



Community Church

AT LAKE WYLIE

Community Church at Lake Wylie (CCLW), an interdenominational Christian Church located in Lake Wylie, South Carolina, is seeking a Senior Pastor. We are located 30 minutes away from Charlotte, North Carolina in a prosperous, growing, lakeside community that offers award-winning schools, quality health care, top-rated recreational facilities, multi-tiered housing availability, and a sense of community.

CCLW is known for our local and international mission outreach, our outstanding music ministry, our well-maintained, attractive campus, and our desire to reach people of all generations to share in the love of Jesus Christ. We are governed by our elected Leadership Council, ministered to by our semi-retired Pastoral Care Pastor who is acting as our Interim Associate Pastor, and nurtured spiritually through our Deacons, Stephen ministers, and small groups.

The desired candidate for this position should have a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited theological seminary, unquestionable knowledge of the Bible, a love for Christ, the ability to deliver inspiring messages biblically based and demonstrating how to live in today's world, a passion for bringing people to Christ and the heart to serve our congregation with compassion and empathy.

Historically, our senior and associate pastors have come from a variety of mainstream denominational backgrounds such as Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist. Please view our church website for additional information at www.cclw.org

Resumes should be sent to searchteam@cclw.org by October 1, 2021.

Brief History of Community Church at Lake Wylie

Community Church at Lake Wylie is in Lake Wylie, South Carolina. Lake Wylie is an unincorporated residential community in north central South Carolina just south of Charlotte, North Carolina. The church began in 1973 with an Easter service organized by a small group of people and was attended by 200 locals and visitors. This inspired a dream for an interdenominational church that was called River Hills Community Church.

In May 1975 our first Pastor, Gene Jester, was called. Gene guided us through this early period developing the base tenets and theology which remain standing today. These core affirmations are:

The church is founded on the Bible

We are inclusive and ecumenical

Our central affirmation is that Jesus Christ is Lord of All Life

At our founding, the church functioned as a pastor-led congregation. An all-purpose building was completed in 1978 and a sanctuary was added to the first structure in 1984. Under Gene's guidance, the church began a faith-based preschool for children in the Lake Wylie area that was initially funded by our congregation. Several members of the church also opened a food pantry in a nearby town (Clover) to help families in need. This assistance center was operated by, and almost totally funded by, RHCC for several years. It is still operating today as CAAC (Clover Area Assistance Center). When Gene's time with us concluded, the average Sunday attendance was 260.

Russ Brown was called to be our Pastor in 1987 and remained until his retirement in 1999. Russ instituted a congregationally led system headed by a small council but really driven by its membership. A remodeling of the sanctuary was completed as well as a large and successful Capital Campaign to fund a new Life Center on an adjacent property during Russ' tenure. The York County Habitat for Humanity opened at this time and our church supplied almost all the money and manpower for the first four Habitat homes built in the Town of Clover. A second traditional Sunday service was added in 1997 and the normal attendance for both services was 335.

Bruce Jones succeeded Russ in late 1999. Bruce changed the governmental form of the church to a Board of Elders (rather than a Church Council) emphasizing spiritual growth within the congregation and moving many of the membership driven decisions from the congregation to the Elders and Pastor. The Life Center was constructed in 2000. The church hired two Assistant Ministers in the middle 2000's and began both a contemporary and a blended Sunday service in addition to the two traditional services. All three ministers resigned in 2011 and formed three new churches in the Lake Wylie area, taking with them about 50% of our membership. When Bruce departed the average attendance for all services was 640.

The congregation spent almost two years working with an Intentional Interim pastor, while attempting to know what God wanted for us as a church and then calling the right person to lead us. In late 2013 Pastor Gayle Montgomery was called. Gayle changed the governmental form to a council/staff led church. Multiple bylaw revisions were approved under her tenure and the church name was changed to Community Church at Lake Wylie in 2018. A major Capital Campaign occurred in 2015 to upfit both buildings and the work was completed and totally funded by the campaign. The church tithed 10% of the capital campaign money to Missions and the Stellie J. Jackson Enrichment Center was the recipient of a large donation to assist in their building campaign. Gayle continued with both a traditional and a

contemporary Sunday service until Covid 19 occurred. At that time the average of the combined Sunday services was 300. When a single Sunday service was restarted in late 2020, Gayle had lost the support of the congregation with her "vision" for the church. Because of this, and due to a serious medical issue, she retired in the spring of 2021.

God has continued to bless this church since its inception. We have always had very good preaching from our ministers who have come from a variety of mainstream denominational backgrounds such as Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist. We have a strong membership that loves the Lord and this church. For years the church has been a beacon of light to many people in the Lake Wylie/Upper York County area through our missions. The congregation is asking God to send us the right person to join us in His will. While we are a devoted and faithful aging congregation, we are finding new visitors of all ages attracted to our traditional Worship Experience which includes an outstanding choir, talented musicians, and an impactful message from the pulpit. Pastor Bob Jack has stepped into our ministerial leadership and is generously and joyfully leading this body of believers until we find God's choice for us.

Please view our church website for additional information at www.cclw.org

If you feel God is calling you to pursue this Senior Pastor opening, we welcome your inquiry at searchteam@cclw.org by October 1, 2021.

THE COVENANT

We believe in God the Father, Creator and creative,
He gives us His steadfast love,
Shares with us our joy,
And sustains us in our suffering.
His power is open to us. We trust Him.
We follow Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man.

His life is our example,
His death becomes our victory,
His resurrection is our hope.
In Him the Word has become flesh.
In Him we are offered
Forgiveness from sin,
Renewal from failure,
Reconciliation from brokenness,
Release from despair.

We are guided by the Holy Spirit, God's presence in the world.
By the Spirit we are called into Christ's Church;
To celebrate his love,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen
To share with Him in baptism and eat at His table.

Because we are His Disciples, His pilgrim people, we joyfully
Covenant with each other
To walk together in love
To pray for one another
To care for one another
To live in koinonia.

In life, in death, in life beyond death
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God!

Amen