



205 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Yankton, SD 57078 | 605-689-2211 | [discoveryankton@gmail.com](mailto:discoveryankton@gmail.com)

09/01/2020

Dear Applicant:

This Pastor position will be a full-time position held by an individual that shares a love and desire to pursue the mission that God has given to our church. The ideal candidate should be relational and have strengths in the areas of youth and children's ministry. We feel that the primary duties of this position will be oversight of youth and children's ministry, as well as making sure our teachers are encouraged and trained. In addition, we see the position as being very involved (along with our leadership and ministry teams) in finding opportunities to engage our community toward the ends of reaching new people with the gospel and then to *"equip them to become wholehearted followers of Christ."*

We are a young and active church in southeastern South Dakota, and we are seeking a second Pastor. We feel that God has been doing some great things with this local body and has many great things in store. We are praying that He will provide a prayerful, faithful shepherd to serve alongside our Senior Pastor to help guide us into the future that He has prepared for Discovery Church.

Please prayerfully consider the information being provided in addition to this letter. If you feel that God is calling you to pursue this position, please submit your cover letter and resume by email to [discoveryankton@gmail.com](mailto:discoveryankton@gmail.com). We will be reviewing the applications as they are received and will be in touch with you in a timely manner with next steps.

Thanks again for your consideration. We're looking forward to all that God has in store for our Church and for you as we progress in this journey.

Sincerely,

Jeff Herron, Chair  
Discovery Church Search Committee

*"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." – Jeremiah 3:15*



## **Job Description**

### **Overview of the Role of Pastor of Family Ministries:**

The Pastor of Family Ministries will assist the Senior Pastor in the performance of his regular duties and shall perform any other duties as usually pertain to the office of pastor.

The Pastor of Family Ministries will serve as an Elder.

The Pastor of Family Ministries will work in conjunction with the Senior Pastor, Board of Elders, and various ministry teams within the church to facilitate the spiritual growth of the congregation and to engage in outreach to the surrounding community.

### **Ministerial Job Duties:**

- Prepare and deliver sermons on occasion
- Serve as a voting member of the Elder Board
- Have an active outreach in the community
- Encourage commitment to Discovery Church through membership
- Present sound biblical doctrine and the basics of what it means to be born again and to be obedient to Christ.
- Encourage commitment to Christ and His church through baptism
- Utilize the Bible as the ultimate authority for the manner in which duties are conducted

### **Administrative Job Duties:**

- Work jointly with the Senior Pastor, Elder Board, and ministry leaders to give a unified direction to the programs of the church

### **Pastoral Job Duties:**

- Provide pastoral leadership in family ministry
- Coordinate visitation, including hospital, shut-ins, visitors and other contacts as needed
- Coordinate and conduct biblical counseling as needed
- Provide pastoral care in times of bereavement, including oversight of the services as needed
- Provide services for weddings and premarital counseling as needed

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**Personal Job Duties:**

- Maintain personal spiritual growth and that of his family
- Maintain accountability relationships through regularly scheduled meetings with a spiritual mentor or select group of mentors

**Other Related Items:**

- He should prayerfully seek wisdom and direction regularly
- He will work primarily from his office at Discovery Church.

**Knowledge, Skills, and General Requirements:**

- Meet the scriptural qualifications as outline in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9
- 5+ years of pastoral experience preferred
- Be in agreement with the Mission, Vision and Core Values of Discovery Church
- Confidentiality – The requirements for this position requires an ability to keep information and occurrences confidential, and yet the pastor must understand when something is to be reported to governing authorities.
- Education - There are no minimum requirements for formal college, bible school or seminary training. Any certifications or degrees will be considered and reviewed for each applicant.
- Become a member of Discovery Church
- Well-developed communication skills, especially must have clear strengths in areas of Youth and Children's Ministry.

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## HISTORY OF CHURCH

Discovery Church is a non-denominational multi-generational congregation that was born March 2, 2014 when families began contacting each other seeking a Bible believing, Gospel preaching church. Meeting in the sanctuary of Wintz Funeral Home, we had no formal pastor for seven weeks. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Pastor Jon Cooke accepted a call to become pastor of the newly formed congregation called Discovery Church. Our first service at our permanent location was held December 14, 2014.

Pastor Jon's vision was to offer an open door to the community through a Coffee Shop/Church facility located in the center of downtown Yankton at 205 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Through this mission, many residents and visitors have enjoyed a quiet place to meet, stop in for a quick cup of coffee and rest; some groups have "game" days planned on a regular basis. The church is open to scheduling meetings and presentations by organizations in the community. Many of our coffee shop visitors have begun to attend Sunday services and bring their families.

Unfortunately, Pastor Jon was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in April of 2016. Pastor Jon went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus on Sunday, June 24, 2018. Pastor Barry McCormick served as the Interim Pastor through this time of transition. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the church voted to extend a call to Cory Kitch to be the next Senior Pastor. Pastor Cory started serving the church on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

During the interim period Discovery Church grew to an average attendance of 198 people during the Sunday worship service and finalized the purchase of the building adjoining our current church which now functions as our fellowship area and free Coffee Shop during the week. This addition places the church on the corner of two adjoining streets where the city of Yankton is developing "The Meridian District", a downtown location that will provide a venue for local events.

The recent COVID-19 crisis has decreased weekly worship attendance to about 100 each week and yet, by God's grace, giving has remained normal. God has shown his faithfulness and continued to provide for us all that we need (and more!) to minister to the community.

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## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES**

Discovery is an Elder led church, and is, essentially, Baptist in theology and practice. Leadership authority is currently vested in three lay elders plus one pastor. The pastor is viewed and treated as one elder and the elders are viewed as sharing in the pastoral work as lay-shepherds. Any additional staff pastors would, in accordance with 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9, etc. be treated and recognized as one of the elders. Church membership is based on an agreement to abide by a 12-point covenant where members agree to a biblical code of ethics. Commitments to the covenant are renewed annually.

The Board of Directors governs the corporate business matters and takes care of matters pertaining to the physical structure and financial matters of the church. Currently there are five members on the B.O.D.

The core group that started Discovery Church is highly committed to serving and seeing the church grow and have an impact in the community.

Discovery Church is a Christ Centered family focusing on spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ through love, humility and repentance. We teach the Bible, verse by verse, chapter by chapter. All sinners are welcome!

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## THEOLOGICAL VALUES

The core-group that planted Discovery all, largely, sprang from a Baptist Church background and retained those theological distinctions. We believe and practice credo-baptism (i.e., believer's baptism) and require baptism by immersion, on a credible confession of faith for membership. The church is marked by the belief that the Bible is the Word of God, totally free from error and containing nothing but truth. We teach that the Bible is sufficient for knowing all that we need to know of God and all that we need in order to faithfully follow Christ.

Discovery Church accepts the doctrine of the absolute sovereignty of the Triune God over all things.

Our statement of faith affirms that the purpose of the church and the weekly worship gathering is to worship God and equip the saints for ministry in the world. In other words, while our preaching and worship consist of passionate calls for the lost to believe the gospel, we view the worship service as primarily designed for the saints.

Our statement of faith also affirms the bodily return of Jesus Christ in glory where he will finally and permanently punish the wicked in Hell and usher in the New Heaven and Earth where his people will dwell with him, joyfully, forever. Most of the congregation assumes a Pre-millennial eschatology and, in some cases, a dispensational eschatology as is common in our region. However, our statement of faith is purposely non-specific about millennial views in order to recognize the liberty among believers to differ on these matters, provided we all affirm "the return of Christ in glory, the resurrection of the dead, the punishment of the wicked in Hell, and the eternal life of the saints in the New Heavens and Earth."

More details can be found in our **Church Constitution** and **Statement of Faith**

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## **MISSION**

To proclaim the gospel and to equip people to become wholehearted followers of Christ.

## **VISION**

We see Discovery Church exercising a vital outreach to the community of Yankton with the gospel of Christ.

We see creative outreach ministries to the community taking place with seeds of the gospel being sown at each.

Through inspiring worship, we are glorifying God. Through the faithful preaching of the word of God, we are seeing people come to know Christ and becoming wholehearted followers of him.

With our unique and expanding storefront location, we are seeing new people coming to check out this vibrant downtown church. Many newcomers end up calling Discovery home because the love and care of Christ is demonstrated here. Lives are transformed as we worship in spirit and people respond to the truth of God's word which is clearly taught.

We see a vital youth ministry helping teens commit to following Christ as they pursue life.

We see people being equipped to serve Christ as they discover the joy in serving Christ by using their gifts and talents to build up the body at Discovery Church.

## **CORE VALUES**

Inspiring Worship

Welcoming Atmosphere

Biblical Preaching and Teaching

Gracious Giving

Loving Community

God Dependent Prayer

Multigenerational Ministry

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## **THEOLOGICAL CONVICTIONS OF PASTOR CORY**

Because our second staff pastor will, necessarily, work very closely with Pastor Cory, the elders and search team agreed it would be good for Pastor Cory to highlight his some core theological and practical convictions. This enables each prospective candidate to discern how well he will be able to work in harmony with Pastor Cory and sit happily under his preaching.

### **Salvation**

I'm a big believer in the Doctrines of Grace. In other words I'm a "five-point Calvinist" in my view of salvation. I believe that salvation is a total work of God (Romans 9). Salvation is the liberation from our bondage to sin and the imputation of Christ's righteousness, that we may stand justified before our Creator and Lord (Romans 5:8-18; 6:1-4). There is an unfathomable depth of grace and love whenever God's Spirit changes the heart of a sinner, gives faith, and justifies the ungodly. The regeneration of sinners cannot be achieved by human means, planning or will and is an act of God's Spirit, accomplished through the atoning, propitiating work of Jesus Christ on the cross (Romans 4:5; John 1:12-14; 3:8). The call of the gospel is a call to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins and eternal joy in him. I believe that all the Father has chosen will turn from their sin in devotion to and love for Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus Christ loves and redeems all those whom the Father has chosen, that he loses none of all those who are given and that all who are chosen and kept by God have full assurance of eternal life in the presence of Christ (John 6:35-40).

### **Church-Polity**

I enthusiastically affirm our church's stance on the leadership consisting of a plurality of elders that are recognized as lay-pastors. Even though more responsibility is often laid at my feet by virtue of my vocational calling, I do not view myself as the boss, CEO, or as having a "rank" above my fellow elders. The only distinction between elders I see in the Scriptures is the distinction between those who are called to the ministry vocationally and those who are called to lead as volunteers.

I am also convinced that the congregation has a certain sphere of authority.

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This is most easily seen in matters of church discipline where the church must clearly make decisions about whether or not someone in the church ought to be removed over serious, unrepentant sin (Matthew 18:15-20). If the church has authority to remove members they ought also to have a roll in welcoming and including members.

I am also settled on a Complementarian view of men and women. Several biblical principles inform my view:

1. Men and women are created **equal**, in the image of God (Gen. 1:27)
2. The Spirit dispenses spiritual gifts according to his will, not by virtue of gender (1 Cor. 12:11).
3. Authority does not necessarily imply inequality.
  - Notice the relationship of God the Son to God the Father in I Corinthians 15:27-28. God the Son is equal with God the Father in every way (Col. 1:15-20) and yet, the Son submitted to the Father for their mutual joy and glory (John 17).
4. God establishes different roles for the sexes in Creation (Eph. 5:22-24; Genesis 2:15-18).
5. These roles are established for the home and would not, therefore, be reversed in the church (I Timothy 2:12-14).
6. Operating within God's design is rewarding (Ps. 19:7-11).
7. The different roles of men and women exist, primarily to illustrate and display the gospel (Eph. 5:25-33).

**Therefore**, men are *given* the role of elder in the church, not by virtue of superior gifts or nature but by God's divine decree that the relationship between husbands and wives and pastors and their congregation, would reflect the glory of the Gospel of Jesus Christ who submitted to his heavenly Father for the salvation and joy of all peoples.

### **Baptism**

I also enthusiastically stand behind our church's view that baptism is for believers upon a credible confession of faith. When discerning someone's desire to be baptized we are dedicated to discerning someone's understanding of the gospel and the visible fruit of that understanding. I think the evangelical landscape is marked by a desire to include as many people as possible and, while this is a noble intention, it has led the church to believe that, just because something isn't, technically, essential for salvation it is unimportant. I take Matthew 28:19-20 as a command from the Lord to baptize believers and therefore admonish professing Christians to be baptized as an act of happy obedience to the Lord.

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I would also add that membership in the local church ought to follow baptism. Baptism and membership are a pair. "Baptism should lead to belonging." In an age of individualism, anti-institutionalism, and relativism, Christians ought to be admonished toward formally belonging to a local church. As leaders of Discovery we are coming into a season where we feel our enthusiasm to lead people into membership is being renewed and our conviction that it is actually taught in the Bible is being strengthened. We envision a future where our people have a living and vibrant view of what it means to truly belong to a church.

### **The Lord's Supper**

I think it is wise to declare that the Lord's Supper is for baptized believers of gospel-preaching churches. I would view baptism as the "initiatory" sign of the New Covenant and the Lord's Supper as the sign of "Covenant Renewal". So, I think it is important to counsel people to be cautious in partaking and to be sure they are truly baptized converts.

### **Preaching**

I preach from the ESV as a matter of preference. As a matter of conviction I preach expository sermons. I believe that the Scriptures are literally God's word to us and that it communicates nothing but truth without error. Therefore, I believe the main point of my sermon should be the main point of the Bible passage that is being preached. I think it is wise to work through books of the Bible, passage by passage. I will occasionally preach topical sermons but that is rare and even when I preach topically I will tend to select one main passage from which to preach on that topic. To expose our congregation to the whole counsel of God I try to alternate each series of sermons between Old Testament and New Testament and alternate genres whenever possible. I believe it is my responsibility each week to point to and expound on the gospel not only as a call to the lost but also as an encouragement and reminder to the saints. I tend to preach anywhere between 30 and 50 minutes each time.

### **Ministry Programs**

While various ministry programs can be useful and encouraging in and of themselves, I believe we should simultaneously view them as a "A funnel into discipleship" or as a "means of developing a discipleship-minded church culture". In other words, I want each Christian in our church to know what it means to follow Jesus and feel like they've been given all the help they need to help others follow Jesus even when there isn't a specific program for it. When it comes to Children and Youth Programs I would especially want additional pastoral staff to lead with a heart for helping parents disciple their families.

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### **Spiritual Gifts**

I am a "Cautious Continuationist". So, I don't believe that the so-called "sign gifts" have necessarily ceased. However, it does seem to me that the NT does not teach every gift is static (as if it's a super-power). Additionally, it seems to me that many of the purported "sign gift" claims in our nation today are proven to be falsified (e.g., faith-healers, tongue speaking). So, while my reflex is to affirm the continuation of miraculous gifting in some believers, some of the time, in some places, I am cautious and hesitant to affirm every claim of authenticity when it come to sign-gifts.

### **Last Things**

I am an Amillennial, Partial Preterist. I take the passages referring to the one-thousand year reign of Christ as referring to the present reign of the Son of Man at the Father's right hand in heaven and the binding of Satan as indicating how the spread of the gospel binds Satan's power and influence to deceive and accuse believers. Likewise, I consider references to the "Great Tribulation" as either describing the persecution of first century Christians or as referring to the character of the age between Christ's first and second coming. I consider the bulk of Revelation as referring to the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70 and the final chapters as looking forward to the second coming of Jesus in glory, final judgment and new heaven and earth.

While I'm fairly settled on this view I am simultaneously a big believer in giving grace and liberty in this area. I think it is unwise to require one particular end-times view for membership or that all the elders must have the same eschatology. That's why I appreciate how our Statement of Faith sticks to the essentials when it comes to eschatology.

### **Miscellaneous Influences:**

- 9 Marks                                      The Trellis and the Vine by Colin Marshal and Tony Payne
- Desiring God                                      C.S. Lewis (especially the Chronicles of Narnia)
- The Gospel Coalition                                      Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology
- Canon Press                                      CCEF

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## **Yankton: The Community**

Yankton, South Dakota, is the mother city of the Dakotas. Long before it was established, the Lakota Native Americans welcomed explorers Lewis and Clark to the area, giving our beautiful lake its namesake. Shortly after being founded in 1861, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it as the capital of the Dakota Territory. A rich history full of politics, steamboats, farmers, immigrants, entrepreneurship, healthcare, education, and industry grew over the years, supported by the powerful Missouri River that flows along the southern border of the city.

Today, Yankton is a modern and thriving city with a population of 14,529. It boasts an incredible array of outdoor recreational activities, a growing historical downtown, numerous employment options, and it offers a safe, community-centered environment for people of all ages looking to make Yankton home.

Life in Yankton has always revolved around the Missouri River. Native Americans followed the river's flow to their destination centuries ago. They named the land "E-Hank-Ton-Wan" meaning "people of the end village." Yankton is rich in history and a city of firsts. It was the first capital of the Dakota Territory, which in the 1860s included Dakotas, Wyoming, and Montana. Yankton High School became the first high school in Dakota Territory. The first college followed soon after.

Yankton is also fortunate to have a leading medical center, which began when the Benedictine sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery arrived in 1887. Besides the monastery, the nuns have given Yankton a stunning chapel, a regional medical center, and an assisted living and senior care complex.

Mount Marty University is a small, Catholic liberal arts university based in Yankton. Mount Marty believes that the Benedictine values of awareness of God, community, hospitality, lifelong learning, and service are fundamental to the daily lives of students, faculty, and staff.

*U.S. News & World Report* recognizes Mount Marty University as one of *America's Best Regional Midwest Colleges*, and the *Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)* reports us to be one of the *Most Effective* and *Most Efficient* private universities in the state of South Dakota.

As the community has grown, Yankton has become a center for music, art, and theatre. The Missouri River is still the soul of Yankton. Families gather there in every season, for boating, fishing, strolling, picnicking, baseball, concerts, snowmobiling, and ice fishing.

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Yankton, SD has a population of 14,529 people with a median age of 40.4 and a median household income of \$41,727. Profile of the average Yankton resident is 36 to 45 years of age, married with minor children living at home, owns single-family home, employed full-time in a variety of professions, trades and service positions with 25 percent employed in health, education and social fields.

## **Yankton: The Weather**

Yankton, South Dakota gets 28 inches of rain, on average, per year. The US average is 38 inches of rain per year.

Yankton averages 35 of snow per year. The US average is 28 inches of snow per year. On average, there are 209 sunny days per year in Yankton. The US average is 205 sunny days. Average temperature in January is 24 for a high and 3 for a low. Average temperature in July is 86 for a high and 62 for a low.

Sperling's Comfort Index for Yankton is 6.9 out of 10.

The population in Yankton is 14,529. There are 1,696 people per square mile aka population density. The median age in Yankton is 39.3, the US median age is 37.4. The number of people per household in Yankton is 2.2, the US average of people per household is 2.6.

### **Family in Yankton**

- 50.0% are married
- 13.0% are divorced
- 31.9% are married with children
- 14.5% have children, but are single

### **Race in Yankton**

- 87.0% are white
- 2.7% are black
- 1.0% are Asian
- 2.8% are Native American
- 0.0% claim Other
- 4.0% claim Hispanic Ethnicity
- 2.5% Two or More Races
- 0.1% Hawaiian, Pacific Islander

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