

The International Protestant Church of Zurich, Switzerland.

The function of the profile is to give a description of the congregation which is seeking pastoral candidates. It is to outline the ministry and facilities of the church and its community. It is to give congregations and prospective candidates a basis for discussing a mutually fruitful ministry.

This Profile has been updated in the context of the search process for the position of a Senior Pastor.

Date: 15th JULY 2008

Name of church:

The International Protestant Church of Zurich, Switzerland

Mailing Addresses:

IPC

Zeltweg 20, CH-8032 Zurich

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Internet: www.ipc-zurich.org

Church membership:

Today: 500

8 yrs ago: 263

11 yrs ago: 190

14 yrs ago: 100

Membership make-up:

The church membership is cross-cultural and composed of members representing about 40 different nationalities and a wide variety of church backgrounds as well as professions e.g. Lawyers, doctors, university professors and business men. The largest groups are from North America, UK and Switzerland (mainly Swiss married with non-Swiss).

Worship Times:

Sundays 11:30 (weekly) and 18:30 (three times each month)

Average attendance:

11:30: 280 - 320

18:30: 100 (contemporary service)

Sunday school attendance:

Today: 110 average weekly attendance and 300 registered

8 yrs ago: 85 children

11 yrs ago: 40 children

There are a significant number of English speaking people in the city of Zurich.

Other English-language congregations in the community:

Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Christian Science, Vineyard and several independent (free) churches and fellowships.

Budget information (in approx. US\$)

2008: 776'050.00

2000: 300'000.00

Benevolence budget: 10% minimum up to 15% in some years

Church staff:

Senior Pastor full time

Associate Pastor full time

Secretarial Support (three persons, part time 80% totaling full time employees)

Secretarial Support volunteers

Paid organist and choir director

Part time custodial help

Brief description of the ministry for children:

The church provides a full programme of Christian education for children through the teen years. This includes a weekly nursery, occasional children's sermons, family worships, children's choirs, confirmation and youth programmes, family and youth retreats and special events and a Christmas pageant. In addition the congregation hosts and sponsors the local Boy Scouts of America troop.

Brief description of the ministry for the youth:

The church provides a youth programme for teenagers on Sunday mornings, confirmation classes, small groups, social events and weekend retreats.

Brief description of the ministry for adults:

Our programme emphasizes the centrality of worshiping in community. In addition, we offer Bible study programmes, class discussions reflecting on religious books, periodic retreats, prayer groups, annual Spring lecture series and a very active small group (home group) programme. The deacons ministry provides congregational help and pastoral calling.

Brief description of the ministry for women:

The church has women's support groups, a women's Bible study group and a Moms & Tots group as well as an annual women's retreat.

Description of the ministry for men:

Monthly men's breakfast, quarterly single day events for men (and sometimes fathers and sons), special interest trips to places of historical significance and an annual men's retreat.

The congregation related to a local church body in the host country?

IPC is an active member of the Association of Christian churches in Zurich (Evangelical Reformed Church of Canton Zurich), participates with local churches in shared worships, the fellowship of foreign language congregations and the annual Swiss Day of Prayer, shares Holy Week services every year with the neighbouring Anglican church and is a member of the Association of International Congregations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (AICEMEA) which includes several other congregations in Switzerland.

During the past year in what co-operative church or community programme has the congregation participated as an organisation?

World Day of Prayer, participating in ministry to youth and underprivileged in Zurich's urban neighbourhood and sharing in ecumenical services as listed above.

Brief description of Community and Missionary outreach activities:

Alpha Bible class for non-members, IPC annual community potluck dinner, various concerts and programmes open to the public, annual Messiah sing-a-long, and a Moms and Tots programme for young mothers. Outreach is one of the areas where IPC has a clear potential for growth.

IPC supports and is involved in various local and International missions projects.

List of three methods for maintaining and/or increasing church membership during the past year:

- Visitors to the church are recognized during the worship service and contacted by email, phone or letter.
- Personal contact by pastor and church members.
- Advertising in local hotels, schools, clubs, consulates, newspapers and website.

Has the congregation a purpose or "mission statement"?

"Growing together and reaching out in Christ".

As an international and inter-denominational, self-supporting congregation IPC has the following mission:

- to provide a spiritual home for English-speaking persons of different nationalities and church backgrounds
- to build a strong Christian fellowship
- to offer programmes of Christian Education for all age groups
- to minister to the variety of needs among the community
- to be a Christian witness in the community.

What special opportunities does the church face in the next five years?

Accommodating ongoing growth and strengthening community outreach.

What special problems does the church face in the next five years?

- transition from a very well accepted senior pastor who has lead the Church for 9 years to his successor.
- facility (space) limitations
- transition from "small" to "large" congregation

Brief description of the church facilities:

Worship location: IPC rents and shares a traditional church with rooms for Sunday School and other educational activities from the French Reformed and the Methodist churches as well as the adjacent cantonal high school.

Office space:

The church office is approximately 50 square meters in area and includes the pastors' offices, the secretaries' office and reception area and a church library/general meeting room. It is located 20-50 metres from the sanctuaries where we worship.

We consider the following pastoral activities to be most important as we look to the future:

Conducting worship and preaching

Pastoral counseling

Pastoral calling

Education for adults and for children/youth

Personal evangelism

Relating the faith to ethical issues in various areas

Cross-cultural relations with Christians of host country.

How many work hours in a typical week is the pastor expected to spend on top priorities?

It is felt that the pastor should be free to invest time as he/she sees fit, in keeping with the priorities listed above. The current associate pastor position was established as a result of the continuously growing workload of the senior pastor.