

## Praying for an apprentice

I'm Andy Perry, Teaching Elder at Bible Presbyterian Church in Merrill, Wisconsin. The Lord is doing an exciting work of growth in our Wisconsin Presbytery, including a growing emphasis on church planting in regions presently devoid of gospel and Reformed influences. One of the avenues we're using to raise up church planters and future pastors with a vision for Wisconsin is by bringing recent seminary graduates into our churches to serve a two-year apprenticeship during which time they become PCA ordained, sharpen their sense of calling, and discern where we might help them launch into ministry with our care and support.

Our congregation is located at the strategic gateway to the Northwoods, an area in particular need of new, gospel-driven churches. At the same time, we understand that some apprentices may sense the Lord leading them to pastor an existing church instead of planting. We believe Bible Pres would also be an ideal place for them to apprentice, as we are a smaller congregation currently moving through a season of revitalization, mirroring the likely context in which most seminary graduates will find themselves in their first foray into ministry as a solo pastor.

We are praying for the Lord to bring us a young man we could help equip for the future ministry the Lord has for him. The following pages provide some further reasons why a recent seminary grad might consider exploring a pastoral apprenticeship at BPC, as well as a preliminary job description. If you or someone you know is looking for the ideal bridge between seminary and pastorally swimming on his own in the deep end of the pool, feel free to have him contact me for more information about our pastoral apprenticeship at 715-966-9674 or [jandyperry@gmail.com](mailto:jandyperry@gmail.com).

Your partner in building Christ's kingdom,

Andy Perry

Bible Presbyterian Church

# Why Bible Pres?

Why become a pastoral apprentice at a small church in the Northwoods of Wisconsin? We're glad you asked. Here are some reasons:

- **Because small towns and rural areas need church plants, too.** Though we praise God for a vital church planting effort making headway in three of our key urban centers, Wisconsin has more than 1,200 towns with no Reformed gospel witness. Merrill lies at the gateway to the Northwoods - the area of our state most devoid of vital, gospel-loving churches.
- **Because BPC is the ideal context for a recent seminary graduate to test his wings.** Our size and culture are perfect for gaining lots of ministry experience, building different kinds of ministry skills, leadership opportunities, and one-on-one mentoring by our pastor and elders.
- **Because our congregation is in a unique season of ministry and vision transition which you will likely face in your own ministry future.** An apprentice at BPC will have the unique opportunity to be part of a congregation presently walking through the revitalization process. Our apprentice could both learn about and play a vital role in this effort without the pressure of its outcome riding on him.
- **Because living in Merrill is the best of both worlds - rural with easy urban access.** We are ideally situated in a quiet town of 10,000, but only 20 minutes away from Wausau, a midsize metro area of more than 100,000. Though we are a bedroom community, Merrill is the second most affordable city in the state of Wisconsin. The cost of living here is about half what you would pay in a large city - with most of the amenities of urban living just a short drive away.
- **Because Merrill is uniquely beautiful and rife with opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast.** Whether it's kayaking, canoeing, water-skiing, snow skiing (both downhill and cross-country), hunting, fishing (ice and open water), trap shooting, hiking, cycling, snowmobiling, truck-mudding, or curling (yes, we have curling), we are at the epicenter of the Wausau-Minocqua corridor which has been hailed as the best area in the Midwest for outdoor sports. This also provides a unique culture for ministry to be done, especially outreach to adventurous men who might never visit a church.
- **Because we are a true family learning to apply the gospel in our relationships.** One of the blessings of an apprenticeship experience is being welcomed into a worshiping community to minister, learn, and grow without the pressure of long-term ministry outcomes. The people of Bible Presbyterian are an especially welcoming, forgiving, and gracious church family. A better place to ease into a lifetime of pastoral ministry would be hard to imagine.

Intrigued? Contact Pastor Andy Perry at 715-966-9674 or [jandyperry@gmail.com](mailto:jandyperry@gmail.com).





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