

Opportunity Profile

Senior Pastor Dix Hills Evangelical Free Church Huntington Station, NY

www.dixhillsefc.org



Dix Hills Evangelical Free Church of Huntington Station, New York invites nominations and applications for the role of Senior Pastor.

Search Contact: Pat Facchiano, Search Team Co-chairman
Email: searchteam@dhefc.org

Church Profile

Dix Hills Evangelical Free Church was founded by ten Norwegian families in 1964. They acquired a four-acre property, including a house, on Foxhurst Road in South Huntington, our current location. The original 8,000 sq-foot church building was completed in a year, mostly by volunteers. We added a parsonage in 1970 and a large multi-purpose room (MPR) in 1996.

The church's first pastor, Trygve Landru, was installed in 1965. He was succeeded by Dwight Hodne (1974-1977), Bud Smith (1978-2005), Stephen Arters (2005-2015) and Jim Erwin (2018-2021). Over the years, there have also been several paid pastoral support staff. At present the church employs Interim Pastor Steve Carlsen and Associate/Youth Pastor Stephen Marshall.

Our church's strength has always been strong Biblical teaching. Worship has also been highly valued. From inception the style of music was primarily hymns. In the late 1990's the church embraced contemporary music as well, establishing a traditional service in the sanctuary followed by a contemporary service in the MPR. In the summer of 2022, we combined the two services into one "blended" service in response to a COVID-induced attendance drop and a desire to foster a unified, multi-generational congregation.

In 2017, we revised our Constitution to transition from Congregational governance to an Elder-led model. We recently developed a leadership structure that places responsibility for the various facets of church ministry onto teams. Each team has a lay leader who is accountable to an elder or pastor. This has significantly increased congregational engagement in ministry.

Over the past few years our church family has faced some difficult challenges, including the resignation of two pastors within five years, as well as division within the elder board, the loss of a much-loved 16-year-old girl to cancer, the serious moral failure of a youth pastor, and COVID-19 tensions.

God has been faithful in leading us through difficult times. We currently have strong, united leadership and a fresh vision for the future of our church. Our weekly calendar looks different now, starting with Sunday morning. Sunday School classes are followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments, and then a blended worship service. Wednesday night is now Family Night. A home cooked dinner is provided. After the

meal, we offer nursery care, a new AWANA program for kids, youth group, adult Bible studies and a prayer meeting. The atmosphere on Wednesdays is vibrant and the attendance has been strong.

Other activities include a preschool program, several ladies' Bible studies, and seasonal opportunities including a men's softball team, a women's retreat, a Christmas tea, a VBS program, a children's musical and youth group trips. In recent months we have sought to serve our community through a "free garage sale"/carnival, a clothing drive, and a toy drive.

We are excited to embark on a new journey with a fresh vision for the future of our church and our community. We are praying for wisdom and direction as we seek a Senior Pastor who is called by God to share our vision and to join us in this exciting new phase of ministry.

Community Profile

Dix Hills Evangelical Free Church is centrally located between several villages (South Huntington, Huntington Station, Greenlawn, Elwood, and Dix Hills) in the town of Huntington in the county of Suffolk, NY.

Compared to national averages, there are more adults who are married and slightly less children and younger adults in our area. There are 15-20% more elderly adults than the national average. These factors indicate our area leans "traditional" compared to other places.

Within an 8-mile radius of the church, the population is approximately 65% white, 20% Hispanic and 8% black. The Asian population is small but growing. Our area is highly educated compared to national averages, with 47% of Huntington residents having completed a Bachelor's or post-graduate degree.

While the average home in Huntington sells for around seven hundred thousand dollars, many of the homes immediately surrounding the church are valued at over one million dollars. The median household income in Huntington is \$131,500 – 59% of the households in our area are considered "affluent families" according to the US Census (the national average is 15%).

There is a lot of money in our community, but the high cost of housing and general cost of living puts significant financial pressure on many families, particularly younger ones. While there is little poverty immediately surrounding the church, there are people in daily need within our church's "circumference of ministry". One of the poorer sections of our county is located approximately 3.5 miles from the church, in Huntington Station. "The Station" is a central area for off the books laborers and struggling immigrant families.

Learning how to relate well to Catholics and minister to them with grace and truth is critically important to effective ministry in our area. Evangelicals are a small minority. 52% of Suffolk residents identify as Catholic. Only 7% of Suffolk residents identify as Protestant. There is also a significant Jewish population (10%) in our area and a growing Muslim population. There is a well-attended mosque 1.3 miles from the church and Muslim holidays were recently recognized in some local school districts.

Candidate Profile

Job Description – The right candidate will:

- Be a leader who can communicate scriptural truth and a biblical message. He needs to clearly and accurately expound on Scripture.
- Have a thorough knowledge of Scripture.
- Be a leader that encourages his congregation to move to a higher level of commitment to Christ and understanding of the Bible.
- Be a leader with presence who can connect with a multigenerational congregation with differing levels of faith.
- Be a leader with a passion for outreach and evangelism.
- Have a heart and strategy for leadership development and discipleship.
- Be willing and able to co-lead with the elders and unite ministry team leaders.

Character Qualities – The right candidate will:

- Be a leader with integrity who prayerfully seeks God in his personal and professional life.
- Be a man with a servant's heart who will submit to God's will for his life and that of the congregation.
- Be a spiritually and emotionally mature man who can counsel those entrusted into his care.
- Meet the biblical qualifications of a leader as in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3.
- Have a strong constitution and be comfortable with the culture of the Tri-State area.

Education and Experience – The right candidate will:

- Possess a graduate degree from a recognized theological seminary.
- Be in agreement with the EFCA statement of faith.
- Be ordained in the EFCA or willing to become ordained in the EFCA.

- Have at least 5-10 years pastoral leadership experience.
- If married, both the pastor and his wife should be in agreement regarding a pastoral calling over their lives.

We welcome applications and nominations.
Please send résumés or contacts to:

Pat Facchiano, Co-Chairman

Email: searchteam@dhefc.org