

# Southminster Presbyterian Church

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Dear Members,

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that the Southminster Pastor Nominating Committee introduces Reverend Matt Gearke, our candidate for Senior Pastor and Head of Staff of SPC. With this letter, you will find an enclosure containing information on Pastor Matt and pictures of him and his family. Also included is a sheet with the financial terms of his Call.

## Candidating Sermon

On Sunday, December 2, Pastor Matt will preach a "candidating" sermon at our 10:00 AM combined worship service. At this time you will be able to hear what we believe will be an excellent and engaging interpretation of God's message to us.

## Congregational Meeting

Immediately following the service, we will hold a Congregational Meeting for SPC members to vote on Pastor Matt's candidacy. Below is a brief outline of the meeting:

- Call to order and stated purpose of the meeting
- PNC introduction of Pastor Matt Gearke and recommendation to the congregation that he be affirmed as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff of Southminster
- PNC recommendation for the Terms of Call for Pastor Matt (i.e., the offer)
- Discussion or questions, if any
- Vote of the congregation by paper ballots (members only)
- Collection and count of ballots by the Ushers
- Announcement of the voting results

*Note – Pastor Matt will not be present in the meeting during the PNC presentation and the voting.*

## Reception

A welcome reception for Matt will be held in Jones Fellowship Hall immediately following the Congregational Meeting.

The PNC wishes again to sincerely thank our members, our staff, and our pastors for their prayerful support over the last twelve months.

We hope to see you on Sunday December 2!

*The Pastor Nominating Committee*

*Ed Gudonis, Co-chair; Dennis Rich, Co-chair; Charlotte Baumgartner, Rachel Erickson, Ghida Neukirch, Rick Pfleeger, Aura Pocklington, Barbara Schwarting, Jen Strimling*

## Information on Matt Gearke

### From Matt himself:

Rev. Matt Gearke was born and raised in Littleton, CO. and graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 2002. He then attended and graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2006 with a Masters of Divinity. Pastor Matt was ordained in 2007 when he took his first call as an Associate Pastor of Youth & Families at First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake, IA. While in Spirit Lake he met his wife Dr. Jessica Clevering and after dating for two years, they were married in 2011. They moved to Des Plaines in the summer of 2012 to both start new jobs. Jessica as a Professor of Social Psychology at Trinity Christian College in Palos Height and Matt as a solo pastor at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Round Lake. In 2014 their daughter Hilde was born and changed their lives forever. They are excited to be coming to Southminster and Pastor Matt is especially excited to be senior pastor and serving with a loving staff and congregation committed to Christ and to living our their faith in their church and in their community. Pastor Matt also looks forward to bringing his passion for learning, hospitality, unpacking the truths of Scripture, equipping and discipling congregations, and ministering to the community to Southminster.



A feel for Matt's interests and heart may be found on his pod casts at:

**<http://www.calvarychurchrl.org/blog-podcast/>**

**PNC team members comments, why we're excited about Matt being our next senior pastor:**

- 1) I feel Pastor thinks outside the box, proficient with computers, and his pod casts were clever, creative, and something you would remember about God.
- 2) I believe Matt has the ideal balance of intelligence, charisma, empathy and a strong faith that will serve him well as the Senior Pastor of our church. Unquestionably, he is answering God's call on his faith journey; but he is determined and energized to serve us well. I believe he is flexible enough to adapt to various demands that will be imposed on him given the diversity and leadership that currently exists within our church. He brings a youthful perspective to his leadership style – he is technologically astute and has creative ideas to enhance our church internally as well as conducting promotion and outreach in the community. Finally, although no person can have a strong impact on every member in their sermons, Matt will work hard and use his creativity and knowledge to share meaningful sermons weekly. I'm excited to welcome him to our church family and look forward to him having a positive, lasting impact on all of us.
- 3) Every candidate that we talked to stressed the importance of listening as a new pastor, but Matt seemed to demonstrate it as a gift most clearly. He often asked for clarifying information before answering questions, demonstrating that he genuinely wanted to meet us where we were rather than answering the questions that might be easiest for him to answer. He did his research about our congregation and ministries before talking to us in person and displayed genuine interest in us, keeping us up past our bedtimes with thoughtful and curious questions about the church. More than one of his references specified his abilities to work with the community around the church. I'm excited to see what a caring, collaborative good listener will be able to do with the treasures already available at Southminster.
- 4) I'm excited to have Matt as our senior pastor because of his enthusiasm, passion, and energy. He shows that he loves the work that he does. He has a knowledge of scripture, technology, and can relate to young families. He can lead a congregation, and he shows care and concern for all members. Matt is willing to develop new ideas to enhance our strategic plan so that we can build our church with new families and better connections to each other and the community. I'm excited for change and new opportunities.
- 5) I absolutely agree with member 4)'s statement above. In addition, Matt has some experience in working with schools and after school programs that should help us reach more young families. I also am excited about his fresh ideas that will help us implement our strategic plan. Lastly, he is able to leverage technology (as he did in his pod casts) to help us reach a wider audience
- 6) I am happy to share why I am excited about Matt becoming the senior pastor at Southminster. Matt writes well and speaks well. When asked questions he often answered with a question to get more information before answering. I found his answers thoughtful and honest. His responses were well reasoned. I enjoyed listening to his pod cast where he

interviewed other people. He did not just have a list of random questions. He proved that he was a good listener. Matt has a good knowledge of technology and relates well with the target group we are seeking to attract to our church. Matt took Southminster seriously. It is clear he has prayed about Southminster and feels strongly that God is opening the door for him to be our next pastor.

- 7) I am excited about Matt coming to Southminster because he brings energy and vision for us. He is willing to reach out to the community and be a presence beyond our walls. He will bring new ways of outreach as well as lead various studies for our members. Matt can relate and attract young residents in our community. He is a good listener as well. I look forward to his ministry with us at Southminster.
- 8) From our interactions with Matt it is evident that he is hard worker, prepares in advance, is very knowledgeable in what is happening in different churches around the United States. His basic theme for the modern church is to show hospitality inside and outside its walls--to be more like Jesus in the community, not just the church. He loves to learn and is extremely well read. He has experience and a passion for interacting with organizations outside the church. One of his references was Ben Keller, senior pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian church in Pueblo, Colorado. Ben, Ben's wife, and Matt worked closely together for one year 2006-2007. They have a special relationship and confide in each other to this day. When Ben was asked what he first thinks of when he thinks of Matt, his answer was, "Matt's smile and laugh!" Ben characterized Matt has a good leader, hard worker, who thinks outside of the box. He sees both sides of issues and is a good collaborator. Matt's theology is middle of the road which is ideal for SPC's wide range of theological perspectives. He is very approachable and eagerly desires to get to know the members of SPC personally. He is excited about SPC's strategic plan.

## **Formal Education**

- Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary, 2006.
- BA in Philosophy, Metro State College, Denver, CO 2002

## **Work Experience**

### Post Masters of Divinity:

- **Solo/Senior Pastor at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Round Lake, IL--2012 to present.** Replaced senior pastor who had been there 42 years. His ministry has been all about change--Steve Pierce, one of his references, said he felt Matt had done an good job bringing about change in a difficult situation. Matt is very proud of the community garden his church was able to establish--they are situated between a middle school and high school. Matt was able to bring about a cooperative relationship, with the help of the University of Illinois extension service between his church and both the middle school and high school.
- **Associate Pastor of Youth & Families, First Presbyterian Church of Spirit Lake in Spirit Lake, IA--2007-2012**
- **Interim Director of Lay Ministries, Grace Presbyterian Church in Littleton, CO**

### Prior to Masters of Divinity:

- **Seminary Intern/Youth Director, Lake Arrowhead Community Presbyterian Church, Lake Arrowhead, CA--2005-2006**
- **Youth Director, First Presbyterian Church of Alameda, Alameda, CA--2002-2005**
- **Youth Director, Grace Presbyterian Church, Littleton, CO--2000-2002.**

**Exhibit A**

**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Rev. Matt Gearke**

**Terms of Call**

**Effective January 2, 2019**

**Compensation Amounts**

<b>Effective Salary</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Annual Equivalent</b>
Cash salary	\$ 6,041.67	\$ 72,500.00
Housing Allowance		
	<u>\$ 6,041.67</u>	<u>\$ 72,500.00</u>

**Board of Pensions**

Medical	\$ 1,510.42	\$ 18,125.00	25% of Effective Salary
Pension	\$ 664.58	\$ 7,975.00	11% of Effective Salary
Death and Disability	\$ 60.42	\$ 725.00	1% of Effective Salary

**Other Benefits**

Professional Expenses (1)	\$ 141.67	\$ 1,700.00	
Cell Phone (1)	\$ 50.00	\$ 600.00	
Continuing Education (2)	\$ 83.33	\$ 1,000.00	
SECA Supplement	\$ 462.19	\$ 5,546.25	7.65% of Effective Salary
Dental	\$ 136.00	\$ 1,632.00	
	<u>\$ 9,150.27</u>	<u>\$ 109,803.25</u>	

One-Time Payment (3) \$ 5,000.00

First Year cost to SPC \$114,803.25

- (1) Must be submitted with supporting documentation for review and reimbursement
- (2) Continuing Education selected by pastor subject to review and approval of PMT and Council
- (3) Subject to conditions as outlined in Pastoral Terms of Call