

Kodiak Bible Chapel
PO Box 1245
Kodiak, AK 99615

June 22, 2016

Potential Pastoral Candidate:

The Kodiak Bible Chapel is beginning the search process of filling the position of senior pastor. Our current pastor has given notice, after 17 years of service, that he will be leaving the position effective July 31, 2016.

The intent of this profile is to tell you who we are (our church community and the greater community as a whole). It is our prayerful desire to fill the position with the man God has already picked out for our church. Please prayerfully consider the following information and reach out to us if this is a position you are interested in learning more about.

The Elder Board

The Kodiak Bible Chapel



Our History

World War II woke up the little village of Kodiak. What had once been a sleepy fishing village had now become an important and strategic military base in the North Pacific War Theater. The population began to swell from a few hundred to thousands of people. The government was busy building military housing on base and civil service housing in town. Meanwhile the island was being fortified against almost certain invasion attempts. Bunkers and gun sites seemed to be everywhere. Kodiak had changed forever.

In 1945 the war ended, but Kodiak would not revert back to the sleepy village it once was. The U.S. Navy base would continue to be a strategic portion, until in 1972, when it would be turned over to the U.S. Coast Guard. By the late 1940's, the Slavic Gospel Association (SGA) was realizing the lack of a good fundamental, evangelical witness in Kodiak. Peter Deyneka Sr. (founder of the Slavic Gospel Association) came to Kodiak in 1953 to survey the possibility of beginning a work. Seventeen SGA missionaries were working in Alaska at the time, but none had come to Kodiak. Walter Covich was the SGA field Chairman and together with Peter Deyneka Sr., they met with Kodiak resident DeWitt Fields. DeWitt was sympathetic to their cause and gave them \$1000 toward the purchase of a Quonset hut that would be home for the church. It was located in what is now downtown Kodiak.

By 1945, the work in Kodiak was in operation as a Christian servicemen's center. The center began Bible studies, then mid-week services and finally Sunday Services. It began to take on the general appearance of a church and SGA appointed Rev. Paul Schoeming in 1945 to be the first missionary pastor of the *Kodiak Christian Center*. The work grew and in 1964, the building was severely damaged by the earthquake and tidal wave. Plans began for the purchase of property and the erecting of a new building on our present site. The name was changed to the *Kodiak Bible Chapel* and the congregation moved in to the new building in 1967.

The Center continued as a Slavic Gospel Association church until 1973. At that time, the church became an independent Church and searched for an affiliation with an organization which could supply pastors for its ministry. That same year the Bible Chapel entered into affiliation with the Pacific Northwest District of the *Christian and Missionary Alliance*. The C&MA has supplied pastors for the church from 1973 until the present.

By the mid 1980's, the church had grown too large for its twenty year old building. A two story addition was built bringing the church to its present appearance.

Affiliation with the C&MA

Besides being an independent Church, the Kodiak Bible Chapel is an affiliated church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), Pacific Northwest District. When

several denominations were approached in 1973, only the C&MA agreed to supply pastors to the Bible Chapel and still allow the Chapel to maintain its independent status. In order to supply pastoral staff for the Bible Chapel, the District asked, and the church agreed, to become not a member church, but an affiliated church.

Doctrinal Statement of the Kodiak Bible Chapel

We believe in God the Father, Son, & the Holy Spirit. We also believe in the verbal inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as originally given, in the vicarious atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the eternal salvation of all who believe in Him, and the eternal punishment of all who reject Him.

Purpose of the Church

We believe that the purpose of the church is to adhere to the teachings of the Bible; that she must concern herself with the propagation of the gospel, with emphasis on the Spirit-filled life and victorious Christian living, and with the sending forth and support of missionaries to all parts of the world; looking forward to His second coming.

Description of Kodiak

Kodiak Island is a large island on the south coast of the U.S. state of Alaska, separated from the Alaska mainland by the Shelikof Strait. Kodiak Island is the second largest island in the United States with an area of 3,595.09 sq. mi. Kodiak Island is mountainous and heavily forested in the north and east, but fairly treeless on the south. The island has many deep, ice-free bays that provide sheltered anchorages for boats. The southwestern two-thirds of the island, like much of the Kodiak Archipelago, is part of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and has no roads and very few year round inhabitants. Kodiak is known locally for its remoteness and beauty but internationally known for its Kodiak Brown Bears and its large Salmon runs. Kodiak's remoteness is seen by residence most in the lack of shopping options. We do have a local Safeway Grocery store and a local Wal-mart (although it is a small version with limited groceries). We have a lumber yard and a local True Value Hardware store. We have a couple of fast food restaurants and a single screen movie theatre. We have a community pool and community library. We don't have a mall or many of the other amenities people living in larger communities grow to expect as "normal". Almost all of Kodiak's supplies come to the island via a container ship which comes to town twice a week. Many people who choose to make Kodiak their home trade the amenities for the world class fishing, hiking, wildlife, photography, and everything else that comes along with living on a truly beautiful island in the Pacific.

Around 13,500 people live on Kodiak Island. There is a large Coast Guard Base on Kodiak whose active duty members and dependents make up 3,000 of our population. There is a large immigrant population in Kodiak as well. By far the largest portion of that population is made up of people coming from the Philippines but also a growing

contingent of Samoans and El Salvadorians. There are also indigenous Alaska Native people from throughout Alaska but the largest contingent would be the local Alutiiq people. The Caucasian population is around 50%. There is a broad distribution in age as well. All of this comes together to make Kodiak a true melting pot.

Description of Our Church

Our Church reflects the melting pot of Kodiak. Our congregation averages around 225 on a Sunday morning and is made up of infants to individuals in their late 90's. We have people who have been married a couple of months to over 60 years. We have a Sunday School Program for all ages. We have an active AWANA Program, junior high youth group, high school youth group, young adults Bible Study and a small group for married couples with young children. We all come together at least once a month for a family dinner on Sunday afternoons and holidays like the 4th of July. We also have a Filipino portion of our congregation. They meet for a Tagalog service on Sunday afternoons. Some attend the English service as well. We have a part time dedicated Filipino Pastor who serves with our Senior Pastor. We have a significant group of active duty Coast Guard personnel and their families who attend our church. We have become accustomed to quickly embracing new people and helping them find areas to serve in the church. Our congregation is varied with people who have been here 60 years, people who have attended their whole lives at the Bible Chapel, and newcomers who have just moved into the community. Any given Sunday we have numerous visitors who stand up to be introduced.

Our church loves missions. We encourage our members to go on short-term missions trips either individually or as a group. We set a goal years ago of giving at least 30% of our annual tithes to missions (locally and abroad). In recent years we have given well over 40%. We usually have at least two missionaries come to town a year and share their mission with us. We encourage them to bring their families as well. This gives us an opportunity to get to know the missionaries we support and get to know missionaries who serve through the Great Commission Fund of the C&MA.

Our church relies heavily on volunteers and as such needs to have a Senior Pastor who appreciates people volunteering, enjoys working with volunteers, and is skilled at encouraging and motivating volunteers. We are fairly unique in that we have a limited number of paid staff members. We have a full-time Senior Pastor, a part-time Filipino Pastor, and a part-time church secretary. Throughout the years we have had a paid associate pastor (or youth pastor) and a part-time Children's Ministry Coordinator. Currently we have lay volunteers covering those positions.

For additional information on our church please see our webpage:
www.kodiakbiblechapel.com

Who are we looking for...

- We are looking for man who loves Jesus and loves to tell others about Him.
- We are looking for a pastor whose family supports and confirms his call into ministry.
- Any pastor of the Kodiak Bible Chapel must be able to embrace and encourage a vibrant group of volunteers who love to serve.
- The pastor must be comfortable working in cross culture ministries (working hand in hand with our Filipino pastor and the portion of our congregation who are Filipino).
- The pastor must love missions

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. There are obviously other traits a pastor must have and we look forward to continuing that conversation in the future.

Our desire is to find a person who desires to join us in ministry at the Kodiak Bible Chapel. If you are interested in learning more about the position we have available and about the Kodiak Bible Chapel please contact us at kodiakpastoralsearch@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

Kodiak Bible Chapel Elders