



PRES HOUSE COUNCIL 2017-2018

February 2017

The purpose of the Council is to provide spiritual leadership to the Pres House community. We develop and express that spiritual leadership in three ways*:

1. Relationship with God
2. Relationship with others
3. Service to the community

Many people in our community have very busy lives; though many of the activities are great, we are not interested in adding one more task to a list. Instead, we seek to move about our daily lives in ways that deepen our capacity to follow Jesus' command to, "***Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.***"

Pres House Council primarily invites you to go deep with God and neighbor. Through the regular sharing of our lives with one another—our passions, our questions, our joys, our wounds, our challenges—we inspire our community to bear witness to the radical grace of Christ not only at Pres House, but in all the spaces of their lives.

We invite you to prayerfully consider being a part of the Pres House Council. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Erica Liu (erica@preshouse.org).

Important 2017 Dates – Mark your calendars!

March 27th – Council Applications Due

April 10th – Applicants notified no later than 4/10/17

April 23rd – Transitional Council Meeting with New and Old Members
Leadership Team Election

May 19th – May 21st – Council Retreat at Lake Waubesa Bible camp in McFarland, WI

August 31st – Council Dinner and Meeting at Pres House, 5:30 – 8:30PM

Monthly Council meetings on **Sundays, 1:00-3:00 PM**: Exact dates TBA; we meet 1x/month September through May.

** For detailed information, see page 2*

Pres House Council

Being a part of the Pres House Council is a significant and meaningful commitment which will grow you and the community. We ask Council members to commit to three, specific ways of leading during the 2017-2018 year:

1. **Relationship with God:** Engaging in weekly Sunday Worship and Dinner.
While “going to church” by itself is not an indication of one’s relationship with God, to be a spiritual leader in the Pres House community, we ask you to commit to weekly Sunday Worship as one of your spiritual practices.
2. **Relationship with others:** Engaging in weekly community with others.
We believe that to grow in relationship with others requires a regular rhythm of spending time together. It is through the sharing of life that fertile soil and conditions are created for organic things to sprout up—for people’s stories to be heard, passions enacted, response to the challenges around us met, for the grace and love of Christ to unfold. To be a spiritual leader at Pres House, we ask Council members to commit to weekly, intentional relationship with others.

How this looks can vary. Small groups and worship band already meet weekly which everyone is welcome to join; or you can start something new that matches your interests—an intramural sports team, knitting group, study group, weekly meal, weekly rock climbing, etc.—be creative! The main goal is that you are in regular relationship with people in the Pres House community (Sunday plus one more day during the week).

3. **Service to the community**

- a. **Monthly Council Gatherings:** These times together focus on leadership development, collaborative planning, and decisions that need to be made.
- b. **Supporting Pres House community needs such as:**
 - i. Fall and Spring Kick-off events
 - ii. Sunday hosting and leadership (2x/semester)
 - iii. Finals Lounge hosting (1-2 shifts)
- c. **Lead at least one “service” for the community during 2017-2018; these can be done in collaboration and partnership with other people and organizations. Possible examples are (certainly not limited to—be creative!):**
 - i. Volunteer coordinator for Sunday hosting or Worship A/V support
 - ii. Organizing a service event (i.e., food pantry, making kits for homeless youth, helping lead Break With A Purpose, etc.)
 - iii. Small Group Leadership
 - iv. Council Leadership Team or Board member
 - v. Prayer during Sunday Worship
 - vi. Organizing an Ally Training/Workshop at Pres House with the LGBT or Multi-cultural Student Center
 - vii. Coordinating an event like Post-Grad Priorities, Christmas Party, etc.
 - viii. Organizing a Pres House team to run the Madison Marathon to raise money for World Vision



PRES HOUSE COUNCIL APPLICATION

Thank you for considering service on the Pres House Council! Please help us get to know you a little by filling out this application; contact Erica Liu, Campus Co-Pastor, if you have any questions. Your responses to this form will be made available to other members of the Pres House Council and the pastoral staff at Pres House. **Application due March 27, 2017.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Home Phone (____) _____

_____ E-mail _____

Permanent Address _____

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

On a separate piece of paper, briefly respond to the following questions (limit your answers to one page typed):

- A. Please describe yourself in 100 words or less (i.e. line of work/study, family, hobbies, interests, etc).
- B. Please share about your faith journey.
- C. Please describe the interests, skills and experience you bring to the Pres House Council (i.e. work experience, previous leadership experience, specific skills and passions, etc.).
- D. Please describe your current and past involvement in the ministry at Pres House.
- E. Is there anything that you would like to include or ask that we have not given you the opportunity to express? (Optional)

Council Leadership Team

Three Council members are elected to serve on the leadership team. This team is responsible for leading, helping, guiding, and focusing the Council as whole. They will facilitate the Council meetings, establish and maintain communication with individual Council members coach the Council body, and hold members accountable to the Council covenant. If you are interested, check this box.

Pres House Board of Directors

Six Council members are also elected to serve one year terms on the Board with other Madison community members. Being on the Board is a privilege and carries with it more responsibilities and expectations. If you are interested, please check this box and we will follow up with you to give you more information.

Pres House Council Covenant

As a member of the Pres House 2017-2018 Council, I commit to:

1. Participating in the Pres House Council Retreat on May 19th – May 21st 2017.
2. Making weekly Sunday Worship at Pres House a spiritual practice.*
3. Intentional, weekly relationships with others at Pres House.*
4. Fully engaging in monthly Council gatherings.
5. Helping with outreach efforts in the Fall and Spring.
6. Supporting hospitality needs on Sundays and during Finals.
7. Serving the wider community in at least one, particular way.

** We don't want you to think of coming to Sunday Worship and weekly gatherings as attendance at a class; rather, it is more like a treasured family gathering in which you are an important member. When you are not there, you will be missed. We understand that life happens—exams get scheduled, situations come up, trips out of town are taken—and that there are times people will not be able to be physically present on a given week. When those times arise, we ask that you let someone in our family know that you will not be there.*

As a person committed to growing in spiritual leadership with others at Pres House, I will:

1. Seek to grow in my understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. I will strive to seek after God in how I live my life and embrace being challenged and also challenge others.
2. Stay in relationship with the community, especially in challenging times. Rather than withdrawing or disengaging, I will be honest and proactive in my communication; I will stay at the table.
3. Be a team player working in collaborative partnership with others. I will both seek and give support.
4. Keep short accounts, as well as keep confidentiality and trust within the group. As the Council works towards consensus, I will be honest in my thoughts and communication, open to other people's input, and support a decision once it has been made.

In all these things, I will approach my sisters and brothers with humility and grace.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

***“Community cannot feed for long on itself;
it can only flourish where always the boundaries are giving way to the coming of others
from beyond them – unknown and undiscovered brothers.” ~ Howard Thurman***

REFERENCES

Please list two people, other than relatives, who would be willing to be contacted by the Pres House Council about your background, gifts and interest in Pres House. *We may or may not choose to contact one or both of your references.*

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

Relationship _____ Email _____

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

Relationship _____ Email _____

Please return this application to:
Rev. Erica Liu
Pres House
731 State St.
Madison, WI 53703



Or e-mail as an attachment to:
erica@preshouse.org