



Thank you for your interest in the Church Planting Pastor position with Local Church St. Pete!
In this packet, you will find:

- Details about LCSP and the city of St. Pete
- Our strategy and vision for church planting
- A job description for the role along with what we're looking for in a candidate

Please reach out to Lindsey Birge at lindsey@localchurchstpete.com with any questions you may have or to apply for the position. Applications should include your current resume, a cover letter explaining why you desire to plant a church in St. Pete, and 2-3 recent preaching samples. We appreciate your heart for church planting and look forward to learning more about you!

LOCAL CHURCH ST. PETE | About Us

History

Local Church St. Pete began on January 13, 2019 as a church plant from Gulf Coast Community Church, with a core team of 42 adults and 20 children. From the beginning, our mission has been to be *disciples who make disciples to impact the City of St. Pete for Jesus*.

After meeting in an elementary school cafeteria for the first six months, we were blessed to be able to move into a historic church building on a prominent road in our desired target area.

The plant grew steadily and continued to thrive throughout the pandemic and subsequent years. Additional elders, staff, and house groups were added and Local Church St. Pete celebrated its 7th anniversary in January 2026. Local Church St. Pete currently offers three Sunday morning gatherings.

Geographical Context

Local Church St. Pete is located in St. Petersburg, Florida, a diverse, eclectic and artistic city. St. Petersburg is located on Florida's Gulf Coast, part of the Tampa Bay area. With an annual average of 361 days of sunshine per year, the nickname "Sunshine City" is well earned. St. Petersburg offers beautiful waterfront parks, lots of outdoor recreation and a vibrant art scene.

According to 2022 Census estimates, the population of St. Petersburg totaled 261,156, composed of 62% white residents and 21% black or African American residents. St. Petersburg has a troubled history of racial segregation and unrest; however, the city elected its first African American mayor in 2021. St. Petersburg is also known for its large LGBTQ community and high rate of homelessness. St. Petersburg is part of the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan area which is the 17th largest metropolitan area in the country with a population of over 3.2 million.

It is a privilege to be on mission in this beautiful, but relativistic and hurting city, holding high the truths of Jesus and what they mean for our lives today. In 1 Peter 2:9-10, we find the church has a "*double identity*." The church is called out of the world to belong to God and sent back into the world to declare his praises. God has called us to be a church in the city of St. Pete that understands its identity as the *called out* and *sent in* people of God. Our temptation can be to either withdraw and isolate ourselves or to blend in and compromise. Instead, we're called to be set apart while at the same time deeply involved in the world, entering the pain and suffering of those around us.

Leadership

Local Church St. Pete is led by a plurality of elders. The Board of Elders is composed of both vocational and non-vocational pastors. The leaders of Local Church St. Pete are passionate about discipleship, church planting, and the development and health of other pastors. The work and

mission of Local Church St. Pete is further supported by over 40 male and female House Group Leaders/Deacons.

We are in relationship with Acts 29 and Leader's Collective for the purpose of partnering together for church planting, pastoral health and accountability. We are part of the Made to Flourish network of pastoral residencies.

Core Desires

- *Expectation and Dependency*
We believe God will do great things for our good and His glory. We want to trust him and lean on him through prayer in every way.
- *Humility and Compassion*
We know we are not the "saviors" of St. Pete, there is only one. We are not the only thing going on in St. Pete. God is at work through many people and in various ways but we get to be a part of His mission. We will always have something to learn from others. We have been shown compassion, and want to show it to others.
- *Love and Mercy*
Jesus said, "*The world will know you are my disciples by your love for one another.*" We want to walk in love. This will require sacrifice and patience, sincerity and time. We have been forgiven and shown mercy through Jesus and want to show forgiveness and mercy to others.
- *Intentionality and Hospitality*
The time is now and the mission is before us. We want to move about our day-to-day lives with intentionality. We want to listen to, learn from, eat with and welcome people into our lives.
- *Tolerance and Community*
We do not have to agree on everything with someone else to show them love and respect. We do not need to accept their belief system as true to be their friend. We want to bring honest questions and honest answers where we have them. We know this happens best in the context of genuine community.

More information is available on our website at www.localchurchstpete.com

LCSP CHURCH PLANT | Strategy & Vision

What is the vision for this church plant?

This will be an autonomous church plant launched from Local Church St. Pete (LCSP) with financial and elder support. Since this is an elder-led church and we believe in a plurality, if a plurality is not identified, an advisory team will be established that includes men of character and gifting. We would encourage the advisory team to include elders from LCSP. The plant will be celebrated by LCSP and sent out with joy knowing it will continue the mission of being disciples who make disciples to impact the city of St. Pete for Jesus. We would come alongside the new church and maintain relational closeness and support. Ideally, the plant will be in St. Pete, but could potentially be anywhere in the Tampa Bay area.

How will the planting pastor be equipped?

In his first year on staff with Local, the church planting pastor will be a part of the Sunday preaching rotation and teach various classes. He will rotate through any areas of ministry where development is needed. He will be involved with pastoral care and discipleship as well as administration and operations within LCSP. In addition to receiving mentorship from the elders of LCSP, the planting pastor will participate in a church planting pastor's cohort through Leader's Collective. He will also go through an Acts 29 Church Planter's Assessment.

How will the planting pastor build his core team?

In the latter half of his first year on staff, the planting pastor will lead several interest meetings for attendees of Local as well as broader community members. In addition, his house group will have a focus on the church plant and seek to grow into the first house groups of the new church. He will also be responsible for building relationships within the community, including local business leaders and church leaders and pastors.

What is the planting timeline?

Date	Milestone
October 2026	Initial round of interviews with candidates
November/December 2026	Second round of interviews and site visit
December 2026/January 2027	Extend offer to selected candidate
February 2027	Start date
September 2027	Begin hosting interest meetings
November 2027	Identify core team members and meeting location
February 2028	Launch!

What financial support will Local provide to the church plant?

Once a core team is identified and the church plant is 2-5 months from its launch date, those team members' giving will go toward the church plant. This will begin at the discretion of LCSP's elders. LCSP will cover the planting pastor's salary and benefits for two years from his hire date, regardless of the new church's launch date. Ideally, this means his salary during the first year of the church plant will be covered by Local. We will also cover the cost of his participation in the Leader's Collective church planting cohort. Any additional operating expenses for the new church will come from the core team's giving. The planting pastor will be responsible for securing outside funds for any additional costs that are not covered by LCSP's sending funds or giving from the core team.

What is the vision for future local church plants?

With the right leaders and strategy in place, our desire is to plant a new church every 3-5 years. Though our initial focus is to see churches planted in the Tampa bay area, this strategy can be adapted for out-of-state or international church plants. We have a vision for a collective of churches who have the same values and missional strategy. These churches would not have authority over one another, but would work together to plant more churches, provide support to each other relationally, and share ideas and resources to better care for our communities through love and hospitality.

CHURCH PLANTING PASTOR | Pastoral Care, Leadership, & Church Development

About the Position

A full-time position responsible for assisting with the pastoral needs within Local Church St. Pete during the first year and planting a new church in St. Pete in the second year. Primary focus includes discipleship, periodic teaching, and developing a core planting team.

What You'll Do

Year 1:

Pastoral Care

- Shepherd the church through prayer, pastoral care, discipleship and leadership development.
- Participation in Sunday gatherings, including prayer, communion, benediction, administration, care and periodic preaching.
- Serve in the rotation of Sunday Service Directors.
- Provide care through biblical counseling, weddings, funerals, visitation and ongoing member care.
- Immediately begin the Eldership Process with the goal of ordination by the end of the first year.
- Lead classes like *Belong Here*, *Essentials of the Christian Faith* and *One to One Bible Reading*.
- Develop resources such as Sunday handouts and discipleship guides.
- Lead a House Group with the intention of multiplying into additional House Groups led by church plant core team members.
- Build relationships within the community, including local business leaders and church leaders/pastors.

Church Plant Development

- Host interest meetings for anyone interested in joining the church plant core team. These meetings will be open to LCSP attendees as well as the broader community.
- Identify a core team of 50 adults who are committed to supporting the church plant in its initial launch. This team should include individuals from within and outside of LCSP.
- Identify leadership roles from Core Team including a worship leader and children's ministry coordinator.
- Find a meeting location in St. Pete for the plant.
- Work with the LCSP elders and finance team to develop a budget for the first year of the church plant.
- Develop a church planting prospectus that states the vision, mission, values, timeline, and budget for the plant.

Year 2:

Lead Pastor

- Lead direction of the church with any staff and volunteers, ensuring you filter all you do through the mission of *“Disciples who make disciples to impact the city of St. Pete for Jesus”*.
- Provide direction over Sunday gatherings and church calendar. This includes collaborating with staff members and volunteers to develop elements for corporate worship gatherings and other church-wide events.
- Comprehensive participation in Sunday gatherings through primary preaching, prayer, and communion.
- Lead and train other preachers and teachers, setting the preaching calendar and providing regular feedback.
- Oversee Sunday morning and any other corporate prayer gatherings. Set the pace of prayerful Spirit-dependence.
- Invest in focused formal and informal leadership development, including identification, training and care of elders and deacons, as well as church-wide educational/equipping classes and external opportunities.
- Provide oversight and care for full-time and part-time staff.
- Provide high-level oversight of the assimilation process, lead membership classes and Member’s Meetings.
- Provide oversight and actively participate in pastoral and member care, including baptisms, dedications, visitations, weddings and funerals.
- Direct the church’s missional focus by investing in and encouraging local and foreign mission groups and church plant partners.
- Represent the church in partnerships with Acts 29, Leader’s Collective and any other affiliations. Engage with local pastors and participate in peer cohorts.
- Identify a finance team, compensation committee and elders to ensure the overall financial health of the church and fidelity to approved budgets.

How You Will Be Equipped for Planting

Leader’s Collective Church Planting Pastor Cohort

In years 1 and 2, you will participate in a church planting pastor’s cohort through Leader’s Collective. The Leader’s Collective cohort allows pastors to spend extended time developing the characteristics necessary to sustain healthy ministry while building deep relationships with peers for ongoing encouragement and support.

Acts 29 Church Planter’s Assessment

In year 1 or 2, you will go through an Acts 29 Church Planter’s Assessment. During this assessment, you will be evaluated and advised on their preaching, pastoring, strategic planning and overall fittedness to plant a church within the Acts 29 network.

Care for Your Wife

Because the wife of a pastor bears a unique burden and role in the life of the church, we would seek to invest well in your wife (if married). We want the wives of LCSP pastors to feel supported, encouraged, and prepared to step into church planting life. We will seek to serve your wife in the following ways:

- Personal and couples mentoring with mentor couple
- Regular meeting or relational connection with other LCSP elders' wives
- Prayer and encouragement

What We're Looking For

- Character and gifting must fit the biblical requirements for an Elder laid out in 1 Timothy 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-9 and Acts 20:28. Be familiar with the identity and mission found in 1 Thessalonians 1:3-10 and 1 Peter 2:9-10. These are foundational passages to Local Church St. Pete.
- Ministry experience, training, education – minimum 5 years of full-time pastoral ministry preferred
- A love for the local church and an understanding of God's purpose for it, with a desire to plant a church in St. Pete or the Tampa Bay area
- Skills in communicating the bible and imparting vision
- Ability to organize, direct and motivate others
- A clear understanding and respect for biblical theology and disciple-making
- Embody the characteristics of LCSP's core values and culture
- A maturing Christian life marked by a love for God, his Word, and his people
- Theological alignment with Local Church St. Pete
- Humility, teachability, and a desire to grow

Beginning: Early 2027

Compensation: Salary varies depending on experience. Includes a generous benefits package with medical, life and disability insurance, 401(k) and paid time off (PTO). Salary and benefits will be paid for two years from hire date.

How to Apply: Please send your current resume, a cover letter explaining why you desire to plant a church in St. Pete, and 2-3 recent preaching samples to Lindsey Birge at lindsey@localchurchstpete.com