



Jim and Melissa Rizer

It is with gratitude to God and great anticipation that the Pastoral Nominating Committee presents Rev. Jim Rizer as the next pastor at Fountain Hill Presbyterian Church, effective August 1, 2025. Jim is an experienced pastor who is passionate about discipleship and is excited about walking with FHPC into the next chapter of faithfulness.

Jim grew up in the greater Phoenix area and then moved to Atlanta where he finished high school. It was during this time that Jim first understood the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ at a Young Life weekend at Windy Gap, NC.

Jim attended Rhodes College in Memphis, TN where he dabbled with the things of the kingdom and the things of the world. After a day and a half where his worldly goals were shattered, God revealed the importance of discipleship and of Jesus as Lord.

As Jim was graduating with a BA in Economics a friend suggested that he would be a good minister. Jim laughed. The next day another friend echoed a similar sentiment and thus began Jim's exploration of a call into the ministry. Jim returned to the Phoenix area and joined Northminster Presbyterian Church and was blessed to have the pastor guide and mentor him.

During this time Jim was blessed to meet Melissa, who after graduating from the University of Michigan, relocated to the valley. After dating for a year and a half they were married at Northminster Presbyterian July 6, 1991. Two months later they moved to Princeton, NJ as Jim entered seminary full-time. As Jim finished his MDiv at Princeton Seminary, Melissa completed her Master of Library Science degree at Rutgers with both graduation in the Spring of 1994.

Jim has served as Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church (Waterloo, IA) and then at Mountain View Presbyterian (Scottsdale). In 2002 Jim began serving as Senior Pastor at Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian. After 10 years Jim was instrumental in birthing Living Hope Church in light of theological erosion in a previous denomination.

Through all of his service Jim views his role as an undershepherd of the Good Shepherd called to "feed the sheep" through preaching, teaching, and sharing the full counsel of God. Depending on the feeding work of the Holy Spirit and others' desire to eat, Jim wants others to taste and see the goodness of the Lord, trust His provision, rest in His presence, and experience the abundant life of discipleship.

Jim and Melissa have been blessed with three children: Spencer 27, AJ 25, and Vivian 19. They have a recently rehoused and energetic field spaniel named Sabrina. Jim and Melissa enjoy walking the dog and taking hikes. Jim is a dedicated runner, enjoys crosswords, and dabbles in home projects. Melissa is an avid reader.