monthly, weekly, etc.), and expectations for leadership. For leadership role use:
 1 = pastor takes primary initiative and responsibility
 2 = pastor and laity share responsibility
 3 = laity takes primary initiative and responsibility.

Group	Purpose of Group	# Members	Frequency	Role
We don’t have any That is why we need	boards or committees as such, but we do a pastor → to serve as referee, mediator,	have splinter groups reconciler, cheerlea	that don’t get der, & authori	along. ty.
GROUPS:				
Apollos Apos. Ch.	Promote a Hellenistic-Jewish-philosophical slant to the Faith	unknown	unknown	1
Ch. of Rock/Peter	Promote a Jerusalem “Mother Church”-based slant to the Faith	unknown	unknown	1
St. Paul’s E&R	Promote a crucified Christ-based slant to the Faith	unknown	unknown	1
Christ Ch.	Promote a Jesus- <i>only</i> -based slant to the Faith (whatever <i>that</i> means)	unknown	unknown	1

21. Conflict

Most churches experience conflict at various times. Characterize your church's experience with conflict given the following possibilities. Indicate the extent to which each statement describes your church: C = closely S = somewhat N = not at all.

- N as a church, we respect and listen to each other and work things through without generating divisiveness
- C as a church, we try to respect and listen to each other, but it is not uncommon for differences of opinion to be a problem and for some people to choose sides
- C some have left our church because of conflict
- S conflict hurts our sense of unity, but we tend not to talk about it
- N painful experience with conflict has been present, but it has been worked through, and we have learned from the experience
- C we have had some painful experiences with conflict, and they linger in the background
- C open conflict is present, and we need a minister who can help us deal with it
- ___ other Specify:

Comment:

Unless we get some help soon in learning how to be reconciled and at peace with one another, this critical outpost in southern Greece for the Gospel of Jesus Christ may become relegated to the (forgotten) dustbin of history. Worse still, we may be forever remembered as a negative example of how (*not!*) to be the Church!

22. Worship

- a. Identify how worship is planned on a regular basis in your church:
- ___ by a worship committee
- ___ by the pastor
- ___ by the pastor in consultation with the church musician
- X other: **We do not plan worship. That is the prerogative of the Holy Spirit. We gather at the appointed time, sing hymns and songs of spiritual praise, listen to a Torah reading, hear an inspiring message about Jesus from an apostle who happens to be present, and then allow worshippers to utter Spirit-inspired prophetic messages either in our Greek language or in some angelic "tongue" (with or without an interpretation). Worship can appear to be somewhat chaotic to outsiders, and occasionally some of us (including the women-folk) *do* get carried away. We could probably use some help in learning how to follow the guidelines for proper conduct in worship that Paul has shared with us. (1 Corinthians 11-14)**

- b. Describe the style and content of preaching valued by your congregation:
We are accustomed to hearing all kinds of preaching styles. We just want to hear stories about Jesus and how his gospel of hope and power carries believers from death to life and gives us a whole new way to order our thoughts and our behavior.
- c. Describe the role in worship of the person you are seeking:
Just go with the Spirit (and try to maintain some order in all of this!).
- d. What hymnal(s) are currently used by your congregation in worship?
What is a hymnal? We sing from memory (very few of us can read anyway).

WIDER CHURCH CONNECTIONS

23. Worldwide Church of Christ

- a. Association, conference, or other denominational settings in which church members participate:
We occasionally hear reports from itinerant apostles and their assistants about other congregations of Christians in Greece, Asia Minor, and elsewhere. While we support them with prayer, distance prevents us from enjoying a closer relationship. The Apostle Paul wants us to express our covenantal concern for the poor who belong to the Church at Jerusalem, but to date we have not been able to get organized to take up an offering to relieve their suffering.
- b. Association, conference, or other denominational settings in which your church expects the leader you are now seeking to participate:
Great distance and peril in travel make it virtually impossible for our pastor to be able to participate much in Wider Church activities. In a very real sense, the Wider Church has to come to us in the person of traveling apostles and other Christians.
- c. Choose the word that best describes how lay leaders of your church consciously identify with the Worldwide Church of Christ:
 closely moderately nominally other

24. Ecumenical and Interfaith Activities

- a. Does your church participate in ecumenical and interfaith activities?
Ecumenically speaking, we are the only outpost for Christ in the entire Peloponnese peninsula; thus there are no other churches in the neighborhood with which we might have fellowship. Interfaith-wise, we categorically reject the worship of Aphrodite on the Acrocorinth and the veneration of the rest of the state pantheon

(including the Emperor). We also spurn the mystery religions that are so prevalent in our city. Unfortunately, some of our men occasionally slip away from their wives to visit pagan temple prostitutes. Paul has challenged us to stop this behavior, but so far the allure of the flesh has been stronger than the appeal of the Spirit.

- b. Describe how your church expects the leader you are now seeking to participate in ecumenical and interfaith activities: **N/A (see "a" above)**

RELATIONSHIP WITH MINISTERIAL LEADERS

25. Relationship with Prior Leaders

- a. Characterize your church's experience with pastoral leaders over the last 10 years.
You may check more than one response:

We have had solid relationships with persons providing pastoral leadership.

We have had some fairly rocky moments, but we have worked them through, and relationships with pastoral leaders have grown in significant and important ways.

We have some tough times and things did not always work out.

Comment:

We have not yet had a pastor of our own. Outside apostolic leaders have really stirred things up, and as a result we are not getting along at all. We need a pastor who can help us to lay aside our differences and come together as one "body."

26. Pastoral Relations Committee

yes

no

What is a PRC?

27. Evaluation of Pastor

If there is periodic assessment of the nature of the work and of the performance of that work for the position you are seeking to fill, describe it:

If our members grow more conformed to the image of Christ, manifesting more of the fruit of the Spirit and less of the vices of the flesh; if the gospel rings forth in truth and power from our church; if prayers for healing and deliverance are answered; if we grow in our love for one another, and if the Spirit seems to bless the work of our pastor and this congregation, then we will assume that our pastor's performance is worthy of commendation.

28. Leadership Expectations

A list follows of 43 items which represent a range of qualities in the ministry of the church. Place an "X" beside the 12 items which your church feels are the most important aspects of ministry for your church at this time. All the qualities are important. However, please mark those 12 which you feel need first priority at this time. **Do not rank the items.** If the aspects you consider to be important are not included in the list, place them at the end in the blanks provided.

Mark only 12 of the following items. Do not rank the items.

Our church needs a person who...

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is an effective preacher/speaker | 24. _____ regularly encourages support of
Our Church's Wider Mission |
| 2. _____ continues to develop his/her
theological and biblical skills | 25. _____ reaches out to inactive members |
| 3. _____ helps people develop their
spiritual life | 26. _____ works regularly in the development
of stewardship growth |
| 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> helps people work together in
solving problems | 27. _____ is active in ecumenical relationships
and encourages the church to
participate |
| 5. _____ is effective in planning and leading
worship | 28. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is a person of faith |
| 6. _____ has a sense of the direction of
his/her ministry | 29. _____ writes clearly and well |
| 7. _____ regularly encourages people to
participate in Worldwide Church of
Christ activities and programs | 30. _____ works well on a team |
| 8. _____ helps people understand and act
upon issues of social justice | 31. _____ is effective in working with youth |
| 9. _____ is a helpful counselor | 32. _____ organizes people for community action |
| 10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ministers effectively to people in
crisis situations | 33. _____ is skilled in planning and leading
programs |
| 11. _____ makes pastoral calls on people in
hospitals and nursing homes and
those confined to their homes | 34. _____ plans and leads well-organized
meetings |
| 12. _____ makes pastoral calls on members
not confined to their homes | 35. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> encourages people to relate their faith
to their daily lives |
| 13. _____ is a good leader | 36. _____ is accepting of people with divergent
views |
| 14. _____ is effective in working with children | 37. _____ encourages others to assume and
carry out leadership |
| 15. _____ builds a sense of fellowship among
the people with whom he/she works | 38. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is mature and emotionally secure |
| 16. _____ helps people develop their leadership
abilities | 39. _____ has strong commitment and loyalty |
| 17. _____ is an effective administrator | 40. _____ maintains confidentiality |
| 18. _____ is effective with committees and
officers | 41. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> understands and interprets the mission
of the church from a global perspective |
| 19. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is an effective teacher | 42. _____ is a compassionate and caring person |
| 20. _____ has a strong commitment to the
educational ministry of the church | 43. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deals effectively with conflict |
| 21. _____ is effective in working with adults | 44. _____ |
| 22. _____ inspires a sense of confidence | 45. _____ |
| 23. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> works regularly at bringing new
members into the church | |

If there are other comments you wish to make about expectations, include one or more paragraphs here on an additional sheet.

GENERAL

29. Leadership Expectations

Does your church have a policy against discrimination?

yes no

Comment: **The Apostle Paul's teaching on this is what we believe:**

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free -- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12.13)

30. Job Description

a. Describe the functions and duties of this position:

To preach the gospel.

To be prepared in season and out of season.

To correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and instruction.

To be sober in all things.

To endure hardship.

To do the work of an evangelist.

To fulfill his/her ministry.

(We cheated and looked ahead in the Spirit to 2 Timothy 4.2, 5)

b. Does your church have a personnel policy covering this position? **What is that?**

c. List the titles of other paid staff positions for whom this person provides supervision and indicate whether these positions are full-time (FT) or part-time (PT).

There are no other staff positions—and certainly no one is remunerated for any their Christian labors! Each church member is gifted by God for Spirit-filled ministry on behalf of the whole "body," and thus each person assumes responsibility for his/her part of the work of ministry performed in Christ's name.

31. References

Name three people who have agreed to serve as references. Preferably they would not be members of your church, but would know your church well enough to be helpful to final candidates seeking more information about your congregation, such as your previous pastor, a conference staff person, or someone in your community:

Name	Telephone	Relationship to Your Church
a. The Apostle Paul	?	Our Founder
b. Erastus	?	City official
c. Aquila and Prisca	?	Former leaders

32. Authorization

What groups or individuals in your church have contributed to, reviewed, and/or approved this profile for circulation? **EVERYONE!**

STATEMENT ON LEADERSHIP IN MINISTRY

Using this page, and one additional page if needed, write a statement that will help a candidate better understand the relationship of clergy and lay leadership in the life of your congregation. Include in the statement reflections on leadership styles that work well for your church. Describe how clergy and lay leaders work together. If yours is a multiple-staff church, it would be helpful to comment on your expectations of how the staff team members relate to each other. You are encouraged to include anything else you want to say about your church and its expectations of the leader it now seeks:

As indicated above, we have never had a person whose task it was to provide pastoral leadership just for our congregation. The Apostle Paul and his disciples exercise leadership by occasional letter or when they happen to drop by for a pastoral visit, but we have yet to appoint someone to be our full time exclusive minister. Without singular clerical leadership our congregation tends to split into competing, mutually exclusive parties. It is our hope that God will provide us with the kind of person to oversee our community of faith who will be able to bring us together in our common faith in Jesus Christ, with all of our diverse and distinct gifts and ministries, so that we can effectively bear witness before our Corinthian neighbors to the reconciling and life-transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul expressed it well in a sermon he preached while he was with us a few years ago, when he said:

The gifts Christ gives to the Church are that some are apostles, some are prophets, some are evangelists, and some are pastor-teachers. Their role is to equip the saints of the local church for the actual work of ministry, in order to build up the body of Christ. This in turn will bring us all to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. And this will make us mature, so that we are able to manifest the full stature of Christ. We must leave behind spiritual childhood, where believers are tossed to and fro and blown about by the strong winds of false beliefs, by false leaders' trickery and their craftiness in deceitful scheming. Instead, by speaking the truth in love, we yearn to grow up in every way into him who is the head: Christ! For it is from him that the whole body, joined and knit together by every member "ligament" within it (as each one functions as it should), experiences bodily growth as it builds itself up in love.

(Ephesians 4.11-16)

We need a pastor who shares this vision of church growth, and who wants to help us with our ecclesial and spiritual body-building program.

Conference Descriptive Reference

Church Name: **The Church of God**

Location: **Corinth, Greece**

Conference: **PNAC: The Peloponnesus-Nicopolis-Athens Conference**

Name of Staff Assisting in the Search: **The Conference Cupid (a.k.a. Toby Holleman)**

