**Christ Presbyterian Church**

Blantyre, Malawi

**Pastoral Internship Program**

**Introduction:**

The Pastoral Internship Program (PIP) of Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) is a one or two-year pastoral and theological program for those seeking to serve as ordained pastors and church planters. The main goal of PIP is to invest in potential future pastors and church planters so that they may serve the next generation of the Church in Malawi faithfully and with maximum usefulness to the Bride of Christ.

Christ Presbyterian Church is the beginning of church planting movement of Confessional Reformed Presbyterian churches in Malawi and beyond. Currently, there are very few confessional churches that are faithfully preaching the gospel of Christ in Malawi. Therefore, through our internship program, we desire to train, equip, and send out confessional Presbyterian church planters across Malawi and beyond.

CPC’s vision is to be a Christ-centered and confessional church in which believers are being rooted and grounded in God’s word and equipped to be the light and salt of the world in both word and deed.

**Purpose**:

To expose interns to a full range of pastoral duties which include attending Session meetings, reaching out and evangelizing students and the community around CPC, leading Bible studies, and preaching. In addition, interns shall have an opportunity to grow in their understanding of the confessional Reformed faith and ministry through reading assignments and discussions with the CPC’s pastor and church planter, Rev. Confex Makhalira and the members of the Session.

Through PIP, the Session of CPC shall identify and recommend interns who have demonstrated godliness, gifts, maturity, and readiness for pastoral ministry for ordination or further training with the goal that they should eventually plant other confessional churches in various parts of Malawi.

**Main Areas of Focus:**

PIP shall prioritize the following areas for the life and ministry of interns:

1. **Spiritual Formation and Maturity:** To foster spiritual growth and maturity that enables and empowers interns for future ministry within the Church. CPC strongly believes that the effectiveness of any pastoral ministry depends on a strong and mature relationship with the Triune God. Therefore, through PIP interns will be encouraged and helped to grow and mature in their walk with Christ so that they always walk in a manner worthy of their calling (1 Tim. 4:16; 1 Tim. 3:2-7; Eph. 4:1-3).
2. **Reformed Theological Development:** CPC strongly believes that good theology is essential for good pastoral ministry. Good orthodoxy leads to good orthopraxy. Although CPC’s internship is not a substitute for formal theological education, PIP still seeks to develop and help interns to gain a deeper understanding of the Reformed faith (2 Tim. 3:10-15).
3. **Ministry Gifts Development:** CPC strongly believes that every spiritual gift needs to be discovered, developed, and deployed in the church. Therefore, PIP seeks to give interns opportunities to humbly exercise their giftedness in a wide variety of ways within the context of the church body and to the glory of God (1 Tim. 4:14-16; Eph. 4:11-13).

**Qualifications or Prerequisites for PIP:**

A man who desire to enter PIP must meet the following qualifications:

1. He should demonstrate love for Christ, His Word, and His people.
2. He must be a communicant member in good standing with an evangelical church.
3. He must have a strong desire to learn and grow in his understanding of the confessional Reformed faith and ministry.
4. He must have at least a Bachelor’s degree in Biblical or theological studies from a sound evangelical Christian college.
5. He must have a desire to plant and pastor a confessional Reformed church in Malawi or any of the neighboring countries.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Reading assigned books/documents and writing reports
2. Weekly meetings with the pastor and/or other members of the Session
3. Attending all prayer meetings and Bible studies/Growth groups
4. Memorizing the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*
5. Reaching out and evangelizing students and the community around CPC
6. Attending Session, diaconate, and other leadership meetings
7. Leading Bible Studies
8. Leading worship services
9. Preaching during worship services
10. Continuing to grow in personal holiness and character
11. Writing a detailed church plant plan or proposal and developing contacts in the area in which he is interested to plant a confessional Presbyterian church.

**Evaluation and Recommendation of the Session:**

An intern will receive periodic evaluations by the CPC pastor and/or Session. These evaluations will assess the intern’s competence and character. At the end of the internship, if the intern has demonstrated growth and readiness for ministry, the Session of Christ Presbyterian Church shall recommend him to be ordained and sent out as a church planter subject to passing his ordination exams and also availability of funds and resources. If there are still some theological areas that the intern needs to grow and develop further, the Session shall recommend him for further studies also subject to availability of funds and opportunities for such theological training. An intern who has failed to demonstrate growth and readiness for ministry shall honorably be dismissed to pursue other callings that the Lord might have for him.

For more information about CPC’s internship, please contact Rev. Confex Makhalira. Email: confex@reformationmalawi.org

**APPLICATION FOR CHRIST PRESBYTRIAN CHURCH PASTORAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

**Personal and Education Details:**

Name:…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Date of Birth:………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Postal Address:……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Physical Address:…………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Email Address:…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Phone number:…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Marital Status:………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Name of spouse (if married):…………………………………………………………………………………………….

Names of children and their ages:…………………………………………………………………………………….

Highest Academic Qualification:…………………………………………………………………………………………Institution…………………………………………………………………………………… Year………………………………………………………..

**Personal testimony, life, and ministry experience:**

Please answer briefly, in complete sentences, the following questions. Use a separate sheet if necessary (but try to be brief). If you are using this sheet, please print neatly.

1. Describe Christ’s work of grace in you and how he saved you from your sin and misery:
2. Describe your call to ministry:
3. Describe your experience in ministry:
4. Give a brief statement expressing your desire for ministry, as well as a personal assessment of your perceived gifts and abilities for pastoral ministry.
5. What books have you read that have most shaped or influenced you?
6. Please attach two written sermons/Bible teachings you have preached or taught.
7. How do you feel about the task of planting a church? Is it something you are excited about? Have you thought of an area/location in Malawi where you might plant the church?
8. If you are married, how does your wife feel about the task of church planting? Have you discussed and prayed at length about this work, and do you believe that this is what the Lord would have you do?
9. Please attach your recent photograph (with or and your family’s if you married)
10. Please provide at least three references and their contact details (including one from your pastor and another from your college professor/lecturer).

Please email your completed application and all the relevant documents to: confex@reformationmalawi.org