University Baptist Church

think CRITICALLY

live CREATIVELY

love CONTINUALLY

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
University Baptist Church was founded by a group of dedicated progressive Baptists who wanted to bring their love of Jesus to the LSU community. The modern membership walks the line between our rich heritage and 21st century church issues. We are an engaged and open-minded congregation who wants to be relevant and giving to our neighborhood and city. We are searching for a pastor to both lead us and walk the walk with us into a future that is uncertain but exciting.

UBC Today

We currently have approximately 175 in Bible Study and Worship each Sunday morning. Our Sunday morning service style is traditional. We do not have regularly scheduled Sunday night or Wednesday night services, but we do have periodic evening series and activities that have 50-75 in attendance. In addition, members are involved in weekly Women’s Bible Study, Men’s Bible Study, and Wednesday noon prayer and book studies. As an outreach to the community, we offer a Mothers’ Day Out program for babies through Pre-K. Additionally, we utilize our beautiful, treed campus for community-wide events such as Spring Family Fun Day, Fall Festival, and a Live Nativity production. We have an active partnership with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and support missionaries associated with other organizations.

As described in more detail on our Missions page, UBC has been and continues to be a leader in community relations and activities. We are especially proud of our outreach to the international community of students and faculty at LSU, welcoming them to our fellowship activities as well as providing Friday Night English Conversation in members’ homes and Sunday morning worship and Bible study.

Beginnings

UBC began as a mission of First Baptist Church in 1947 for the students, faculty, and staff of LSU. The membership of UBC has historically been closely associated with LSU, as our name implies, and the neighborhoods that surround the campus. Today, while the ties to LSU are still strong, our congregation is diverse and includes many professions and backgrounds. UBC started down a bold path when we welcomed an African-American college student during the height of the Civil Rights struggles. We have continued on that bold path by ordaining women into leadership roles and inviting all races and nationalities to worship with us.
Covenant

Having been led, as we believe of the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as believers in Christ.

We pledge ourselves therefore by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk in Christian love; to be just in our dealings with one another; and to strive for the spiritual growth of this fellowship through worship, proclamation, education, and ministry. We further pledge to watch over one another; to remember one another in prayer; to help one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense; but always to be ready for reconciliation and mindful of the admonition and example of our Savior to secure it without delay.
Core Values

We are guided by these Principles and Values

GOD CENTERED
We owe our existence to the grace of God.
We owe our eternal salvation to Jesus Christ.
We are led by the Holy Spirit.

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY
All Scripture is valuable for Christian growth and discipleship.
The ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ are our perfect example.
Intellectual honesty enhances our Christian faith.

EQUALITY
All people are of equal value and importance to God.
Men and women have equal privileges and responsibilities in God’s service.
Clergy and laity differ in function and calling, not in status or purpose.
Our church is autonomous and is governed solely by its members.

DISCIPLESHIP
Our Christian fellowship seeks to develop and equip its members.
We live out Christ’s calling by growing in knowledge
and a deeper relationship with him.

LOVING OTHERS
We promote God’s kingdom through the loving testimony
of life example, personal witness and mutual trust.
We share our time, talents, and material resources with others.
Mother’s Day Out
The mission of UBC's MDO is to show God’s love by nurturing and stimulating each child’s development in a loving, secure environment, and to encourage the lives of growing families. Babies from four months old to children four years old participate in intellectual, social, and spiritual activities. The program uses the All Ready Curriculum, which is based on current brain development research. MDO is open to all families regardless of church affiliation, has a waiting list, and is financially self-supporting.

Superheroes of Kindness
Superheroes of Kindness introduces our youngest members to community service and outreach in a fun developmentally appropriate way. Pre-schoolers through elementary age children gather each month to do something to show kindness to others. They don superhero capes and head out into the community. Activities have included creating crafts to hand out to residents of assisted living centers, creating signs and treats to share with fire departments and school teachers, setting up food drives to benefit the Baton Rouge Food Bank, and beautifying our own church campus.

Women’s Prison Ministry
Regular visits to the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women make for a dynamic opportunity to love people who desperately need to know someone cares for them. Planned retreats for spiritual growth and other visits during the year contribute to a challenging, but wonderful, ministry to this community. Several of our members have received specialized training to provide targeted spiritual and life-skill development for the female inmates.

Family Tree Café
Recognizing there was a need in our neighborhood, UBC began a program in the summer of 2017, where families can bring young children for free, safe, and fun play. Located in a portion of our Fellowship Hall, we have added age-appropriate toys, play stations, and indoor play equipment for babies through elementary age children. Parents are encouraged to fellowship and have the opportunity to make contacts with other parents while their children have fun. The Cafe has been so successful, family meal times and Bible study have been added.

Civil Rights and Equity Partnerships
UBC has been a leading voice in civil rights issues in the Baton Rouge area since its founding. UBC was a charter member of the Baton Rouge Interfaith Federation, and continues to contribute to this multi-faith alliance for peace and understanding. In 2016, UBC along with other like-minded organizations joined Together Baton Rouge in an effort to strength citizen leadership and take action on issues affecting our community. The UBC congregation came to the aid of a sister African-American congregation, Greater Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church (GMOMBC), when their church and many of their homes were flooded in the August 2016 floods. UBC members provided Christmas presents for GMOMBC children and organized both physical and financial relief with other churches and the CBF. The two congregations have enjoyed worshipping together and plan to continue this partnership.

University Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  HTTPS://UBC-BR.ORG
To Highland with Love

The To Highland With Love Ministry was begun more than a decade ago to minister to the students, faculty, and staff of Highland Elementary School, located only a few blocks from UBC. Highland is a small public school with an at-risk student body where 76% are from low income families and a majority of the students perform below average on standardized tests.

UBC ministers to Highland in many ways, but the premier program is Reading Friends, where a church member is paired with one student to spend time reading and building friendships. Each year the 5th grade students hold their graduation ceremony in our sanctuary and enjoy a special reception in our Fellowship Hall prepared by members of UBC.

Open Air Ministries

UBC has partnered with three other Protestant churches to serve a large homeless community, both physically and spiritually. Each Sunday, in the parking lot of an abandoned payday loan business, 150-200 homeless adults and children gather for worship and Bible study. Donated food, clothing, and personal items are available. Several UBC members and other cycling enthusiasts have begun an extra benefit for these citizens by repairing and distributing bicycles to those who cannot afford their own vehicle or public transportation.

Church of the Nations

In the late 1980’s, UBC partnered with other local Baptists and began a ministry to internationals. In 1995, the Church of the Nations moved to UBC’s campus and began to focus on the unique needs of international students, scholars, and their families. Within and without the walls of UBC, volunteers provide an opportunity for internationals to participate in English conversation practice, study about the Christian faith, and help them to adapt and thrive within the American culture. While CoN holds separate worship services, they join the congregation in Bible study, fellowship, and other activities.

Ministering to the Poorest Among Us

UBC collects funds to provide school supplies for students in Lake Providence, a small and extremely poor town in northeast Louisiana. Lake Providence is the parish seat of East Carroll Parish, which has been identified as one of the 15 poorest counties in the US. UBC also supports the Baton Rouge Food Bank with a summer food drive, as this is the time of year when there is a greater demand for assistance for families with school-aged children. Member groups also provide home-cooked meals for the St. Vincent de Paul Men’s Shelter in downtown Baton Rouge.
Located between Lafayette and New Orleans, the capitol city of Baton Rouge serves as the perfect representation of the many different cultures in Louisiana. The city itself is a melting pot of different communities that share a rich history and promising future.

As home to the main campus of Louisiana State University and several smaller colleges, the city buzzes with the energy of youth while holding fast to its traditions in Southern lifestyle and historic sites. Football games and festivals dominate the fall while concert series and art shows are spread throughout the spring and summer.

Southern hospitality, unique cuisine, and lively music make Baton Rouge a warm-hearted city with something for everyone to enjoy.

**Things to Do**

Baton Rouge is an outdoorsman’s paradise for all the members of the family. The Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation Commission boasts more than 180 parks with a mix of facilities including an observatory, swamp nature center and conservation areas, a performing arts theatre, an equestrian park, an art gallery, an arboretum, a zoo, seven golf courses, a number of dog parks, and an extreme sports complex, complete with a rock wall, concrete skate park, BMX track, and velodrome. Our rich location and natural resources offer opportunities for other outdoor activities including fishing, hunting, kayaking, and paddle boarding.

Another highlight the city offers is the library system. Baton Rouge provides more than a dozen public library locations, along with several bookmobiles that serve different community outreach projects. Each library hosts programs and events such as book signings, story times for children, monthly reading groups, computer classes, SAT/ACT prep classes, resume writing and editing classes, and mock interview programs, just to name a few.

**Social/Political Climate**

Baton Rouge’s political climate has changed in recent years. In July, 2016, the shooting of Alton Sterling, and soon after the shooting of several Baton Rouge police officers, led to social and political unrest. In August, 2016, the city experienced catastrophic rainfall that flooded an estimated 146,000 homes and thousands of businesses. The aftermath of these events sparked protests and debates, but also mobilized outreach, and encouraged citizens to become more involved in local politics. Organizations UBC partners with, such as Together Baton Rouge, brought our community together and proved that the focus for most citizens in the wake of these events is building relationships, equipping citizens with leadership skills, and achieving change on concrete issues.
**Location**

UBC is fortunate to be located within two miles of LSU on approximately nine acres of treed property along historic Highland Road. We are surrounded by a mix of housing - from older homes with couples who have lived here their entire lives, to young families in new construction, to student apartments. There is a large selection of places to eat, shop, and play within a few minutes of UBC.

**Campus**

Our property consists of a large Sanctuary, a smaller Chapel, a Fellowship Hall, two education buildings, a choir room and an administration building. We also have two large green areas - a park-like setting fronting Highland Road and a recreational area at the rear of the property. In 2012, UBC began a Capital Campaign that raised over $800,000, which represented 95% of the total amount pledged. This money was used for many small projects around the campus to improve existing areas as well as a renovation of our Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful gathering place for Sunday School classes, dinners, meetings, and our newest ministry, the Family Tree Café.

**Finances**

UBC is in a good financial position. We have a contribution goal for the 2017 fiscal year of $850,000. In the 2016 fiscal year, we collected 87% of our goal. Our philosophy is to set a challenging but reasonable contribution goal that easily covers our fixed expenses, and allows for flexibility to handle unexpected maintenance issues as well as to fund new ministry opportunities that might present themselves. In 2016, this budgeting approach provided funding for our operational expenses and an additional $24,000 in funds for two maintenance escrow accounts for future needs.

UBC is blessed to be debt free and has been for many years. Our congregation has proven to be faithful givers and great stewards of the beautiful campus that was built by those who came before us.

**Staff and Governance Structure**

We currently have a full-time senior minister who is supported by ministers/directors of music, college, youth and children and three office staff. Congregational support is supplemented by significant volunteer workers assisting with organizing and planning of church activities. We utilize a governance structure headed by an elected Governing Board and have an active service-focused Deacon Body.
Preliminaries

Possibilities

vision for our church
vision for our pastor
the call

Profiles
During the season of Lent, 2017, the congregation of UBC gathered weekly. Members and friends came together for fellowship, to remind ourselves who we are as a church family, and to articulate our shared values and vision. Each evening included dinner, a themed presentation, and guided conversation.

We looked back on the deep, rich history of our congregation. Some individuals have been lifelong members and several charter members and/or their children are still active at UBC. The importance of this heritage cannot be overlooked.

UBC has, for many years, been a place for fellowship and Bible study, for love and support during times of need, and to explore opportunities to serve God. Sunday School classes provide the most significant source of experiencing God’s love at UBC.

However, along with the pride we have for UBC’s boldness in its open-door policy and support of women in leadership, we have concerns, including dwindling numbers and an aging congregation.

Members spoke of the things they love about UBC. Our ministries and mission activities are varied and exciting, offering many opportunities for members and neighbors to build friendships and serve others.

Yet some are eager for change, such as adding a contemporary worship, offering small group gatherings during the week, and targeting events to engage the unchurched and those who have left the church.

Our discussion recognized leadership is an important area in a Baptist church. Members voiced a desire for the pastor of UBC to be a “leader among leaders,” striving for personal and spiritual growth and active in the community.

All who gathered believe in the future of UBC. The people of UBC see the next chapter as an opportunity to bring people to a belief in Christ, lead believers toward a more mature faith, and help restore our broken world. Each individual’s distinctive perspective and experience brings a unique gift to our congregation, and our shared vision unites us in our hope for the future.
Vision for Our Pastor

UBC is searching for a fellow Christian traveler who has the calling and experience to walk alongside our unique congregation, to help us grow in our faith, and to share God’s love with others.

Experience: Our Pastor should have experience as a senior or associate pastor, or as a ministry leader.

Education: Our Pastor should have, at a minimum, a Master of Divinity or equivalent degree from an accredited seminary.

Important Qualifications and Qualities:

Worship:
- be an engaging speaker who lives through his/her faith.
- collaborate and plan worship services with the staff, including different worship styles as we have a diverse and multi-generational congregation.
- present sermons that
  - are Biblically sound and theologically and historically supportable.
  - are relevant and applicable to daily living while challenging the congregation to grow spiritually and intellectually.
  - reflect the pastor’s passion, enthusiasm, and authenticity.

Leadership:
- continually seek God’s will as he/she promotes the mission and vision of UBC.
- work collaboratively with the current staff and laity, enhancing their strengths while distinguishing his/her role as leader.
- develop active relationships with lay leadership to encourage, facilitate, and enable missional activities both inside and outside the church building.
- lead the important area of discipleship training to equip our members to better reach our community for Christ.

Personal and Spiritual Growth:
- be comfortable sharing his/her faith
- regularly seek opportunities and experiences that increase his/her professional and personal knowledge.
- exemplify family and moral values.
- have a sense of humor without demeaning others.
- enjoy socializing with people of various ages and demographics.

Evangelism and Outreach:
- be compassionate in times of crisis and respond with appropriate outreach.
- be approachable and available to the congregation and staff.
- be an active listener who maintains the highest level of confidentiality.
- be passionate about outreach to young families.

Mission Focussed:
- challenge UBC to be missionally minded in the local community and beyond.
- continue to strengthen relationships with other churches and ministry groups, regardless of denomination.
- help identify and respond to new opportunities and build new relationships.
University Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is seeking a full-time Pastor to lead our medium-sized, open-minded congregation. UBC is active in our community but wants to increase our outreach to young families and desires an energetic and imaginative leader with the ability to lead an established, multi-generational group. He/she will be responsible for weekly worship services, pastoral care, and coordination of staff, as well as discipleship training to equip the members to better reach our community for Christ. Candidates’ skills should include communication in a variety of forms (including social media) to a mix of audiences, and most importantly, the desire to grow spiritually as well as professionally.

Visit https://ubc-br.org for more information.

Submit resumes and a cover letter to the Pastor Search Committee at imagine.ubc@gmail.com. All submissions will be kept confidential.