

# DELHI INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The expatriate Interdenominational Church, New Delhi, India

## MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY AND PASTOR POSITION DESCRIPTION

### CHURCH PURPOSE AND MISSION

**Delhi International Christian Fellowship exists to make more disciples for Jesus Christ and extend His Kingdom.**

To make more disciples, we:

- Teach and preach the Bible as the word of God;
- Welcome everyone who attends our services and programs;
- Nurture new believers;
- Aspire to educational and fellowship programs that meet the maturity levels of each of our members;
- Provide pastoral care;

To extend Christ's Kingdom, we:

- Communicate the truth about Jesus Christ within the expatriate community in New Delhi
- Financially, prayerfully, and personally support charitable causes.

### MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

“The purpose of ministry in DICF is to bring glory to God by bringing people to a personal, loving, and maturing relationship with Jesus Christ, the Church of Jesus Christ, and each other.”

(Due to Indian government regulations and visa requirements, this is not a “missionary” opportunity. Relationships and outreach activities are to be limited to international expatriate singles, families, and their children.)

## THE DETAILS – PASTOR POSITION DESCRIPTION

- English as one's mother tongue.
- Not a citizen of India
- Degree from an accredited university and theological seminary.
- Ordained in a recognized denomination or church.
- Minimum of 10 years of lead pastoral experience.

- Extensive international living/ministry experience, preferably in a developing country.

## **THE NARRATIVE OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP**

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DICF needs a mature spiritual leader, a spiritual director. The work of this pastorate is the work of understanding our people, understanding expatriate life in India, and bringing spiritual hope and life to our attenders.

Our minister must be a person of quiet spiritual contentment. This is not a church to be driven, pressured, or pushed. DICF is a community to be patiently loved and cared for. Expatriates in India need that more than anything else.

Ministry here in New Delhi is much like an adult youth ministry. Winning the right to be heard by being with people in their good and hard times. Spending time with people in fun and recreation so a relationship is developed for healing and help. And the creative part of all of this is experiencing people from all over the world, from every theological perspective, denominational tradition, and from the plethora of people all along the spiritual knowledge and maturity path

Expatriate ministry here in India can be profoundly effective because living in India is at times difficult and frustrating. For expatriates in this uncomfortable and often unpredictable environment, the spiritual side of personality tends to come to the fore. To take advantage of this unique ministry opportunity the pastor must be a person who can effectively work through the challenges in his own life with a patient grace and equilibrium. This is a profoundly satisfying place to be a pastor.

### **1. Personal life**

Qualities:

- A joyful, flexible, loving, and content person
- Tested
- Patient
- Secure
- Wise
- Humble
- Authentic
- Able to live comfortably in chaos
- Happily married

Our pastor must be a person who looks for and finds the opportunities to enjoy his life in India. He must see ministry in India as a privilege and be a person of who reaches out rather than caving in. This means, the first responsibility of the pastor is to live with

equanimity in India, as a patient humble Christian whose life reflects a joyful Christ-like maturity.

Effective pastoring in India will take a joyfully centered person who has been through some significant pain and has come out the other side more focused on the important, less fussy with the insignificant, and knows the difference. An international pastor in India will be significantly less effective if personal issues and past concerns have not been effectively resolved. Life in India will only exacerbate pathology in one's faith, mind, attitudes, and relationships. Our pastor must first be secure and at peace with in himself, with his heavenly Father, with his spouse and children, and with his past.

Our pastor must be well married. Because of distance, discomfort, lack of conveniences, product and service frustrations, India will, in all probability, exacerbate the stress and fragility of an already weakened marriage.

## **2. Pastoral work**

Qualities:

- A joyful, flexible, loving, and content person
- So in love with Jesus Christ that his ministry is infectious and positively influences people
- Love the congregation of very diverse people
  - Love people, not one's expectations of them
- Quality preacher
- Creator of personal networks and connections
- Exclusively focused on expatriates
- Patient in accepting many divergent views of Christian faith while remaining true to our Statement of Beliefs
- Non-denominational in acceptance and perspective

The pastor's primary task is to love people from all over the world. All of his life, preaching, administration, and hospitality are to be focused on bringing people together around the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Our pastor must thrive on the freedom of our diverse non-denominational congregation - the freedom to wrestle through the Bible as it applies to a congregation that is not homogeneous, is constantly changing, and will never be completely understood. This means he must see the gospel through the appropriate cultural, economic, racial, and language filters. The truth of Christ is in and through all of those life elements but stands triumphantly above them. And that is where our pastor must be, lead, and preach.

Quality preaching to a broad-spectrum congregation of well-educated, experienced, and highly competent people is a high priority.

It is expected that preaching at DICF will:

- Be anchored in the Biblical text and teaching.
- Avoid political persuasion, bias, or specific national issues or celebrations.
- Use current imagery and language relevant to attenders from all over the world.
- Not assume familiarity with Christian terms or concepts.
- Always provide a meaningful take-home message that is applicable to everyday life.
- Elicit a heartfelt response.
- Move the listener towards a deeper relationship with Christ.
- Be carefully worded with the knowledge that 50 to 60 percent of the congregation have English as a second language.

In Rick Warren's words, preaching is an "ambidextrous calling." On the one hand, it needs to remain faithful to the unchanging Word of God. On the other hand, the message is not heard unless it meets the needs of an ever-changing world. Ours is a church seeking to live in this tension rather than retreat from it.

The pastor, while holding firm to the essential tenets of the Christian faith and standards outlined in our Statement of Beliefs, must be able to help the congregation find common ground in Christ, and focus on unifying beliefs. The pastor needs to be able to bridge the gaps between veteran Christians and tentative seekers, ethnic groups from all over the world, wealthy and poor, powerful and powerless.

The Pastor will plan the content of services in cooperation with the music directors and other worship leaders.

The position of pastor assumes the position of a Christian ambassador and chaplain to the broader expatriate community and the many diplomatic missions in New Delhi. (funerals, memorial services, significant national or international concerns and celebrations)

DICF acknowledges that the position of Pastor is a demanding job! We uphold the importance of carving out time for rest, recreation and renewal through study leave, vacation, and days off! We support the sanctity of time for one's family, marriage, health, and especially personal spiritual reflection and growth.

### **3. Church leadership**

Qualities:

- A joyful, flexible, loving, and content person.

- Create a celebratory and freeing congregational environment.
- Work with the church board as a leader of peers.
- Create and foster community.
- Accepting of all people.
- Produce excellence in services, documents, programs, and events in a difficult environment.
- Be wise and discerning in protecting the fragile character of the congregation (protect the community from financial, relationship, job, and visa predators).

As the Church leader, the primary work is to create and sustain a peaceful, accepting, secure, and joyful community environment.

The pastor will foster a Christian community culture that is so accepting, freeing, and joyful that the truth of God's love and Christ's offer of forgiveness becomes real enough to draw, both the seeker/outsider and build the committed/insider. This starts with the Church Board. We believe our leadership Board is a microcosm of the whole church. Our life as a church board is one of prayer, acceptance, joyful discussion, and mutual commitment to the best for each other and for our congregation.

**For more information and to submit your name  
as a candidate, please send your information to [dicfpastorcall@gmail.com](mailto:dicfpastorcall@gmail.com)**