

# Stillwater church of Christ

## Preaching Minister Position Profile

The information contained in these pages details who we are as a church family as well as the nature, characteristics, and qualities of the preacher we are searching for to help us continue to be what we believe God wants us to be. We are convinced that God has prepared a man for Stillwater and he will help us find that man. If you are interested in further conversations about this work or if you know someone who might be, we would love to visit with you.

### **About The Stillwater Church Family:**

The Stillwater church of Christ is a family of God's people deeply rooted in scripture and holds to the belief that God has designed his church to be everything he wants it to be in this world. We are a praying church and we value every individual who is a part of this church family. We passionately desire to be more like Jesus and to grow in our faith every day. A bonus...we are uniquely positioned in our community to walk alongside many college students attending Oklahoma State University, a work that began more than 100 years ago.

We are a congregation that:

- Is grounded in scripture.
- Is a place where everyone belongs.
- Offers Biblical, dynamic, weekly worship assemblies featuring acapella singing, prayer, giving of our means, partaking of the Lord's Supper weekly, and hearing a message from God's word.
- Offers a multiplicity of organized Bible study opportunities.
- Holds strongly to the Biblical teaching of male-spiritual leadership.
- Is mission-minded.
- Is multi-generational.
- Offers a multiplicity of ministries in which to serve.
- Is dedicated to supporting the mission of the University Center college program.

Statistics:

Weekly attendance - 250-300

Weekly contribution - \$13,051 (local work, mission work, benevolence)

University Center support - approximately \$250,000/year (contributions from a variety of sources)

Elders - 5

Deacons - 11

Work and education of our membership - college graduates, university professors, teachers, administrators, professionals in a multitude of our City's businesses and commercial entities.

Facilities and campus:

800 seat auditorium

Staff office spaces

Classroom spaces for adults and children

Youth classroom

Teacher workroom

Fellowship Hall

2 kitchens

Conference/meeting spaces

Playground with age-appropriate play equipment

Cooper Park, featuring an open-air pavilion, volleyball pit, other outdoor activity areas

Ample, well-lit parking lots

University Student Center, featuring a large meeting room, kitchen, gathering foyer, office spaces, and study room

Walking distance to Oklahoma State University, Stillwater High School, Will Rogers Elementary School

### **About Our Next Preaching Minister:**

Using 1 Corinthians 4 as a guide, we are:

- seeking a man who is a servant of God.
- seeking a man who is a student of God's word.
- seeking a man who is a faithful worker of God.
- seeking a man who is content with what God has given him.
- seeking a man who others can imitate in Christ.
- seeking a man who can provide guidance and wisdom for others.

### **Qualifications:**

Committed to a healthy, Christ-centered marriage.

Experience in full-time ministry/preaching in churches of Christ.

A bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies or a relevant field of study.

The ideal candidate will have pursued or is currently pursuing advanced study in biblical courses at the graduate level.

**Major Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Preaches and teaches the Word of God during Sunday morning worship services. May also be asked to present lessons Sunday evening and Wednesday evening, as determined by the elders and education committee.
2. Articulates and models the mission, values, and theme of the church as established by the elders.
3. Updates the elders regarding perceived physical and spiritual needs of the church family.
4. Coordinates with worship leaders to facilitate between the various components of the worship assembly so that members will experience meaningful worship and that God will be glorified.

**Additional Roles:**

1. Act as the face of the congregation and is a dynamic and inspirational speaker.
2. Support the spiritual direction of the elders in sermon topics presented and in matters concerning the flock.
3. Articulate and model the mission and values established by the elders.
4. Understand the importance of and maintain balance between both biblical teaching and preaching with gospel outreach.
5. Demonstrate the ability to communicate well with various generational, socio-economic, and ethnic groups.

**Other Duties and Responsibilities Include:**

1. Supervisory responsibility for office staff.
2. Lead weekly staff meetings, concentrating on team building, collaborative learning, and effective interaction between ministries.
3. Attend and actively participate in elder meetings and other meetings as requested.
4. Coordinate activities of the ministerial team, in concert with the administrative elder.
5. Provide personal consultation to the church family members as needed and as appropriate.
6. Keep elders abreast of church family needs as needed and as appropriate.
7. Provide personal Bible studies with those inside and outside the church family.
8. Maintain an active presence in community affairs.

**Nature, Qualities and Characteristics Of Our Next Preacher:**

In consideration of results from a survey recently completed by our church family, our next preacher must be a man who encourages, inspires, motivates, and equips the church family with spiritual nourishment by preaching and teaching God's word through Biblical applications as well as through family examples. He must be a good

intergenerational communicator who can relate to the entire church family; to individual family members, young families, college students, young professionals, guests, and to our community. He must possess excellent leadership skills.

The preaching minister is the face of our congregation. He needs to instill into the church family the love of Jesus while equipping family members with love, acceptance, and encouragement to all members and guests.

### **Why Are We Looking For A New Preacher?**

For the past 6 1/2 years, brother Jimie-Wray Mead has served as our preaching minister. He informed us of his desire to move closer to his family, thus creating a need for this search. Jimie-Wray has done outstanding work during his time in Stillwater, and has left the role in very good shape for our next preaching minister. Jimie-Wray loves the Stillwater church and leaves us with no ill-will and no problems in the church here.

The elders feel God has given us plenty of work to do, so the next preaching minister will have the freedom to bring his unique God-given gifts and perspectives to the team to help shape the next chapter in the history of the Stillwater church.

### **Our Commitment To Our Ministers:**

In today's environment, we recognize that ministers are under a tremendous amount of pressure. Keeping our ministers spiritually healthy and strong is a top priority for the elders at the Stillwater church of Christ. Therefore, the elders commit to:

- Experiencing personal growth through spending time in prayer and the study of God's word together.
- Consistent and open communication.
- Time for your own professional and personal growth.

In addition, as our preaching minister search unfolds, our church family is spending much time in prayer for the search and selection process.

### **Our Ministry Team:**

- Monty Daffern, University Center Director
- Barry Bachman, Campus Minister
- Matt Fletcher, Youth Minister
- Elisha Stahler, Co-Children's Minister
- Haley Love, Co-Children's Minister

**Our Elders:**

- John Anders, Chairman for the elders
- Richard Birdwell, Chairman Elect
- Gary Johnson
- Kent Sampson, Administrative elder
- Cecil Strande

**History Of The Stillwater Church Of Christ:**

In 1899, members of the church of Christ, principally from Kentucky and Arkansas, settled north and west of Ripley, Oklahoma and built the Mt. Hope church of Christ. From this beginning, a congregation was established in Ripley in 1915. In 1920, the Ripley Christians helped establish the church in Stillwater.

The Stillwater church of Christ first met in the McWethy home at 609 W. Sixth, then in a rented upstairs hall at 120 E. Ninth, and in 1926 built a building at 208 W. Tenth. In 1939, the church rented the old South Methodist building at Sixth and Husband; it was purchased in 1944 and enlarged and remodeled in 1948. On August 19, 1962, worship services were first held in a newly constructed building at the corner of Duck and McElroy. A large classroom/fellowship hall was constructed in 1980. This building serves as our current location.

Christians from Ripley were motivated to build a strong congregation in Stillwater because of the unique opportunity to reach, teach, and spiritually motivate young people who came to Stillwater to study at the university. The Stillwater church has always considered the university campus its primary mission field and since 1964 has shared in a special ministry to international students and their families.

**Works Supported And Encouraged By the Stillwater Church Of Christ:**

- University Center college ministry
- Ricky Gootam, missionary in Kakinada, India
- Kye Courtright, missionary in Leipzig, Germany
- George Onchangwa, Nairobi Great Commission School
- Our Daily Bread (formerly known as Stillwater Regional Food Bank)
- Will Rogers Elementary School partnership
- Mission of Hope homeless shelter
- Special Olympics
- Vacation Bible School
- Community host for National Day of Prayer
- Coins 4 Kids Ukrainian Relief
- Participation in annual community-wide Thanksgiving Dinner - 300+ pies donated each year since its inception

**The City Of Stillwater, Oklahoma:**

Stillwater is a vibrant, growing community of more than 50,000 and is the regional hub for business, healthcare, and education in North Central Oklahoma.

Located within an hour's drive of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, and being the home of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater offers a friendly, small-town lifestyle with easy access to big-city amenities. Oklahoma State University contributes its own special energy to our community and provides diverse cultural opportunities that come with a major university, while its nationally-ranked sports programs bring excitement of Big 12 athletics.

With an excellent public school system and access to higher education through Oklahoma State University, Northern Oklahoma College, and Meridian Technology Center, Stillwater has a reputation as an education community.

Stillwater is a safe community with quality neighborhoods and a wealth of parks, lakes, and other recreational opportunities nearby that make it an ideal place to call home and enjoy life.

**Interested In More Information?**

If you or someone you know fits the position profile, please let us know. We are more than happy to reach out to him. Feel free to visit our website for more information about the Stillwater church of Christ:

[www.stillwatercoc.org](http://www.stillwatercoc.org)

Also, If you would like to know more about this opportunity, please email questions/inquiries to:

[elders.stillwatercoc@gmail.com](mailto:elders.stillwatercoc@gmail.com)

All questions/inquiries are held in strict confidence.

Salary and benefits for this position are commensurate with experience.

On behalf of the Elders, Ministry Staff, and our entire church family, thank you for considering us for your next work.