

PASTORAL CANDIDATE EXPECTATIONS OAK PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Oak Park Baptist Church is a medium-sized congregation located in Jeffersonville, IN, a suburb of Louisville, KY. The church has a membership of 250, with an average worship attendance of 275. The church is financially strong with an operating budget of nearly \$700,000 where approximately 15% of the current budget is devoted to missions. The health of the church is exhibited in their love for Christ, their love for each other, and their love for the community. This congregation is seeking a mature and godly Lead Pastor who is skilled at expository preaching, equipping leaders, and exudes a shepherd's heart.

Requirements for Lead Pastor position:

- Meet biblical qualification and perform the duties of an Elder (see below)
- Affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000
- Gifted in preaching, leadership, vision-casting and relationship-building
- 3+ years experience as lead pastor
- Experience in serving with a plurality of staff and lay pastors

Responsibilities:

- Primary Preacher
- Lead and oversee paid staff
- Provide vision and strategy in coordination with other elders
- Provide training and equipping of aspiring pastors

Elders

The elders shall provide oversight to the ministry, financial management, and resources of the church. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 3:1- 7; 5:17; Tit. 1:5-9; Jas. 5:14; and 1 Pet. 5:1-4, the elders shall seek the mind of Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God as they undertake the work of shepherding God's flock. The elders shall teach and exhort; refute those who contradict the truth; pray for the sick; care for the church's members; devote themselves to prayer, to the government of the church and to ministry. The elders shall provide oversight of the congregation and lead the church to fulfill its ministries. The elders of this church are also identified as pastors.

Other Elder Responsibilities

The elders shall take particular responsibility to oversee worship services, including the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; equip the membership for the work of the ministry; encourage and teach sound doctrine; admonish and correct error; oversee the process of church discipline; coordinate and promote the ministries of the church; mobilize the church for world missions; examine and instruct prospective members;

examine and recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions; and oversee the work of the deacons and appointed church agents and teams.

The ideal candidate will be committed to:

- Expository Preaching: The normal diet of preaching should be expository whereby the pastor will preach consecutively through books of the Bible making the main point of his sermon the main point of the text.

- Christ-Centered Worship: The worship service is structured to lead the congregation to worship Christ through the reading of his word, the preaching of his word, the singing of his word, the praying of his word, and the visualization of his word (i.e., The Lord's Supper and Baptism). See the website for more details concerning the church's philosophy of worship.

- Baptist Theology: The church's confessional document is the Baptist Faith and Message (2000). All prospective members are required to affirm the confession along with the church covenant. The pastors of the church are expected not only to affirm this confession, but to defend it in their private and public teaching ministries. For more details see Oak Park's Statement of Faith.

- Baptist Polity: The church's polity can be described as Elder-led, deacon-served, and congregationally-governed. The Pastor is expected to joyfully work within this polity structure as he seeks to lead each respective body within the church. The Elder body consists of five members—two staff elders and three lay-elders. The deacons do not constitute a board, but rather consist of the recognized leaders of various ministries within the church. The congregation collectively holds the final authority in the church by electing its leaders (pastors and deacons) and approving its members, budget, and mission. For more details see Oak Park's Constitution and By-Laws.

- Baptist Cooperation: The church is committed to cooperating in the mission efforts of the Southern Baptist Convention. These efforts include the planting of churches both locally and abroad through our sending agencies (NAMB & IMB), the training of ministers through our seminaries, and the building of relationships through our associations (SEIBA & The Pillar Network)

More Info

This is a full-time position with compensation range of \$80,000 -\$100,000 (depending on education level and experience)

Oak Park website can be found at www.oakparkbaptist.com