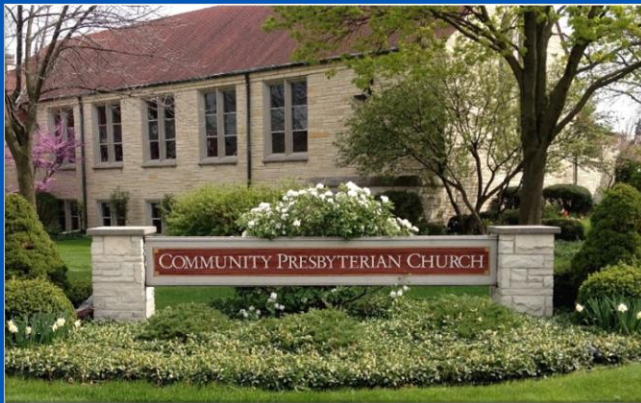




CPC welcomes
**THE REVEREND
DEAN CHOI**
as our new Associate Pastor
Start date: November 3



I have a work background in Hospital Chaplaincy, Church Ministry, and Higher Education that has deeply shaped my beliefs in what it means to provide pastoral care for the traumatized, wounded, voiceless, and people who are deeply seeking God's presence.

For many years, I often shared about my spiritual journey becoming a pastor within the PC (U.S.A.) that God is shaping me to minister to the next generation of youth and young adults, including families. I believe it is a gift to have developed deep cultural awareness, sensitivity, and inclusivity values for all people.



Grace

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I believe God loves people unconditionally, no matter where we are in life, what we have done, and what we have not done. The theology of God's unconditional love is how I try to approach every person I meet in my life.

I value God's grace to the highest degree because I was that kid growing up that desperately needed love and care in high school to survive the childhood trauma I was experiencing at the time. While I was going through a large deal of painful experiences and loss, I wanted help from a mentor to show me how to recover from feeling broken and alone.

This is why I strongly resonate with where I believe God has been shaping me for a long time to continue to help raise young leaders in Youth Ministry and Young Adult ministry to know that they are fully included into the body of Christ.

**To my new friends and fellow siblings in Christ at
Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills**

I am overjoyed to be able to write to you all as I've felt like the search process has come full circle in my spiritual walk with God. I grew up in Naperville, IL (K-12) and it was there that I became a follower of Christ. My parents deeply shared my identity in God as they are the most faithful people of God that I know. In my family, I am the youngest of 4 guys. My dad, my oldest brother, and I are PC (U.S.A.) pastors and so, the reformed tradition has been a big part of my faith formation.

Some exciting news is that I got married last year to my wife, Serena Lee, and we both are so excited to meet you all soon.



One of the foundational truths of God that I live by is remembering that God walks alongside us in our life journeys. Grace is not just a biblical statement but a lived reality; it's how we are reconciled with God and what we should live by as a body of Christ. I believe grace is one of the most powerful ways people can experience God's love and it is with that same heart of grace that I try to approach providing pastoral support and care for people in the church and community.

This call specifically gave me so much excitement with the integration of not only one but several youth and young adults as part of the APNC interview process itself. When I heard about the church traditions of the Caravans and weekly gatherings for youth, it made me truly appreciate the vision of ministry in the church as whole.



My professional journey into ministry involves a mix of working in Chicago Public Schools, higher education, hospital chaplaincy, and church ministry across the U.S. in IL (Naperville, Champaign-Urbana, and Chicago), St. Louis, MO, Los Angeles, CA, and Santa Barbara, CA. I believe my diverse experiences of ministry have strengthened my awareness to provide pastoral support with a lens of inclusivity and a trauma-informed approach of care.

For my educational contexts, I have a B.A. in Psychology and Political Science and a M.Ed in Higher Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I also received an MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary. At Fuller, I learned a lot from Christians all around the world.

Things I love to do for fun: smoke barbeque ribs, watch musicals, try new ice cream flavors, take walks outside, go fishing, and catch lobsters in the ocean. I would love to hear more about your favorite things to do and I am excited to worship together soon!

***Grace and Peace to All,
Dean Choi***

A Letter from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Thank you for trusting us to serve as your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). We are grateful for your support during this process. Thank you especially to members of the APNC prayer circle – Warren Ali, Wendy Cook, Liz Monson, Kit Olah, Mark Schloegel, Tracy Sims, and Alyssa Woody - for praying for us during this process.

We are excited to welcome Dean Choi to serve as our Associate Pastor. Dean will be responsible for developing a comprehensive youth faith formation plan and performing other key responsibilities, including preaching, supporting our Deacons, and delivering pastoral care to members through home and hospital visits.

Our interactions with Dean have highlighted his commitment to two of CPC's core Strategic Pillars: being a welcoming church and dedication to lifelong faith formation. Additionally, his genuine passion for guiding youth through their faith formation and his commensurate experience running youth programs align with one of CPC's primary objectives in creating this role. We are confident that you will find Dean to be caring, compassionate, and thoughtful.

We hope that you will read the information shared here, which provides more details about Dean's qualifications, experience, and personal story. We are excited to introduce him and Serena to CPC!

Dean will begin his ministry on Monday, November 3, 2025.

We appreciate the opportunity to have served the church on the APNC over the past twenty months. We give thanks to God for sending Dean to CPC.

Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee:

*Ken Monson (chair), Amy Campbell, Val Cooper, Kendall Florence,
Alison Kocoras, Teagan Manning*

Comments From the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

I chose Reverend Dean Choi because of the clear passion he holds for his work in the lives of youth. Speaking to him was like a breath of fresh air: very genuine, down-to-earth and matter of fact. I believe he has the ability to do great things within our youth program and for our congregation as a whole. – *Teagan Manning*

Dean exemplifies a calm, approachable presence balanced with a sense of humor that will resonate with our youth. He also demonstrates a deep respect for the wisdom and experience of older congregants. He is a good listener who will serve as an excellent guide for members of all ages on their faith journeys. – *Alison Kocoras*

Dean's calm demeanor and obvious love of Christ automatically made him a great candidate. Once we got to know him and saw his passion for youth, it further confirmed he was the best choice for CPC.
– *Val Cooper*

We set out with a challenging task - to find an Associate Pastor who can serve both as a leader of youth programs as well as serve the broader congregation with a strong understanding of reformed theology. We found in Dean a pastor who can handle both of these callings with excellence. In addition to our personal interactions, we received strong confirmation from Dean's references as to his intellect, demeanor, and passion for ministry. "Beloved and authentic" were two descriptions that spoke volumes to me in terms of how he is viewed by congregants both young and old. I am grateful for the opportunity for CPC and Dean to grow together in the coming years. – *Ken Monson*

The Reverend Dean Choi's Statement of Faith



I believe in Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully human.

Jesus is the incarnate Word of God, born a Palestinian Jew from the Virgin Mary, and modeled the perfect example of being human in relationship with God and loving our neighbors.

Jesus heals the sick, forgives, and blesses all those who repent and believe in Christ to have eternal life. Jesus offers a reconciled relationship with God and restores our relationship with one another. For Jesus was unjustly crucified, died for our sins, and buried.

On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead, breaking the chains of evil, paying the price for our salvation once and for all.

Thus, Jesus fulfilled the promise that God initiated with Abraham to save God's people through the one covenant of grace and allow the elect to become co-heirs with Christ. For we no longer live under the law but under the grace of God.

After Christ's resurrection, Christ ascended to heaven sitting on the right hand of the Father.

I believe in the triune God, three persons, sharing one substance: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe in God the Father, sovereign over all areas of life and creator of all things, that created humanity – people of every race, of all nations, equal in God's image, and to be with God.

Yet humanity sinned against God and broke the covenant that God provided.

After sin entered the world, we were totally depraved, marked by sin, unable to earn our salvation, and through God's mercy, God sent Jesus to be born as flesh and sacrificed on the cross as atonement for our sins so that we may be reconciled with God.

Therefore, the elect are justified by faith, chosen through God's grace in Christ's righteousness declaring Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

I believe in the Holy Spirit that marks the Church to live a holy and disciplined Christian life.

The Holy Spirit sustains and unites the Church through the Word, being present in community, bestowing spiritual gifts, and partnering in mission to proclaim the good news to all nations.

I believe in one catholic Church as a Christ-centered community to be the visible witness of Christ to the world, living the embodiment of Christ by being among and loving the poor, disenfranchised, and the marginalized of every generation.

I believe the two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are signs and seals of God's promise of grace with the presence of God through the Holy Spirit.

It is the duty of the Church to administer the sacraments and care for all people so that all humanity will know who Christ is.

I believe the Bible as the living Word of God in which God speaks and reveals God's self to all generations.

I believe Scripture has ultimate authority in our lives. Scripture with the guidance of the Holy Spirit reveals God through the Word and who we are in relation to God as God's children.

