



**LEAD PASTOR
SEARCH PROFILE**

SOUTH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

We are an eclectic, intergenerational community of people trying to figure out what it looks like to live in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus today.

South Fellowship Church feeds on Gospel-based teaching that drives to the heart of the truths Jesus taught about Kingdom living and the needs of our modern world without shying away from the complexities this presents.

Our church is embedded deeply in the history and the future of our community and God's kingdom around the globe. We have wonderful church members, volunteers, ministry leaders, pastors, and staff that are all laboring together to walk out our mission of living in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus.

South's DNA is made up of authentic people in real community with all of the problems and joys that come from diving in headfirst spiritually and practically. We are people that enjoy a time of vibrant worship each week and open expression of our praise and love for Jesus.

We believe God's desire for the future of South is to develop individuals through spiritual formation and have an extensive impact in our community and the world by focusing on targeted transformation. The Board of Elders and staff have been working together to seek God and develop these areas of our vision into practical next steps.

It is our goal to give prospective candidates insight into our heartbeat and passion as well as the practical, day-to-day operations of our church. God is at work, and joining South could feel like jumping onto a moving train, but we



know God has the exact person in mind to join us. There is a great sense of expectation and anticipation among our leaders, staff, members, and visitors for what God is doing in our midst, and a growing excitement to meet our new Pastor.

Our hope is to provide some context regarding who we are as a church community, what kind of person God is preparing to join us in the future, and to give prospective candidates a clear way to take the next step.

O U R H I S T O R Y

On September 25, 1979, the leadership of South Presbyterian Church was removed from the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. due to our refusal to endorse certain constitutional rulings of the denomination. A vast majority of the church family left with them. The church building and its contents remained with the denomination. Not a single furnishing or paper clip was taken with us. This departure did not stop our church community from rolling out tarps to protect gym floors and setting up hundreds of chairs for the very next Sunday gathering. Over 580 people banded together, forming South Evangelical Presbyterian Fellowship. (Although our legal name still retains the words "evangelical presbyterian", we are in no way affiliated with any denomination. We remain a non-denominational church with a presbyterian polity.)

South continued renting facilities for close to 12 years. After five strong years at Denver Christian High School, South made their first transition to Englewood High School which allowed them to expand into three services with close to 1,000 attendees. Only six years later, South moved to Flood Middle School in Englewood. Amidst location and leadership changes, our community forged on as numbers ebbed and flowed.

In 1991, we bought our current facility – a dated strip mall on South Broadway in Littleton, Colorado. From nomads to landlords, South experienced a steep learning curve as we took on a new building with situational challenges and corporate endeavors with

major financial challenges. We inherited and had to deal with a bar, a bingo parlor, and a Planned Parenthood office. Even an adult bookstore and novelty shop opened adjacent to our parking lot. It was finally closed five years later over a US Supreme Court battle at our doorstep. The church itself was once a grocery store and was remodeled to include staff offices, classrooms for adults and children, a youth center, meeting areas, and a worship center. In addition to managing tenants, God called us to take over the ownership of a struggling daycare center in our mall, and we also launched a coffee shop to serve the Littleton community.

South has only had three lead pastors in its 40-year history. Our most recent Lead Pastor, Ryan Paulson, served faithfully for seven years. In the last three years, the church has enjoyed healthy spiritual growth as well as growth in attendance and financial giving. In 2016 God provided in abundance and South paid off the facility to become completely debt-free.

In recent years, South added the role of Executive Pastor, re-imagined our mission and values, re-structured staffing and systems, and did a series of updates to the facilities. There will continue to be maintenance needs and updates to keep up with the requirements of an aging but well-maintained property. In December 2018, the people of South generously gave \$80,000 to expand and improve our Food Bank ministry which feeds 35-50 families each week. All of these things have worked together to prepare us to step into a healthy and flourishing future.

CURRENT SNAPSHOT

Average attendance in the summer of 2019 was about 600 adults, 100 kids, and 50 students. We've experienced growth leading up to a weekly average of nearly 900 this past spring. Attendance has grown steadily over the past seven years.



South Fellowship is a healthy organization, with an engaged, strong staff of twelve full-time employees (including the Early Learning Center Director, Solid Grounds Manager, and Facility Manager), two part-time employees, and three to four ministry residents.

In addition to our strip mall housing the Church, Solid Grounds Coffee House, and our Early Learning Center, we rent additional storefronts to local small businesses. Income from these endeavors are invested back into the entities and for Kingdom purposes.

SOCIAL MEDIA

INSTAGRAM: @SOUTHFELLOWSHIP

FACEBOOK: @SOUTHFELLOWSHIP

MOBILE: SOUTH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH APP



A PARTIAL LIST OF MINISTRIES WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT:

A KIDS' MINISTRY going beyond sharing information to building relationships with kids through small groups to see transformation happen in kids' lives.

A STUDENT MINISTRY that is watching God increasingly stir the hearts of young people, break down walls, and develop lasting relationships as we seek to learn grace, love Littleton, and live lives of worship.

SEVERAL PARTNERSHIPS with local organizations that are making an impact on our local community.

A FOOD BANK that reaches fifty families or so each week, building relationships by meeting needs with dignity and compassion, led entirely by volunteers.

A WOMEN'S MINISTRY committed to developing, equipping, and empowering women to encourage and spur on other women toward pursuing wholeness in Jesus; in a phrase, becoming healing women who are healing women.

A CONNECTIONS & GROWTH MINISTRY providing groups, classes, events, serving opportunities, and more, all designed to connect people to our church community and help them grow.


A COMMUNITY CARE MINISTRY launching innovative support groups, benevolence, and redemptive compassion efforts.

AN OPERATIONS TEAM that leverages relational leadership and resourceful solutions to empower and equip our staff and congregation to work in their skillset and gifting.

A WELCOMING CELEBRATE RECOVERY MINISTRY that walks alongside broken people to find their true identity in Christ, led entirely by volunteers.

GLOBAL IMPACT through missionary partners around the globe.

LOCATION & DEMOGRAPHICS



Littleton, Colorado is a thriving suburb of the Denver metro area. The city has one of the few historic downtown areas in South Denver, filled with restaurants and local-owned shops. The town has a major events venue called Hudson Gardens, plus museums, parks and trails. Littleton is a desirable place to live for families due to the great school system and proximity to jobs as well as a healthy lifestyle. The town has more diversity than it seems at first glance. You can get around town on the biking trails, by walking or head up to downtown or the airport on the light rail.

BY THE NUMBERS

IN 2017, LITTLETON HAD A POPULATION OF 45.8K PEOPLE

The city is a part of the Denver Metro area that has a population of 2.85M people.

MEDIAN AGE 42.2

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME \$71,315

Between 2016 and 2017 the population grew from 45,072 to 45,848, a 1.72% increase, and its median household income grew from \$67,133 to \$71,315, a 6.23% increase. The population of Littleton is:

80% WHITE

12.4% HISPANIC OR LATINO

2.25% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN

THE LARGEST UNIVERSITIES IN LITTLETON ARE

ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (1,691 DEGREES AWARDED IN 2016)

DENVER SEMINARY (246 DEGREES)

MINISTRY APPROACH

Ministry at South Fellowship is characterized by prayer, collaboration, quality, and innovation, all through the focus of helping people live in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus.



Every weekend, South has two Sunday services (9:00a and 10:45a) that are well-attended.

Our staff works hard to create an engaging, relevant, and Christ-centered environment for children through adults. Our worship gatherings are known for their authenticity, focus on Jesus, and excellence, rooted in a culture of collaboration.

The rhythm of ministries and activities at South Fellowship keeps our building's doors open most days of the week, including:

VOLUNTEER-LED MINISTRIES

GLOBAL MISSIONS INVOLVEMENT

**BUSINESS ENTITIES INCLUDE THE SHOPPING CENTER,
SOLID GROUNDS COFFEE AND THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

**EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS:
DENVER SEMINARY INTERNSHIPS AND RESIDENCIES**

COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

TYPICALLY OVER 80 OUTSIDE GROUPS USE OUR FACILITY EACH YEAR. WE BELIEVE IN THIS OPEN-HANDED APPROACH TO OUR RESOURCES IN ORDER TO SERVE AS A COMMUNITY CENTER.

CHURCH STRENGTHS



- ✓ Gospel-centered, grace-filled preaching and teaching
- ✓ Commitment to prayer and hearing the Spirit speak
- ✓ Dedicated, relational staff and engaged, high-capacity volunteer leaders



- ✓ Debt-free, with generous people who believe in good stewardship coupled with wise investment
- ✓ A heart for serving and being present in our community
- ✓ A welcoming atmosphere with warm people and environment that feels like family



- ✓ Willingness to wrestle with hard issues and questions
- ✓ An intergenerational congregation that is committed, engaged, servant-hearted, and community-oriented

LEADERSHIP



Christ is the head of South Fellowship. Through seeking the Lord together our elder board sets the spiritual and strategic direction of the church, hires the lead pastor and assists in taking care of our people and ministries through prayer and volunteer leadership. A convenient way we describe this is to say that South Fellowship is elder governed and staff led.

There are a total of 9 elders, comprised of 6 lay elders (who serve 3-year terms with a max of 2 consecutive terms) and 3 staff elders (Lead Pastor, Executive Pastor, and Community Care Pastor). The elders meet twice per month and are involved in the shepherding of the flock with heavy involvement in any number of ministries, small groups and personal relationships including one-on-one mentoring with key staff members. The Lead Pastor reports to the Board of Elders. The Executive Pastor reports to the Lead Pastor and the rest of the staff report up through the Executive Pastor.

Our staff is empowered with all day-to-day decision making with few exceptions. They make the strategic direction a reality through the implementation of various plans and programs. The staff supports each other and maintains a sense of expectation and anticipation to see what God will do in our community. The team is willing to work hard to chart the course and walk alongside the many volunteers within the body.

The Executive Pastor currently manages the staff and the business entities' day-to-day operations with reporting responsibilities to the Lead Pastor.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

As a community of faith, we ground ourselves first and foremost in Jesus and the Scriptures. We also have great respect for the lives and faith of those who have gone before us. Both the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed provide an overview of the essentials of our Christian faith and the doctrine we believe is foundational to following the way of Jesus. While we believe the essentials are contained within the Creeds, we also have articulated our position on a number of key doctrinal issues in our short [statement of faith](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

South Fellowship is excited to continue to have the Gospel preached every week and we believe that Littleton and the surrounding suburbs have many people that we have yet to engage.

Our Elders have sensed the Spirit of God calling our community to go deeper in our faith through a focus on spiritual formation, and to see lives and hearts changed by focusing on targeted transformation projects and initiatives.

South has long had a heart for global missions, and our Global Outreach team has been working for months to refresh our Global Outreach strategy in conjunction with our targeted transformation efforts. We are excited about the opportunity to help the people of South Fellowship get involved in outreach, both locally and globally.

We're continuing to seek the Lord as how to best use our space for His Kingdom work. We are exploring and praying for ways to utilize our Center as ministry space or for hosting businesses that focus on helping people thrive.

Our team is also exploring an effective method to develop leaders and empower our people as they minister to others.

LEAD PASTOR SEARCH

South Fellowship is looking for a Lead Pastor with a major focus on serving as a pastor to our congregation through preaching/teaching and leading/mentoring.

PASTOR AND TEACHER

The Lead Pastor's primary role is pastor-teacher, reaching the full church body largely through worship services. As the primary teacher, his messages must be rooted in a responsible interpretation of the Bible, relating the Scriptures to current relevant experiences and cultural realities, ultimately encouraging a faithful love for God, each other, and those far from Him. This results as the Lead Pastor devotes adequate time to pray, plan, and prepare his messages. His dedication to study leads the flock he shepherds to live in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Lead Pastor will help South Fellowship witness and experience proper counsel, encouragement, instruction, and correction, always with a heart of love.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Operates as the church's primary Bible teacher and preacher, responsible for the regular Bible teaching ministry of the church**
- **Oversees, along with the Elders, the theology of all teaching in the church**
- **Collaborates with the Worship Pastor and others to plan the worship services**
- **Shepherds members of the body both corporately and individually**
- **Preaches approximately 35 weeks a year**
- **Ensures Gospel is the central focus**

LEAD PASTOR SEARCH

LEADER AND MENTOR

The Lead Pastor also has the role of being a servant leader and mentor. This is done through serving with the Executive Pastor, together with the Elders, in the responsibility of discerning the direction God is leading South Fellowship as we live in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus.

Highly visible to the community at South Fellowship, the Lead Pastor cultivates the long-term vision and supports the journey to follow God's leading and direction. He also shares general oversight for all church ministries with the Executive Pastor whose day-to-day responsibility is the management of staff and volunteers. Both the Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor serve together to create a well-balanced ministry that flourishes. Together they recognize and value dependence on the Holy Spirit and the development of other leaders, always seeing people as more important than programs and protecting them from destructive over-commitment, self-sufficiency or from working outside of their giftedness.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Lead and champion the overall vision for the direction God is leading South Fellowship**
- **Serve as a spiritual leader and mentor for the church**
- **Serve with the Executive Pastor in protecting the vision and carrying out the scope of responsibilities through oversight of staff and volunteers**
- **Collaborate with the Elder team**
- **Supervise Executive Pastor and Administrative Assistant**
- **Lead the direction of the church within the challenges of our modern culture**

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