



OMAHA  
PRESBYTERIAN  
SEMINARY  
FOUNDATION

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## Ministry Spotlight — Extraordinary Churches Seeking Pastoral Leadership

The Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Church Leadership Connection provides a matching service for congregations seeking leaders and leaders seeking congregations. Sometimes, vibrant, promising congregations fall through the cracks, languishing months and years without a match. If your church is searching for its next pastor/pastoral leader, this is an opportunity for you to tell your story in a way that elevates your ministry beyond the flat letters on a page of the Ministry Information Form.

### *MIF-defying Ministries (for Pastors)*

*MIF-defying Ministries* spotlights Pastor of Head of Staff Positions — These are full-time, installed positions for ministers of word and sacrament, and must be solo pastors or heads of staff. The full-time position may be a shared ministry between multiple churches. (Associate pastor positions are ineligible.)

### What We Offer

Each month, we will select one call opportunity and partner with that church for promotion:

- OPSF will promote your opportunity through our email blast, on our webpage (as a feature and then searchable until you extend a call) and shared via social media.
- We will partner with you in telling your story, formatting your text, pictures, weblinks, gathering testimonial video, etc. to highlight your unique opportunity. (Anything we produce is yours to share, and we'll share, as well.)

### Requirements for Consideration

Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation is called to seek, develop, and sustain Christian leaders in ministry. One component of sustaining leaders is assuring that they are compensated justly — for their skills and training, to meet the cost of living in the area they will serve, with access to healthcare and to a retirement without excessive worry about

their twilight years. Therefore, we will ask you to demonstrate your response to the following question, from the Book of Order, asked of the congregation during a pastor's installation:

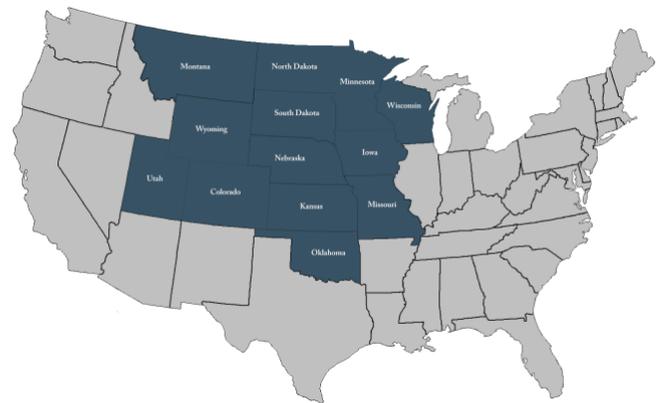
*Do we promise to pay [them] fairly and provide for [their] welfare as [they] works among us; to stand by [them] in trouble and share [their] joys? Will we listen to the Word [they] preach, welcome [their] pastoral care, and honor [their] authority as [they] seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?*

Many congregations feel anxiety about pastoral compensation. If your congregation is seeking a pastoral leader but you do not believe that minimum terms of call, living-wage pay, or Board of Pensions benefits are within your means, please reach out to OPSF's President, the Rev. Shelli Latham ([slatham@opsf-omaha.org](mailto:slatham@opsf-omaha.org)), to dialogue about your situation and brainstorm possible resources.

You may also consider applying for our Adventure Ministries Spotlight which promotes unique pastoral ministry positions for ministers of word and sacrament and commissioned pastors. Those positions may be part- or full-time.

### Criteria be considered for the *MIF-defying Ministries Spotlight*:

- Installed, full-time position for a Minister of Word and Sacrament
- Enrolled in [Pastor's Participation](#) with the Board of Pensions
- Ministry Information Form on the PC(USA)'s Church Leadership Connection
- Pays presbytery minimum, with a living wage for the congregation's location (We will research cost of living and area median income for each applicant. You are not expected to provide that data.)
- Position is in the OPSF service region (see blue portion of map) or has been listed on the Church Leadership Connection for 6+ months
- If your congregation is selected, we will call your Presbyter or Presbytery's Stated Clerk and a previous pastor for endorsement



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## Apply for the MIF-defying Ministries Spotlight

1. The online application may be found [here](#). We only accept applications submitted through the web portal.
2. Take time to gather/prepare information before you begin the application. There is no mechanism to save the application as you go. We encourage you to prepare your answers in a separate document and paste them into the application when you are completely ready to apply. You may also upload photos or support documents that help to paint the picture of your ministry.
3. The sample application follows.



## OMAHA PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY FOUNDATION

### *MIF-defying Ministries Spotlight (Pastor)*

SAMPLE — Application for Consideration — SAMPLe

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#### Section One — Contact Information

- Name of church
- Church address
- Church website
- Church phone number
- Name of PNC contact
- Email — PNC contact
- Phone number — PNC contact
- Presbytery

#### Section Two — Position Information

- Title of the position
- Web link to Ministry Information Form (MIF)
- Verify that this position is (1) full-time, (2) installed, and (3) eligible for enrollment in Pastor's Participation with the Board of Pensions. (yes/no)
- What is the salary range for this position? (The upper limit of the range will not be shared by OPSF)
- What is your church's annual budget? (OPSF will not share this information)
- Does your church's financial health indicate that you will be able to compensate your pastor at this rate (or with increases) in five-years time? Select one:
  - Yes
  - Most likely, but we may need to make some changes
  - Only if we secure significant new sources of giving
- If you answered that changes will be necessary to assure future compensation, please tell us about the work you are/will be doing. Is this work the responsibility of the session or the pastor?
- Minimum salary for a full-time pastoral position in your presbytery
- Tell us about the ways your congregation cares for your pastor. (This may include vacations, reimbursable expenses, sabbatical, family leave, supportive acts of congregational care. Paint a picture of what it looks like for a pastor to be loved and nurtured by your congregation.)

## Section Three – Share Your Story

All the questions in this section are optional. The more you tell us, the more we understand your context and how your congregation may be highlighted as a unique opportunity for pastoral service. Whether you answer the questions here or not, they provide an opportunity for your PNC to reflect on the messaging you share with candidates. You also have the opportunity to upload photos, flyers, and supporting materials. We will read your MIF. Tell us a new story here.

There is no character limit for responses. Relay as much as you need to capture your congregation, keeping in mind that clear, concise specifics are easier to process than length.

- Tell us about two to three not-to-miss offerings your church has each year. What happens? Who attends? What makes them special? (Consider programs, events, worship services, mission opportunities, community engagement, etc.)
- If we asked someone in your community (not a church member) to tell us about your congregation? What would they say? What are you known for in your area?
- How are congregants engaged in the leadership and day-to-day ministry of the church? What are some of the strengths of your church members?
- What is one mission project your church engages in that we've just got to know about? What makes it special.
- If we asked a child, youth, young adult, middle-aged adult, retired adult to tell us how they experience the love of God in your congregational life, what would they say? (This is a great opportunity for you to gather quotes for potential candidates.)
- Tell us a random fun fact about your church that you think is unique to you?
- What makes the community where your church resides special? What would it be like to live there? (Consider community traditions, clarifying proximity to activities or necessities, the natural setting, schools, etc.)
- **Document upload:** You may upload up to five support documents below. This is not required but may help tell your story. You might consider photos of favorite events, a testimonial of a member or past/present staff member, page with listing of helpful links. (Whether we ultimately use these files or not, they may come in handy for your own communication with candidates.)

