

United Church of Bogotá Pastoral Search



The United Church of Bogotá (UCB) seeks its next Senior Pastor. The candidate should be a collaborative, strategic visionary with a mindset and gifting for managing personnel and resources in a complex, culturally dynamic, and transitory international church. Our next pastor should embrace the ambiguity of leading a multi-denominational church which includes a plethora of nationalities and denominational backgrounds, while still functioning internally as a Presbyterian and winsomely Reformed church. His heart should beat for reaching the lost, cross-cultural missions, and multiplication through church planting and coaching future ministerial candidates.

Our story and priorities

The United Church of Bogotá is one of the world's oldest international churches, with roots dating back to 1867. Historically, UCB has experienced seasons of flourishing and seasons of struggles. Her identity has morphed from evangelical to mainline interdenominational to more stagnant and theologically liberal and most recently back to her biblical roots. Today UCB is a thriving, multi-denominational, Bible-based church ministering to the English-speaking community in Bogotá. We are a diverse fellowship of Christians who want to encounter God in worship and experience the impact of his grace on every part of our lives and in our world. As a church that prioritizes serving the globally mobile in our midst, we invest strategically in ministry to the next generation, community life among our diverse and transitory family, and outreach to the unreached.

With all its cultural complexities, the international church is often a place with fewer power dynamics than churches in a more monocultural setting. There is a general ethos of collaboration across cultures and denominational lines that makes pastoring an international church a gracious learning environment for someone new to local church ministry or ministry abroad. UCB currently employs a gifted and seasoned Pastor of Youth and Families who is eager to focus on next generation ministry, discipleship in the church, and leading a partnered Mission to the World team. Our existing pastor will serve as a local and cultural coach as the new pastor wades into the intricacies of living and ministering overseas. Additionally, our current funding model, priority to pay our pastors in USD, and ongoing need for two pastors necessitates that our Senior Pastor raises some additional support (depending on life and family circumstances) through our U.S. 501C-3.

Qualifications

- Five years (preferred) of pastoral experience in the local church, parachurch, or campus ministry
 - Ordained or ordainable in a Reformed and (preferably) Presbyterian denomination
 - Native English speaker and willingness to learn Spanish
 - Willingness to relocate to Bogotá, Colombia
 - Embodiment of grace and the ability to cultivate and continue a culture of grace throughout UCB and her ministry teams
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Though ministry in the international church often happens in intensive spurts and in sync with a semesterly school calendar, the role of our next Senior Pastor should amount to 55 hours per week, including:

Leadership

- Shepherd and oversee the discipleship of God's people at UCB
- Inspire missional outreach and evangelism to UCB's target groups
- Manage and help shepherd the multicultural staff and leadership teams of UCB and UCBIM (U.S. 501C-3) alongside our Pastor of Youth and Families
- Recruit, develop, and deploy officers, lay leaders, and key ministry volunteers
- Recruit, develop, and deploy ministerial candidates and church planters
- Steward UCB's COP and USD resources alongside the Treasurer and elders
- Oversee Colombian and U.S. legal compliance and administer UCB and UCBIM bylaws

Worship

- Preach regularly alongside our pastoral staff and elders
- Design and implement two Sunday morning worship services, including music, volunteers, preaching series planning, administration of the sacraments, and incorporating a diversity of voices and lay leaders

Vision

- Steer UCB to a more stable place of generous self-sustainability
- Dream of further growing UCB through outreach and sustainable systems of discipleship
- Mobilize God's people for local and global impact and outreach
- Invest in church multiplication (local Spanish-speaking plants and daughter/sister international church plants)
- Protect the confessional integrity of UCB (Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and the Heidelberg Catechism)
- Pursue formal accountability with like-minded Reformed international churches
- Seek the peace and prosperity of Bogotá and Colombia and carefully avoid the common pitfall in international churches of isolation from the host culture and country

Connection

- Maintain ordination and reporting to ordaining body
- Network with like-minded reformed international churches locally and through the Missional International Church Network
- Develop and maintain connection to donor network for supplementing USD salary package (if desired) and funding ministerial projects and candidates

Culture

- Adapt the mindset of a cultural learner, investing in the local culture and Spanish
- Study and adapt to the culture of the globally mobile
- Care for the diverse, multicultural ethos of UCB

Interested candidates should email their resume and cover letter by January 30, 2021 to ucbpastorsearch@gmail.com