

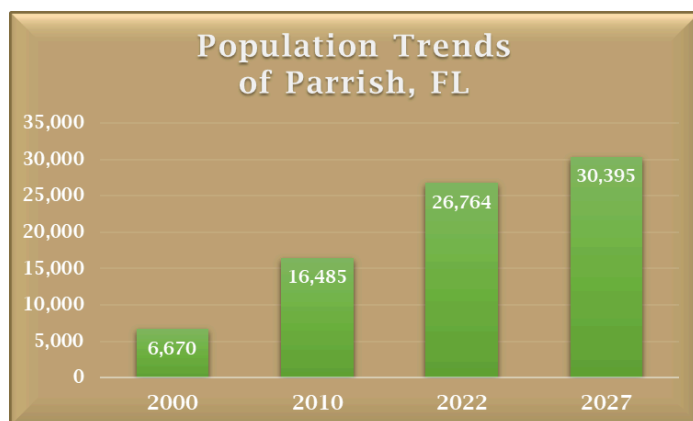
CHURCH PLANT PROSPECTIVE



Location and Description

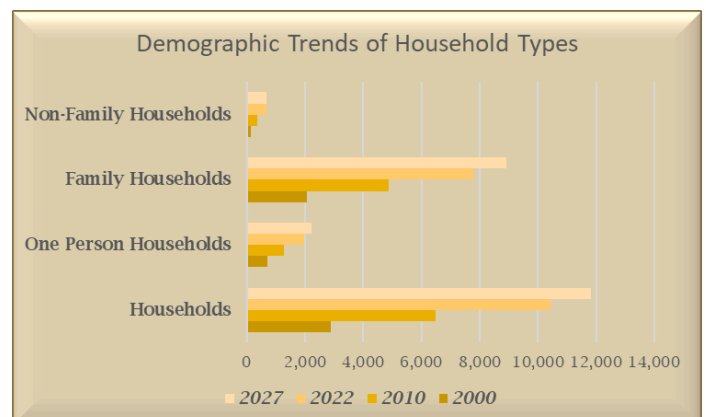
Parrish (34219) is a large, rapidly growing area of the Tampa Bay region in Florida. It is about fifteen miles from downtown St. Petersburg, twenty-five miles from downtown Tampa and Sarasota, and about one hundred and ten

miles from downtown Orlando. Parrish is also close to many of the Gulf of Mexico beaches. Parrish is traditionally a rural area, but there are suburban neighborhoods being built everywhere. Parrish has a current population of about 30,000 people. In 2000, there were only 6,670 people living in Parrish! There has been over 60% population growth in Parrish over the last ten years (from 2012-2022), with the growth trend continuing on into the next decade. As national population growth trends are expected to decrease in the next decade, Parrish is booming.



There is little-no reformed church presence in and around Parrish. The closest Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) church is Christ Presbyterian (our church) just south of the Manatee River in Bradenton, and Trinity Church in Tampa to the north. Likewise,

there are no like-minded, reformed churches (i.e. PCA, OPC, EPC, etc.) in and around Parrish. Many of the people moving to Parrish are working class – upper middle class families. The age distribution is somewhat varied, but a large percentage of people are younger families. This is an ideal location for a church



plant for any denomination, but especially for reform-minded churches. While we are looking to attract mature Christians who seek a healthy, reformed church, our main goal is to see non-Christians come to faith in Jesus Christ. Then, we seek for those new saints to be disciplined in the faith in order to become servants and future leaders for the Kingdom.



The Mother Church

Christ Presbyterian Church is a warm and welcoming, growing, healthy, mission/outreach-minded ARP church with sound leadership. There is currently one Pastor and seven Elders serving on the session. A total of twelve people currently serve on the Diaconate. The average Sunday attendance is around 135 people. The finances of the church are sound, and there is a current capital reserve fund of \$400,000. \$10,000 per year is allocated to the church's Church Planting Fund. There is a prominent focus on disciple-making in the church, and we currently have both men's and women's disciple-making ministries. We have an established Church Planting Team who plans for and advises the Session about our vision for church planting. We are currently looking to plant our first mother-daughter plant. We say "first" because we have a vision to be a church-planting church, and we expect that our daughter (and future sister) churches share in that same vision. We are prepared to send between ten and twelve percent of our people with the planter in the core group. We have a number of families and people who come to our church from the Parrish area.





The Ideal Church Planter

We are looking for a Pastor (a gentlemen who is currently ordained, or is ordainable in the ARPC) who has a passion for church planting, ideally with at least some experience. We plan to call the planter on staff here at CPC for between 6 months – 1 year in order to serve on our pastoral staff and gather a core group (estimated 10% of our current membership) here at CPC, while evangelizing and engaging in gospel outreach in Parrish (near where the church will eventually meet). The planter should be willing to relocate to the Parrish area in order to lay roots for the primary purpose of outreach and evangelism.

The Pastor should submit to the Westminster Standards (with reasonable exceptions), and be a good team player. The church planter should be sold out for the gospel; a solid, gospel-centered, conservative teacher-preacher-leader. We are avoiding any planter who is soft on liberalism and progressivism in the church. We are expecting a planter who is somewhere between the ages of 25 and 55 years old. Church planting from our perspective is all about reaching people for the Kingdom of God, and discipling one another for the sake of growing in Christ and being conformed into his image.



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