THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF BEDFORD MASSACHUSETTS

CHURCH PROFILE

This Bi-vocational Pastor Search packet will give potential candidates an overview and profile of the ministry position and the mission, values, and key beliefs of The First Baptist Church of Bedford, Massachusetts (FBC).

As you review this information, please prayerfully consider how FBC's mission and values align with your ministry passions and calling. We trust the Holy Spirit will speak to you and guide your ministry search.

If you, or someone you know, sense the Holy Spirit's leading to learn more about whether this could be a good fit, we would like to connect and explore this possibility together.

We are confident that Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, has been putting His call on our Settled Pastor. Pray with us and for us as we listen to and discern the Spirit's direction.

Thank you, and may God bless and guide you in your pursuit of His will for your life.

In Christ,
First Baptist Church of Bedford, Massachusetts Search Committee

OUR BELIEFS

We believe that there is one true God, existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God through the work of the Holy Spirit and is the basis of our teachings in Bible studies and preaching. How we interpret the Bible is a point of discussion and growth.

We express our faith in two ordinances, believer's baptism and communion. We practice baptism by immersion as a public display of our faith and rebirth in Christ. We gather once a month to hold communion as a remembrance of what Jesus has done for us. Our tradition is to enjoy a communion open to all believers.

Our belief structure is based on basic Baptist principles including:

- **Soul liberty** - The individual's response to the work of the Holy Spirit to transform
- **The priesthood of all believers** - Each individual has access to God through Jesus Christ without the need for an intercessor.
- **The autonomy of the local congregation** -The local church, through its own understanding of the leading of the Holy Spirit, determines its own path without the overseeing or mandate of any external organization.
- **The associational principle** - Churches are free to associate with like-minded organizations. The First Baptist Church of Bedford Massachusetts has chosen to associate with the Samuel Stillman Association. We are a strong supporter of the American Baptist churches of Massachusetts and the American Baptist Churches /USA

OUR VISION

We believe the future of the First Baptist Church of Bedford Massachusetts is to play an active role in the fulfillment of God's will in our local community, as well as around the world. Through worship, prayer, mission, discipleship, education, and fellowship we will strive to meet that end.

Our vision includes the establishment of an active youth program from birth to young adults. We are confident that the continued discipleship of all believers is a crucial part of our role in Kingdom building. An integral part of that program will include Sunday school for all ages, Bible studies, and Wednesday prayer meetings. We express the desire to attract younger families. Our new pastor will have the skills to help with this vision.

We will have fellowship opportunities after Sunday worship and special events to strengthen personal relationships.

The racial, cultural, and social diversity of our congregation is built on loving relationships, openness to different ideas, and the desire to include all who choose to follow Jesus and it is a representation of the Kingdom to which God is leading us.

We are committed to supporting and developing missions, locally and globally. This helps make faith an active part of our lives.

OUR STORY

We are a long established group of multicultural Christian believers. We follow the tenets of The American Baptist tradition. We now number 41 members and approximately 25 attend the service. Our worship service is live streamed on Facebook and is found on YouTube. We have an Instagram presence to reach people through social media.

Our worship style is blended with a praise team consisting of contemporary and traditional music with piano and drums weekly, occasionally worshiping through drama and dance.

Our congregation is drawn from not only Bedford, but other surrounding communities plus Hanscom Air Force Base.

The First Baptist Church holds an annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration as well as actively coordinating and participating in an ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service, and Bedford Day. Bible Study and Prayer Gathering are held on alternate weeks and are a strength of our church. We share our facilities with “The Message”, a Korean church. Their service follows later in the afternoon.

On our church campus we have worship, fellowship, and nurturing through the sanctuary, the education and fellowship building and the playground, as well as the parsonage.

OUR COMMUNITY

Bedford, Massachusetts is a small, suburban colonial town of about 14,000 residents. We are proud of the town's role in the American Revolutionary War, its Minutemen Militia Company, the historic Bedford Flag, and the present-day Minutemen Re-enacting Company. The town utilizes an "open town meeting" format of government with an elected board of selectboard and an appointed town manager.

Having an ideal location, we are located about 15 miles northwest of Boston and have easy access to US Route 95, Massachusetts Route 128, and Massachusetts Route 3.

Middlesex Community College is a public Community College with a campus covering 200 well landscaped acres of Bedford.

The highly praised Bedford School System is rated in the top 8% of towns in Massachusetts. Our church and Parsonage are located within walking distances of our school campuses and modern Public Library.

Major hospitals in the area include the Lahey Clinic in nearby Burlington and Emerson Hospital in nearby Concord. There is also a Veterans Administration Hospital in Bedford.

Bedford has a vibrant business community.

Hanscom Air Force Military Base and a civilian air terminal are also located in Bedford.

There are many amenities that support, and are supported by town residents.