

# Opportunity Profile

## **Senior Pastor Northern Valley Evangelical Free Church Cresskill, NJ**

[northernvalleyefc.org](http://northernvalleyefc.org)



Northern Valley Evangelical Free Church (NVEFC)  
of Cresskill, New Jersey invites nominations and  
applications for the role of Senior Pastor.

Search Contact: Leslie Lin, Search Team Chairman  
email: [search@northernvalleyefc.org](mailto:search@northernvalleyefc.org)

## THE CHURCH

Northern Valley Evangelical Free Church (“NVEFC”) began in 1954 when Norwegian immigrants moved to the suburbs of Bergen County, New Jersey and quickly began reaching out with the Gospel to their community. They soon outgrew their original small building and built a 300-seat sanctuary in 1961. In 1968, a gymnasium and an education wing were added to the campus. As a result, over a hundred youth and adults were taught Scripture throughout the week. NVEFC was known for its robust youth and college and career ministries. The classrooms were used every day of the week for children’s clubs, junior and senior high youth group and Bible quizzing. The gymnasium was used for basketball competition, conferences and outreach events. NVEFC has always been committed to supporting local and global missions. Over a third of the budget went to supporting missionaries year after year. As the congregation grew, the church received a reputation of being a “flagship” church in the Eastern District of the Evangelical Free Church Association.

Unfortunately, conflict arose toward the end of 2014, which exposed deficiencies in the church's fragmented leadership structure. Church attendance gradually decreased to under one hundred and eventually, both the senior and associate pastors resigned. It was a painful time in the life of the church, but God has since rescued the church and is preparing it for the future.

The church has made several changes over the last two years. Under the care and guidance of an intentional interim pastor, and with great care and intensive prayer, the church rewrote its entire constitution and by-laws which allowed it to be unified under a single leadership board—the board of elders—that guides the congregation and sets the vision for the church.

All of this has helped instill a new sense of mission and vision in the church, and everyone is excited to see what God will do in and through it. There is a renewed commitment to loving Christ and one another, effective outreach to the community, a deep commitment to living out God's Word and to genuine heartfelt prayer. The church is now ready and is seeking its next long-term senior pastor to start a new chapter.

God has blessed NVEFC with abundant physical resources including a gymnasium, a large auditorium, and multiple classrooms. The church leadership envisions using these resources for a community-center type of outreach, which will provide exciting opportunities for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Two other congregations also worship in NVEFC's facilities on Sunday mornings in the Korean and Arabic languages.

## **THE COMMUNITY**

Bergen County, New Jersey is one of the most affluent areas of the United States. Home values and taxes in the area are among the highest in the country. Since Cresskill is only fifteen minutes from the George Washington Bridge, it is a very desirable location to live for people who work in New York City. It is thriving with life and activity.

Based on a recent demographic study, people who live in Cresskill have a high commitment to marriage and family life. They are generally highly educated and seek excellent educational and recreational activities for their families and their children.

The Asian (primarily Korean) population makes up the largest minority group in the immediate vicinity. Minority populations in the nearby towns of Bergenfield, Teaneck, and Englewood are largely Black and Hispanic.

## **THE POSITION**

Northern Valley Evangelical Free Church is seeking the man of God's own choosing for its next Senior Pastor. Two of the Senior Pastor's vital roles will be preaching and teaching the Word of God and shepherding the congregation in a new season of dynamic ministry. Along with the elders,

he will implement the church's mission, set direction for the church, and manage the overall operations of the church.

NVEFC has a deep commitment to biblical teaching and preaching. The next Senior Pastor must have the ability to apply the truth of God's Word to people's lives today, in context, and across generations. The Senior Pastor should also continue to lead church members to "rightly divide the word of truth."

The new Senior Pastor should be a leader whose vision includes diverse outreach possibilities to impact Cresskill and the surrounding community for Christ.

## **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Work together with the elders to create and implement vision and direction for the church.
- Lead church members into lives governed by the Scriptures and led by the Spirit.
- Develop and guide ministry teams to serve effectively so that church can thrive and grow.
- Strategize methods and direction for short and long-term ministry.
- Actively engage young adults to develop and equip the upcoming generations of the body.
- Maintain evangelistic balance in the various expressions and ministries of the church.
- Plan worship services with the worship team leader and ensure that worship services are focused on the presence of God.
- Assure a high-level of stewardship for the gifts God has given the church to advance His Kingdom.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

The next Senior Pastor of Northern Valley Evangelical Free church will possess or demonstrate the following:

- An active and growing faith and relationship with Jesus Christ and a desire to contribute directly to His Church and Body.

- Agreement with the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Free Church of America ([www.efca.org](http://www.efca.org)) and the ministry values of NVEFC.
- A clear and articulate understanding and practice of what it means to live a life governed by the Scriptures and led by the Spirit.
- A pattern of prayer in his personal and family life that can serve as a model for others on staff and in the congregation.
- A desire for excellence in all things with impeccable personal integrity.
- A strong desire to reach the community to make disciples for Christ.
- At least 5 years of experience serving in pastoral staff or as a solo pastor.
- A Masters of Divinity (MDiv) degree or higher from an evangelical seminary is preferred.
- Transparency related to job history and the ability to share references from current and past ministries or employers as a potential candidacy develops.

## **PROCESS OF CANDIDACY**

To apply for this position, please provide your resumé and responses to the questions below to:

Leslie Lin, Search Team Chairman  
 Email: [search@northernvalleyefc.org](mailto:search@northernvalleyefc.org)  
 Phone: 551-265-3745

1. Describe your faith in Jesus Christ, specifically addressing the following topics:
  - a. How you came to know the Lord
  - b. Your calling to pastoral ministry
  - c. A significant event in your journey with Him that helped to clarify your calling
  - d. How your relationship with Jesus Christ has affected your life and your ministry
2. At this point in your ministry, why are you interested in leading as Senior Pastor at NVEFC? What is it about the role or opportunity that motivates you to apply?

3. Describe three efforts you have led in a church context that required shaping the direction, culture, and team of contributors to accomplish important results. Please describe the circumstances and your specific role(s) in them.
4. Describe your philosophy of ministry and leadership, including addressing your personal style of leadership and preferred organizational structure.
5. Please share at least five references including supervisors, ministry peers, and direct reports (paid or volunteer). No references will be contacted without your specific permission and only after mutual interest develops with Northern Valley Evangelical Free Church.