



STREATOR CHURCH PLANT

In an effort to be a disciple-making, multiplying church, the elders of Christ Community Church of Gridley, IL are seeking to plant a new church in the Streator/South Streator, IL vicinity in the coming years. The purpose of this document is to give a high-level overview of this initiative.

Streator Church Plant

Who We Are:



Christ Community Church
of Gridley

Christ Community Church of Gridley (CCC) is a non-denominational church of approximately 500-600 weekly attenders in rural central Illinois. The church is led by a team of lay and staff elders (three staff pastors), and served by volunteer deacons and various full and part-time staff positions. In addition to our statement of faith, six core values govern our philosophy of ministry: Open Bibles, One Another, Beautiful Feet, Spiritual Growth, Authentic Worship, and Unceasing Prayer. The congregation is multi-generational, with many young families.



Christ Community Church
of Chenoa

Church Planting:

In 2016, CCC sent out a church planting pastor and team to a neighboring town, Chenoa, in a different school district. God provided a dwindling Presbyterian congregation with about 15 remaining members, who sold CCC the church building for one dollar, and partnered with us to begin Christ Community Church of Chenoa. The church became fully autonomous in 2020 and is proclaiming the Gospel in Chenoa to this day with a congregation of around 80 people.

In 2019, CCC partnered with two other like-minded churches in neighboring towns to help launch Redeemer Community Church in Minonk. Members of CCC joined the plant team and funds and support were sent to begin this work in Minonk which also remains active to this day with a congregation of around 70 people.



Redeemer Community
Church

From approximately 2021 to the present, CCC has grown with commuters from about 20-30 minutes to the north (Long Point, Streator, Cornell). In early 2025, the elders began praying and researching the need for a potential church in the Streator/South Streator area.

Present:

In discussing the potential for a church plant in Streator, several families from the Streator area expressed interest in being a part of a church plant team. Two families began a regular youth group meeting in Streator. As this group gained traction, the CCC elders continued to pray and announced at our 2026 Annual Meeting to the whole congregation that our intent in the coming months and years is to attempt to plant a church in Streator. In addition to regular prayer, we held a brief four-week Sunday School class about church planting, and have begun to consider next steps of forming a plant team and seeking a lead pastor for the plant.



Streator Church Plant

Streator Church Plant

Next Steps



The elders are regularly gathering for prayer and the church is being invited to pray at prayer meetings and through a prayer guide.



The elder team will begin a search for a lead pastor for the Streator Church Plant in the summer of 2026.



Through conversation with folks at CCC, a core team who is dedicated to the work of planting a church in Streator is being established.

Interested in learning more, but not ready to apply? Contact andy@christ-cc.org

Church Plant Prayer Guide



JOB DESCRIPTION

Lead Pastor

Streator Church Plant (SCP)
Church Plant of Christ Community Church of Gridley, IL (CCC)

The Lead Pastor of SCP will labor to “present everyone mature in Christ” (Col. 1:28). Together, with the elders he will seek to carry out the mission and Core Values of SCP. While certain tasks in ministry will be clearly delineated between the pastoral staff and elders based on the giftings of each, the Lead Pastor should be thought of as a “staff elder,” able to carry out a multitude of duties required of one who oversees the flock including, but not limited to, the responsibilities listed below.

Job Responsibilities:

Ministry of Prayer. The Lead Pastor should plan on devoting time to the ministry of prayer for the flock entrusted to him. He must also be able and eager to pray with others at any time for any circumstance.

Preach Regularly. The Lead Pastor should be competent in the preparation and delivery of expository sermons from the Bible and should plan on preaching approximately 40 times per year. The pulpit may be shared some with CCC pastors or others as deemed wise by the elders.

Teach Regularly. The Lead Pastor should expect to have regular teaching ministry in venues such as Sunday school, small groups, training sessions, and leadership development. Thorough knowledge of the Bible is necessary for the Lead Pastor’s teaching ministry. He should be familiar with the Word enabling him to answer many Biblical questions “on the fly.” He should also be adept at identifying and refuting false doctrine in the church.

Visitation. The Lead Pastor should expect to be involved in visitation for the encouragement, discipling, and evangelism of both members and non-members. Often, visitation is needed for those in the hospital or nursing homes, for families in crisis, or for new members and attenders who wish to learn more about the church.

Provide Biblical Counseling. Shepherding the flock entails that the pastor will be asked for counsel pertaining to a myriad of life circumstances such as marital issues, grief, sickness, depression, conflict, parenting, etc. The Lead Pastor should expect to be involved in the lives of the flock and provide insight that is Biblical while maintaining the trust and confidentiality of those to whom he offers counsel.

Give Administrative Oversight to Ministry Programs. The Lead Pastor will be the point person for ensuring ministries at SCP are carried out in an effective manner. This does not mean that the Lead Pastor SCP is the one to run particular ministries, but to oversee them with elders and deacons and to ensure that they are being carried out with excellence in faithfulness to the Lord. The scope of oversight responsibility will be determined in conjunction with the elders in order to ensure that the Lead Pastor’s responsibilities are reasonable and attainable.



Job Responsibilities Continued:

Disciple and Mentor. He should expect to play a role in discipling individuals to know the Lord and to follow him in obedience.

Officiate Weddings and Funerals as Needed. The Lead Pastor should be capable to lead weddings and funerals in such a way that brings honor to Christ and conveys truth and love to the families involved.

Plan and Facilitate the Sunday Morning Worship Service. The Lead Pastor will give oversight to the order of service, the music, administration of the ordinances, prayer, and will facilitate Sunday worship with the elders.

Special Projects. The Lead Pastor should expect to spearhead special projects from time to time that are necessary to achieve the mission and maintain the health of the church. As SCP forms, these projects may include forming a plan to serve the community, recruiting and training volunteers, implementing a membership process, etc.

Continuing Education. The Lead Pastor should plan to systematically continue his education through either formal higher education or through informal study, reading, and writing.

Communication. A significant element of the Lead Pastor's task is to be an effective communicator in organizational matters. He should be able to write well and also be effective in communicating information to congregants in person, via email, and by phone.

Evangelism. The Lead Pastor should be burdened for those who are not yet believers in Jesus Christ. He should therefore sense a call to share the gospel with others in the community, be committed to the mission of growing the local church, planting new churches, and strengthening churches around the globe.

Conflict Resolution. The Lead Pastor must expect part of his ministry to be one of confrontation in situations pertaining to sinful behavior as well as conflict resolution in a variety of issues arising among the Body of Christ.



Other Expectations:

Character. The character expectations of those appointed to be elders in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and elsewhere in the Bible are to be upheld by the Lead Pastor.

Family. In accord with the Biblical expectations of church leaders, the Lead Pastor must “manage his own household well” (1 Tim. 3:4). His wife and children (if applicable) are not expected to meet unspoken expectations that may be held by congregants. However, the Lead Pastor’s family is expected to be faithful to the expectations set forth in the Christ Community Church Membership Covenant which is binding on all members of the church.

Work. Because pastoral ministry is not a typical 9-5 job, it is expected that the Lead Pastor will be accountable for his time, working 40-45 hours a week on the aforementioned ministry tasks. It is also expected that he will devote one day a week to rest with regularity.

Unity. The Lead Pastor will work to preserve the unity of the church staff by pursuing honest communication with other staff members and guarding against gossip and divisive speech in the church.

Statement of Faith. The SCP Lead Pastor is to be in agreement with the Statement of Faith of CCC.

Relationship to Sending Church (CCC):

Residency: The SCP Lead Pastor will be considered a pastoral resident (see “residency document” below) upon hiring by CCC. During the residency (approximately 1 year, to be determined at outset of employment), the SCP Lead Pastor will function as an elder at CCC for all practical purposes, but will not officially be commissioned a lead pastor/elder until the residency is completed.

Commissioning: Upon completion of the residency (exact dates TBD), the resident will be officially commissioned by the church to be an elder of the SCP. The full intent of hiring SCP Lead Pastor Resident is for this commissioning to occur, however, if either the resident, or the church elders, do not want to move forward with the commissioning and planting, the resident will not be commissioned upon completion of the residency.

Direct Report: SCP Lead Pastor will report to the Sr. Pastor at CCC, who reports to the Council of Elders at CCC.

Autonomy: The intent is that SCP will be its own, independent, autonomous, congregationally governed church. An exact timeline toward autonomy will be an ongoing discussion between CCC elders, the SCP Lead Pastor, and SCP future elders. The goal would be that within five years of the SCP Lead Pastor’s residency beginning, the SCP would be autonomous.



Relationship to Sending Church (CCC) Continued:

Expectation of Similarity: SCP will be the same kind of church as CCC in many ways, but also have freedom to contextualize ministry practices

- SPC will share CCC's Statement of Faith, statement on human sexuality and marriage, and secondary doctrines of complementarian gender roles, believer's baptism, plural-elder led congregationalism, covenantal membership and discipline, and expository preaching.
- The Core Values of CCC need not be used verbatim for the church plant, but the biblical concepts of the values will be similar.
- The church plant has freedom to discern how to go about accomplishing its mission through various ministries such as youth groups, children's church, Sunday School, local outreach, etc. These ministries may look very similar to CCC but are also free to adapt as best serves the mission of SCP.
- Congregational musical worship will retain the same values (biblically faithful, congregationally singable, varied stylistically to serve the whole body), but may differ in practice based on musical skill available and preferences of the SCP church family.
- The CCC Constitution will be used as a starting point for church governance documents, but the SCP may differ some as it is established in conjunction with CCC elders, SCP Lead Pastor, and potential SCP future elders.



RESIDENCY

Church Plant Lead Pastor Residency

Goals:

1. Familiarize oneself with the values, culture, philosophy of ministry and flock at Christ Community Church (CCC).
2. Build trust with flock at CCC through demonstrating ministry competency and shepherding care.
3. Form a core plant team, build relationships with the team, and begin to function as a shepherd of this small flock within the flock at CCC.
4. Plan and lead the core team, in conjunction with CCC elders/pastors, to initiate a church plant.
5. Receive feedback and encouragement along the way to best prepare for ministry as a church planter.

Means:

1. Learning

- Attending and participating in CCC elders meetings
- Attending and participating in some CCC staff meetings.
- Observing as many various types of ministries as possible at CCC: youth groups, Sunday school, funerals, weddings, food pantry, counseling, visitation, prayer meetings, etc. (will work in conjunction with oversight to plan full scope of ministry experience).
- Learning about Streator and surrounding area.
- Finding and utilizing church planting resources, books, coaches, etc. to learn specifically about church planting.

2. Trust/Development

- Teach and Preach at CCC. This will include some Sunday morning preaching, Sunday School teaching, prayer meetings, etc.
- Oversee and execute various ministry tasks to be determined with staff and elders.

3. Relationships

- Build relationships with the entire CCC family (not every person, but broadly), for the purpose of the sending church to know and be connected to the church plant.
- Specifically invest in relationships with core team members and those who live near the church plant. Seek to shepherd a “flock within a flock” by forming a core team while still at CCC.



Means (continued):

4. Planning

- In conjunction with CCC elders who are liaisons to the church plant, developing a plan “from A to Z” to plant a church.
- Leading core team meetings to prepare to launch church.
- Determining needs such as meeting space, volunteer help, and ministry programs and seeking to find solutions to such needs with core plant team and CCC elders/staff.

5. Feedback and Encouragement

- Regular conversations with overseeing pastor and elders including one intentional weekly conversation with overseeing pastor about ministry development, feedback, and tasks, progress, etc.

Expectations:

- 1. Timeline:** The residency is approximately one year (+/-) spent “in house” at CCC Gridley before launching weekly services at a church plant.
- 2. Oversight:** CCC Sr. Pastor and two lay elders will be devoted to oversight of the church plant.
- 3. Compensation:** The planting pastor will receive salary and benefits similar to those of other staff pastors from the outset of the residency.
- 4. Relationship to CCC once church plant begins:** The planting pastor will remain an employee of CCC, until a time determined by the CCC elders, at which point the goal will be an autonomous church plant.
- 5. Living Arrangements:** Planting pastor is expected to obtain housing in the Streator or Woodland School district. Alternate arrangements may be made during residency.
- 6. In Office Time:** One goal of the residency is to learn the culture and philosophy of ministry at CCC, so a significant amount of time will be spent in office in Gridley. A plan will be made in conjunction with overseeing pastor so that some time is also spent during the workweek in Streator, but those arrangements will be determined once the residency begins.
- 7. CCC Staff Expectations:** All other expectations for staff including character qualifications for eldership will be outlined in job description.
- 8. Commissioning:** Upon completion of the residency, the Lead Pastor will be officially commissioned by the church to be an elder/lead pastor of the SCP. The full intent of hiring SCP Lead Pastor Resident is for this commissioning to occur, however, if either the resident, or the church elders, do not want to move forward with the commissioning and planting, the resident will not be commissioned upon completion of the residency.



APPLICATION

Lead Church Plant Pastor - Streator

Please return application and requested attachments to
andy@christ-cc.org by July 13, 2026.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Marital Status: _____

Name of Spouse (if applicable): _____

Children (if applicable, names & ages): _____

Have you every been terminated from a previous job? If yes, please explain.

Current Church & Ministry Role: _____

Previous Ministry Experience (provide churches/organizations, roles, and
approx. years of employment)

Education: _____

Please return application and requested attachments to andy@christ-cc.org by July 13, 2026.



REFERENCES:

1.) Please provide the name, relationship, and contact information for three references:

- Employer (Supervisor or Elder at current church/organization)

- Fellow Church Member _____

- Your Choice _____

2.) Please provide information about how to access two sample sermons.

3.) Please attach a copy of a sermon manuscript and/or sermon outline or notes you have used in preaching.

4.) Please attach one written paper or project (minimum 2 pages, no maximum) that you have used in a ministry or academic context. This could be a sample communication you had with a church about a theological issue, an article you've written, a paper for seminary, a project, etc.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS:

Please type out and attach your answers to the following questions. Answers need not be more than a few sentences, however you are free to elaborate as much as needed. If you have done previous work (i.e. written a position paper or other composition) pertaining to a given topic, you may submit that as an answer to a question.

1.) Describe your preaching style and/or key Biblical truths that form your preaching philosophy?

2.) What is your view on tithing?

3.) If a person in an openly homosexual relationship attended your church, enjoyed being there, and wanted to be a member, how would you pastor him/her?

4.) How would you describe your eschatology?

5.) Describe 1-3 of the most difficult pastoral situations you've ever had to be involved in (please keep names anonymous).

6.) What do you believe about spiritual gifts (the gifts of the Spirit)?



WRITTEN QUESTIONS (CONTINUED):

7.) Have you ever been a part of church discipline process? If so, please explain the basic contours of the situation and your involvement.

8.) Which of the qualifications for eldership do you struggle with (i.e. personally find it difficult to attain) the most?

9.) Write out a typical weekly schedule of when you work and what tasks are done on different days.

10.) Describe your pattern/habit of prayer?

11.) Planting a church is different than pastoring in an established church. What skills, traits, or aspects of who you are make being a church planter a good fit for you?

12.) What would the people in your current church (fellow staff/elders and congregants) say are your strengths and weaknesses in ministry?

13.) Based on what you know about CCC, what makes you eager to serve pastorally in/with CCC?

14.) Based on what you know about CCC, are there theological or philosophical areas where you're not sure you're in alignment?

15.) As a church planter, you will begin by leading a core team of people. What are some of the most important aspects and priorities of leading this core team in planting a new church?

