

MPBC Senior Minister Candidate Profile

Overview

The Senior Minister of Myers Park Baptist Church (MPBC) is a courageous, visionary, and deeply grounded spiritual leader who embraces the church's historic identity as a free, inclusive, justice-seeking, and intellectually vibrant ecumenical congregation. This minister will guide MPBC as it continues its mission "to cultivate an inclusive community for spirituality and social justice" and its vision of "a new world where everyone lives in God's liberation and peace."

The Senior Minister will help Myers Park Baptist Church to grow as:

- A sanctuary for spiritual seekers and lifelong learners
- A catalyst for justice and healing in Charlotte and beyond
- A community where diversity is celebrated and inclusion is practiced
- A church that embodies the radical love of Jesus in word and action

This leader will honor MPBC's past while guiding the congregation into new expressions of faithfulness, courage, and liberation.

Identity & Theological Vision

Rooted in MPBC's Mission

The Senior Minister embodies and advances MPBC's four animating pillars: Spirituality, Community, Inclusivity, and Justice — the pillars that shape every dimension of the church's life.

Aligned with MPBC's Covenant

The minister honors the church's 1981 congregational covenant, which affirms:

- Soul freedom and liberty of conscience
- Openness to new light

- Critical examination of Scripture and tradition
- A commitment to be “open to all and closed to none”
- A calling to be a community of reconciliation and God’s new creation

A Progressive Spiritual Leader

- Honors freedom of the pulpit and freedom of the pew — foundational to MPBC since its founding in 1943
- Affirms the sacred worth of every person and champions full inclusion across race, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, and religious background — a hallmark of MPBC’s identity for decades
- Understands faith as both personal transformation and collective liberation

Core Responsibilities

Prophetic Preaching & Worship Leadership

- Offers sermons that are biblically grounded, intellectually rigorous, spiritually nourishing, and socially courageous — in the tradition of MPBC’s historic commitment to progressive revelation and theological inquiry
- Shapes worship that honors MPBC’s liturgical richness while embracing diverse worship, creativity and relevance
- Cultivates a worship environment that connects across generations where beauty, mystery, justice, and community meet

Pastoral Presence & Community Care

- Builds and grows a church community that fosters a culture of belonging where every person feels seen, valued, and spiritually supported
- Provides compassionate pastoral care with emotional intelligence and cultural humility
- Supports members through life’s transitions — celebrations, crises, grief, and growth

Justice: Advocacy & Public Witness

- Racial justice and civil rights
- LGBTQ+ affirmation
- Women's leadership
- Environmental justice
- Immigrants and refugees
- Interfaith partnership

The minister strengthens MPBC's public witness in Charlotte and beyond, partnering with organizations and leaders to advance the common good.

Leadership, Collaboration & Visioning

- Supports sustainable growth in membership, engagement, and community impact
- Works collaboratively with staff, lay leaders, and ministry teams to shape and implement the church's mission and long-term vision
- Stewards MPBC's resources with transparency, accountability, and strategic wisdom
- Guides new member initiatives
- Leads programming that attracts young families and integrates them into the life of the church
- Strengthens MPBC's identity as a teaching church, a justice-seeking church, and a radically welcoming church
- Exhibits effective conflict resolution skills, including navigating through controversy

Minimum Qualifications

- Master of Divinity (MDiv) or equivalent degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school
- Ordination in a tradition recognized by MPBC
- 5 years experience in ministry with supervisory experience in a medium to large congregation
- A record of successful leadership in church growth initiatives or developing flourishing programs.

- Demonstrated successful experience in progressive Christian ministry, preaching, pastoral care, and organizational leadership
- A track record of engaging justice issues with theological depth and practical actions
- Strong interpersonal skills, emotional maturity, and a collaborative leadership style

Personal Qualities

- A pastor who is courageous, compassionate, and grounded
- A seeker with spiritual integrity, emotional intelligence and intellectual curiosity
- A bridge builder who can navigate complexity with grace
- A visionary who can inspire, challenge, and accompany a diverse congregation
- A leader who delights in community, creativity, and the unfolding work of the Spirit

Interested parties should submit a cover letter and resume via email to mpbcsearch@gmail.com.