

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mif #: 72574.AA0

Ministry General Information

Ministry Number	72574
Ministry Name	Presbytery of Lake Erie
Mailing Address	2816 Elmwood Avenue Erie, PA 16508
Phone	814-868-4891
Fax	
E-Mail	LakeErieGPNC@gmail.com
WWW Address	www.pbylakeerie.org
Ministry Size	N/A

Ethnic Composition	
	White 99%
	Other 1%

Average Worship Attendance	0
Church School Attendance	0
Curriculum	N/A
Yoked	False
Presbytery	LAKE ERIE PRESBYTERY
Synod	SYNOD OF THE TRINITY
Community Type	N/A

Ten-year trend statistics of this church/organization [Show Statistics](#)

Information about the position

Position:	General Presbyter/Executive Presbyter/Presbytery Leader
Experience Required:	No Experience
Specific Title:	General Presbyter (3-year term)
Employment Status:	Full-time

Language Requirements:	
	English

Other Language:	
Statement of Faith Required:	True
Clergy Couples:	True

Training/Certificate Requirements:	
	Interim Ministry Training

Other Training:	
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Brief Church Mission Statement:	
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Empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit through scripture, our confessions, and conscience, the Presbytery of Lake Erie journeys with congregations, ordained leaders, and others as we live, grow, fellowship and witness to the work of God through Jesus Christ in today's changing world. Recognizing that we are called to serve all of God's children, we do this through shared prayer, worship, training, evangelism, and mission to strengthen the dynamic Body of Christ.

What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry:

In November 2019, the Presbytery of Lake Erie adopted a report from its Futuring Team, which was commissioned to explore actions and staff needed to support ministry in local congregations over the coming years in a time of significant change and challenge. We want to encourage forward-thinking ministry, creative community and ecumenical partnerships, adaptable pastoral leadership, as we walk alongside congregations in the time and place they find themselves to revitalize, transform, or move to a gracious end of ministry, with actions that reflect our trust in the promise of resurrection in Christ. In a presbytery well practiced in resourcing, education, fostering connections, mission, leadership development, and providing opportunities to explore adaptive change and viability in ministry, we want to continue to support these priorities while increasing emphasis on ministry with youth and children through partnerships. In addition, we hope to explore ways in which our current structure might be transformed to best support churches in the future.

The Presbytery of Lake Erie provides opportunities each year for education for churches, pastors, and leaders, shared youth ministry, discernment and discussion times for adaptive change and transformation. Our presbytery meetings include opportunities for education and open space conversation and resourcing, and our churches and pastors are connected in regional gatherings and joint mission.

How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency:

The Presbytery of Lake Erie is committed to resourcing and actively working with churches as they discern how they might experience new life or transformation in their ministry. We want to support churches as they explore creative and ecumenical partnerships in mission and ministry across the presbytery and in local communities. We feel called to continue to create and support opportunities for education and connections. We want to be proactive in leading our congregations in a time of significant change, with the recognition of the broad differences of what it means to be the church in the world today. We are building on existing ecumenical partnerships and desire to further develop them. We have existing partnerships with neighboring presbyteries, in Pennsylvania and western New York. We recognize the need to continue to creatively build on regional relationships. We seek to support all these emerging needs with financial, staff, and structural support for these efforts, as well as pastoral and relational support. As a presbytery, we feel called to work together, as congregations, presbyters, through our committees and commissions, and we are ready to continue to work in partnership with our next General Presbyter.

How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals:

The next General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Lake Erie will assist our committees, commissions, pastors and congregational leaders as they "pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love." This individual should bring vision and fresh perspectives to the task of relating to pastors and church leaders, foster partnerships among our churches and with other denominations, provide spiritual and administrative leadership while pastors and congregations confront new challenges and change, and encourage discernment and spiritual growth among the pastors and congregations of the presbytery. He or she will share spiritual wisdom and guidance with church leaders of whom much will be demanded as the church continues its journey in this post-Christendom culture. This individual will draw upon experience, spiritual maturity and strong but compassionate leadership skills to work with congregations to meet current and future challenges and needs, adapting where and when necessary.

Overall, during the transitional period and perhaps beyond, the next General Presbyter will guide, counsel and support us as we seek to flesh out and implement the presbytery's Futuring Team Report as adopted in November 2019. A person with the ability to help articulate and implement the priorities of the presbytery will be essential.

Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and or organization:

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- *Innovative* - the ability to recognize a problem, is open to both traditional and non-traditional strategies and is willing and able to propose creative solutions
- *Spiritually mature* - an ability to connect with and foster connections between congregations having diverse demographics and theological views
- *A life-long learner* - one who brings a broad range of experiences, and exhibits a continual willingness to engage new ideas and information and apply it when and where needed
- *Vision* - identify and promote new opportunities for growth, financial stability, mission and overall vitality
- *Empathetic but firm* - one who understands and accepts differences among congregations, while possessing the skill, tact and credibility to provide leadership and counsel in the face of tough choices
- *Visible* - the presbytery serves 58 congregations in 8 counties in Northwestern PA and Western NY, and its congregations are culturally, theologically and demographically diverse, requiring the General Presbyter to be visible and known to congregations in the farthest reaches of the presbytery, despite our administrative offices being located in the presbytery's extreme northwest corner
- *Credible* - the presbytery's diversity, the struggles faced by many congregations, and the need for proactive leadership, require the General Presbyter to quickly establish credibility and trust with pastors and church leaders to effectively counsel and assist them with next steps and difficult decisions

What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

The next General Presbyter will be charged with specific tasks including to:

- Help the presbytery implement the Futuring Team Report
- Assist the presbytery, its committees, ordained and lay leaders and congregations to achieve and maintain stability, and to discern new opportunities for growth, education, connections, new worshipping communities, adaptive change, mission and leadership
- Facilitate opportunities for spiritual development
- Explore shared ministries and facilitate collaboration between congregations and other denominations
- Effectively, creatively and efficiently employ technology to improve communication and build and strengthen relationships within the presbytery, and conserve time and resources
- Develop leadership potential in others
- Support and assist pastors and congregations in times of uncertainty, conflict and transition
- Participation in worship in all churches in the presbytery but maintaining an awareness of the need for self-care
- Fulfill all requirements set forth in the General Presbyter Position Description

Optional Links:

Presbytery website - <https://pbylakeerie.org/>

Futuring Team Report - <https://pbylakeerie.org/general-presbyter-search/>

General Presbyter Job Description - <https://pbylakeerie.org/general-presbyter-search/>

Ghana Mission Partnership video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83eA2WT88FM&feature=youtu.be>

Synod website - <https://www.syntrinity.org/about/presbyteries/>

Link to a list of websites that provides a broad range of information about NW Pennsylvania - <https://pbylakeerie.org/general-presbyter-search/>

Leadership Competencies:

Compassionate

Hopeful

Communicator

Change Agent

Contextualization

Willingness to Engage Conflict

Strategy and Vision

Collaboration

Interpersonal Engagement

Bridge Builder

