

Immediate need for a full time, short term Shared Merger Coordinator to support two neighboring presbyteries and their churches as they develop a plan for formal merger. The Merger Coordinator will attend to the detailed actions that will enable the separate presbyteries to merge into one in a manner that develops a more efficient and effective witness to God's Kingdom in this region for this time. 1 yr contract with possible extension.

The job description below is a full time, short term position. We will accept resumes through February 17, then evaluate candidates. Resumes may continue to be sent, but will be in later rounds of consideration if necessary. We will hire when we find the right person.

Job Description for Shared Merger Coordinator Lackawanna and Lehigh Presbyteries

Purpose:

The role of the Shared Merger Coordinator is to support two neighboring presbyteries and their churches as they develop a plan for formal merger. The Merger Coordinator will attend to the detailed actions that will enable the separate presbyteries to merge into one in a manner that develops a more efficient and effective witness to God's Kingdom in this region for this time.

Accountability:

The Merger Coordinator will be accountable to the General Presbyter for staff oversight. S/he/They will also be responsible to both presbyteries' councils through the joint Personnel Committee.

Responsibilities:

Coordinate the detailed steps the presbyteries, congregations, and leadership will need to take to live fully into their shared calling.

In coordination with the General Presbyter, work with Presbytery and Synod leadership to enable a complete merger of Lehigh and Lackawanna Presbyteries. This Merger Coordinator will manage the "four mergers" that will occur simultaneously:

- Relational – the initial and most important in any merger, continuing to create opportunities for leaders, congregations, committees, and councils to create deeper connections and merge their work. This is primarily the responsibility of the General Presbyter, with the Merger Coordinator having a supportive role
- Fiscal – in cooperation with the shared treasurer and the presbyteries' accounting firm, creating a clear picture of both presbyteries' financial status, and working to merge the two presbyteries' financial records
- Ecclesiastical – in cooperation with the General Presbyter and the stated clerks of the presbyteries, working with the appropriate Synod and General Assembly staff and committees to get initial approval of the merger by the 2024 Synod Assembly and final approval at the 2026 General Assembly (or by the GA Administrative Committee on Boundary Changes if it is reestablished by the 2024 GA)
- Legal – in cooperation with the presbytery's attorneys, taking the appropriate steps to merge the legal corporations of two presbyteries, in accordance with Pennsylvania state law.

Person Description:

The person who fills this position should

- be able to work collaboratively with the General Presbyter, stated clerks, moderators, councils, and committees of both presbyteries
- be able to take a pastoral approach when addressing issues, showing sensitivity to diverse theological perspectives and cultural backgrounds.
- be a multi-tasker, able to attend to work on several different aspects of the merger process at the same time
- be familiar with Presbyterian polity, including the Book of Order and the governing documents of both presbyteries
- be a self-differentiated person who can deal with the anxiety some people will feel because of the changes the proposed merger will cause them to undergo
- be familiar enough with financial and legal issues to work with treasurers, accountants, and attorneys in processing needed changes
- be accountable for maintaining a pace of task completion needed to insure the initial and final merger proposals will get to the 2024 Synod and 2026 General Assemblies, respectively, in time for them to be docketed for the Assemblies' work.

Terms:

The Merger Coordinator is a full-time contract position for a one-year term. After a comprehensive review, the term may be extended. Compensation is negotiable and commensurate with experience, qualifications, and performance.