

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



The United Church of Schellsburg, UCC
Schellsburg, PA

Part-time Minister

PennWest Conference
Juniata Association

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

Position Posting
Who Is God Calling Us To Become?
Who Are We Now?
Who Is Our Neighbor?
References
Consent and Validation

*"God is able to provide you with every blessing, so that
having all sufficiency in all things at all times,
you may abound in every good work."
(2 Corinthians 9:8)*

INSTRUCTIONS

The new Local Church Profile supports the calling and discernment of United Church of Christ congregations with their current or future pastoral leadership.

For many congregations, the interim time between ministers is an intentional season that is guided in part by the work of preparing a Local Church Profile. Through the Profile, the congregation can discover its data and express its story for the reliable discernment of a search committee and the beginning of a new pastorate. Searching ministers will want to see this document in its entirety.

The interim season is not the only time to give attention to questions and exploration of a congregation's vocation, however. Three sections of the Local Church Profile – WHO ARE WE NOW, WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR, and WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME – are meant to be updated every 3-5 years. Known as the "Discovery Document," these three sections can be completed by a visioning group, a governing body, a transition team, or other entity in the church – not just by a search committee – in order to draw forward the gifts and imaginative possibilities of a congregation. The more participants, the better!

Some questions are easy to answer. Some are not so easy. Prompts are provided to stimulate narrative response if needed; these *italicized* prompts are merely examples from which to choose or to inspire your own. Efforts to answer the questions will prompt conversations and explorations and storytellings and many prayers, and as the Spirit moves throughout the process, congregations will shape a collective articulation of Christ's leading (WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME). This last question to be answered becomes the first section to be read by searching ministers in the Local Church Profile, and it is boldest and most actionable piece for faithful leadership into the future.

Your conference can provide materials referenced in the Local Church Profile, such as the 11-Year Report containing data as reported by your congregation annually to the UCC Data Hub and MissionInsite reports containing demographic information on your community. More information on types of pastorate in the United Church of Christ can be found in the *Call Agreement Workbook*. Be sure to use the *Call Agreement Workbook's* Scope of Work to describe in this Local Church Profile the position being sought.

When it is time for ministerial search, the conference can counsel you on posting the Local Church Profile together with your public listing at UCC Ministry Opportunities (<http://oppsearch.ucc.org>).

The last page of the Local Church Profile contains a statement that parallels the consent statement signed by ministers in the UCC Ministerial Profile. In keeping with the covenantal relationship between a church and those it seeks to call, this statement encourages an open, honest exchange of information. On behalf of the United Church of Christ, and on the basis of the best knowledge available to them, your conference staff will validate your completed Local Church Profile when it is ready to be shared in relationship with prospective new leaders.

POSITION POSTING

LISTING INFORMATION

SCOPE OF WORK

COMPENSATION & SUPPORT

WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: The United Church of Schellsburg, United Church of Christ

Street address: 1646 Market Street, Schellsburg, PA 15559

Supplemental web links: www.schellsburgchurch.org

Additional ecumenical affiliations:

(e.g. denominations, communions, fellowships)

Conference: PennWest

Association: Juniata

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person

Name: Rev. David Ackerman

Title: Conference Minister

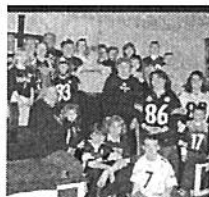
Phone: (724) 834-0344

Email: david@pennwest.org

Summary Ministry Description:

If you are looking for a place where you can "come as you are" for worship, fellowship, and learning as you become who God has called you to be, we are waiting for you! We are the United Church of Schellsburg, right on Rte. 96 in historic Schellsburg. We are nestled in the valleys of the Laurel Highlands, halfway between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. We are rich in our history, forming in 1964, merged from four denominations. We are a group of fun, loving, open-minded, forgiving, and strong-in-faith individuals. Our church thrives off of our youth, the belief that children should be heard, and our members' readiness to help each other out whether they're in troubled times or not. Everyone should be able to experience God's unconditional love and as a church, we want to pursue our goal to worship God together knowing that nobody is being deprived of a relationship with The Father, The Son, or The Holy Spirit.

Photographs:



What we value about living in our area (2 – 3 sentences): Our town of Schellsburg is rich in its history, and take great pride in the fact that the generations before us nurtured our church into what it is today.

Current size of membership: 167 members (50 active members)

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*): None

Position Title: Part-time Minister

Position Duration:

Settled – a called position intended for longer-term ministry in which the minister moves church membership to the congregation and moves standing to related association

Compensation Level:

½ Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? YES

SCOPE OF WORK

- Preparation and leadership of Sunday worship including scripture study, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, sermon preparation, guiding and sometimes finding lay liturgists, preaching, offering of prayers, etc., as well as energizing and deepening the spiritual connections and faith understandings of others in all they do.
- Faith formation and vitality through prayer, Bible study, service, identifying helpful resources and opportunities and helping lay persons take advantage of them.
- Working with children and youth to develop their faith.
- Pastoral care (to those who are sick, elderly or grieving)
- Participate in wider church activities such as conference and association meetings as time permits.

Core Competencies:

The United Church of Schellsburg expects our Minister to be the individual that will play an active role in our community, be a spiritual guide, be a faithful comforter while maintaining confidentiality, and will help our church grow not only in spiritual understanding but also in faith. We desire someone who will be an honest person and who will be flexible to the needs of the church. Our church is searching for someone who inspires us to comprehend and learn from the sermons and encourages us to assume and carry out leadership roles in church activities and committees.

COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis (*from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/Housing Allowance*): **\$23,400.00 plus full benefits**

NEGOTIABLE

(Could possibly become Full-time)

\$18,000.00 base salary

\$ 5,400.00 housing stipulation

\$10,000.00 approx. benefits

14% of salary into 401K

Benefits:

~Full benefits for pastor

What is the expected living situation for your next Minister:

~Living in the community with a housing allowance

WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

- ~membership growth
- ~increasing congregational involvement
- ~involvement in community
- ~growth in faith and beliefs

Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.

- ~be encouraging, “many hands make light work”
- ~visitations on a regular basis
- ~welcoming attitude when in neighborhood

Specify language requirements or culturally-specific capacities preferred in a next ministerial leader, and why those matter to the congregation’s sense of calling.

- ~English

WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?

Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?

We are a group of fun, loving, open-minded, forgiving, and strong-in-faith individuals. Our church thrives off of our youth, the belief that children should be heard, and our members' readiness to help each other out whether they're in troubled times or not. Everyone should be able to experience God's unconditional love and as a church, we want to pursue our goal to worship God together knowing that nobody is being deprived of a relationship with The Father, The Son, or The Holy Spirit.

WHO ARE WE NOW?

CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

11-YEAR REPORT

CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

CHURCH FINANCES

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation's life of faith.

~ The United Church of Schellsburg was born in 1806 when town founder John Schell deeded land for a church building (the Old Log Church) to house a Reformed congregation and a Lutheran Congregation. Within 40 years, a Presbyterian church and a Methodist church had also been established in Schellsburg to suit the worshipping needs of the growing settlement and surrounding area.

In the 1940's, as church attendance began to shrink and old buildings began to deteriorate, the four congregations found themselves reaching out to each other for education programs, worship opportunities, and mission projects. Out of this cooperation emerged a vision to unite the four separate churches as one congregation for worship, education, mission, and fellowship.

On November 22, 1964, each congregation voted on the proposed merger as well as a denomination with which to affiliate as the new church. The merger passed and the United Church of Christ, the youngest denomination of the four available, was chosen as the home of the new congregation. The congregation worships in the Reformed Church building; the Presbyterian and Lutheran buildings have been converted into private homes while the Methodist building is no longer in existence.

This event was a milestone not only for Schellsburg and Bedford County but for ecumenical relationships across the country. The merger was featured in several national magazines in the months that followed, including *Redbook* and Time Magazine.

Over the years as this congregation has learned to speak to and with each other, the United Church of Schellsburg has become an open and welcoming place for people of all walks of life. We celebrate the vision of the United Church of Christ, "That they all may be one", by living out this vision as a congregation every day.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

- ~unbiased
- ~openness
- ~loving
- ~welcoming
- ~congenial
- ~accepting
- ~caring

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

- ~FUN!
- ~meaningful
- ~thought provoking
- ~time of sharing

Describe the educational program and/or faith formation vision of your church.

- ~Our children lead worship once or twice a year
- ~Sunday school for younger youth during church
- ~Advent Play
- ~Bible School
- ~Dance Group
- ~Bible Study weekly

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

- ~Congregational Meetings
- ~Volunteering to help collect food for Christmas dinners
- ~Council asks for leadership roles

- When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month? 4-5 hours
- Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished? Depending on the urgency of the situation, the minister can call the Council President to discuss. If it is a dire situation, they could make a decision. Otherwise, an email/phone call can be sent out to all council members for a vote.
- Can you provide the next minister with a copy of an organization structure, bylaws and/or annual report to further explain the patterns of the church's activity and governance? YES

11-YEAR REPORT - See next page

Eleven Year Church

Includes church membership and financial information for the last eleven years

Conference:
Penn West

Association:
Juniata

Church:
Schellsburg, PA - United Church UC

Run Report

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ELEVEN YEAR CHURCH PROFILE BASED ON DATA REPORTED IN UCC
YEARBOOKS



Church#: 621940

Assoc: 648 **Schedule:** 0 United Church UCC Schellsburg PA 15559

YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/			CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR		DEATHS OR	OTHER	NET MEMBS
			FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION			REAFFIRM	TRANS OUT			
2005	207	0	10	0	0	0	3	7	36	-40	
2006	206	75	40	0	0	2	5	0	0	-3	
2007	208	63	29	1	0	0	7	0	0	-6	
2008	208	62	27	4	1	4	1	0	0	8	
2009	213	76	23	0	0	7	1	1	1	5	
2010	214	70	20	0	1	5	4	1	1	1	
2011	223	68	24	7	5	3	4	2	2	9	
2012	214	64	24	0	0	2	9	2	2	9	
2013	217	66	27	0	2	5	4	0	0	3	
2014	214	62	62	3	0	0	6	0	0	-3	
2015	211	54	27	0	2	0	5	0	0	-3	

YEAR	CURRENT EXPENSES	CAPITAL PAYMENTS	BASIC SUPPORT	SPECIAL SUPPORT	TOTAL OCWM	OTHER GIFTS	WIDER MISSION	BASIC SUPP% CURR LOCAL	TOTAL EXPEND	PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS
2006	\$78,917	\$0	\$1,152	\$503	\$1,655	\$0	\$1,655	1.46	\$80,572	\$58,262
2007	\$88,722	\$0	\$1,200	\$561	\$1,761	\$0	\$1,761	1.35	\$90,483	\$68,650
2008	\$86,248	\$0	\$505	\$114	\$619	\$557	\$1,176	0.59	\$87,424	\$73,428
2009	\$87,929	\$0	\$350	\$860	\$1,210	\$1,045	\$2,255	0.40	\$90,184	\$82,002
2010	\$91,897	\$0	\$10	\$748	\$758	\$575	\$1,333	0.01	\$93,230	\$80,061
2011	\$67,072	\$0	\$75	\$467	\$542	\$143	\$685	0.11	\$67,757	\$74,782
2012	\$97,344	\$0	\$15	\$635	\$650	\$0	\$650	0.02	\$97,994	\$72,905
2013	\$97,344	\$0	\$10	\$495	\$505	\$442	\$947	0.01	\$98,291	\$67,287
2014	\$97,344	\$0	\$182	\$334	\$516	\$2,239	\$2,755	0.19	\$100,099	\$77,790
2015	\$97,344	\$5,874	\$100	\$668	\$768	\$1,223	\$1,991	0.10	\$105,209	\$72,236

% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
2010-2015	-1.40	-22.86	35.00	-66.67	0.00	5.93	1.32	12.85
2005-2015	1.93	0.00	170.00	-33.33	-88.37	32.46	-43.94	40.54

Please note: Zero values ("0" or "\$0") may reflect missing information in some years. Christian Education/Faith Formation refers to Church School Enrollment for all figures before 2007.

CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	50	yes
Number of non-active members:	117	yes
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	167	

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this percentage an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	90%	
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	5%	
Less than 5 years:	5%	

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
4	5	1	5	10	10	10	5	yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this percentage an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	5%	Yes
Joint household with minors:	20%	Yes
Single adults age 35-65:	5%	Yes
Joint household with no minors:	65%	Yes
Single adults over 65:	5%	Yes

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this percentage an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	95%	Yes
College:	25%	Yes
Graduate School:	10%	Yes
Specialty Training:	25%	Yes
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	50%	Yes
Adults who are retired:	40%	Yes
Adults who are not fully employed:	10%	Yes

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:
 Factory workers, Secretaries, Dr's, Nurses, Teachers, Farmers, Managers

Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation, and the overall racial make-up. Most UCC congregations tend to describe themselves as "diverse." Yet, the vast majority of UCC congregations are mono-cultural. What does diversity mean in your context? Mostly White, Old and young. The only diversity in our church is due to our age. Our ages flow from 94 to 20 months old. We live in a rural farming area in which there is little ethnic variation.

PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

Complete the following chart. Please leave blank any fields that are not applicable to your congregation.

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings? <i>(list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff)</i>
Adult Groups or Classes		
Baptisms <i>(number last year)</i>	1	Pastor
Children's Groups or Classes	6	Director of Children's Educ.
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	75	Pastor
Church-wide Meals	25	Fellowship Chairperson
Choirs and Music Groups		
Church-based Bible Study	6	Pastor
Communion <i>(served how often?)</i>	50	Pastor, First Sunday of every month
Community Meals		
Confirmation <i>(number confirmed last year)</i>	5	Pastor, Every 2-3 years
Drama or Dance Program	4	Layleader
Funerals <i>(number last year)</i>	3	Pastor
Intergenerational Groups		
Outdoor Worship	45	Pastor -Once a year
Prayer or Meditation Groups	20	Phone and email
Public Advocacy Work		
Retreats	3	Pastor -Once a year
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community		

Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	3	Pastor
Worship (time slot: 9:30)	40-50	Pastor
Worship (time slot: 6:30)	6	Pastor
Young Adult Groups or Classes		
Youth Groups or Classes	6	Lay person
Other		

Additional comments:

List all members or regular participants in your congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers. Indicate those with current United Church of Christ Three-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a congregation) or Four-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a ministry beyond a congregation).

Name	Three-Way or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
None				

If one or more previous pastors or retired ministers currently hold membership in the church, describe their role(s) in the life of the congregation:

List all current staff, including ministers. Exclude the position you are seeking to fill. Indicate which staffperson serves as head of staff.

Staff Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation (full time, part time, volunteer)	Supervised by	Length of Tenure for current person in this position
Secretary/Bookkeeper		Part time	Council	6 years
Custodian		Part time	Council	15 years
Musician		Part time	Council	3 years

REFLECTION

Reflection: After reviewing the congregational demographics and activities above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's overall ministry?

~We are a small church in which numerous members hold the leadership roles. The remainder of the congregation steps up and provides help when needed whether making food and preparing a funeral lunch or gathering food to prepare Christmas dinners for others, or working to prepare a yard sale, working the sale, or cleaning up, or preparing for conducting the annual Easter egg hunt and chili cookoff.

CHURCH FINANCES

Current annual income (dollars used during most recent fiscal year)

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$72,236.
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$1,250. (interest)
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	\$
Fundraising Events	\$1,501.
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$4,750.
Grants	\$
Rentals of Church Building	\$905.
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women's Group</i>)	\$2,212.
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$
Other (specify):	\$
Other (specify):	\$
TOTAL	\$82,854.00

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$ ^{See} Attached
Attach most recent church budget, spending plan, operating statement, or annual treasurer's report as shared publicly with the congregation, or – if your church does not pass an annual budget – list current budgeted expenses here.

Budget Proposal 2017

	Expenses thru		
	2016 Budget	11/30/16	2017 Proposal
Program Expenses			
Flowers		63.60	100.00
Christian Education	150.00	231.45	200.00
Coin Folders	500.00	455.61	600.00
Stewardship	150.00	161.70	
Evangelism/Spiritual Life	200.00		100.00
Fellowship		323.05	250.00
Worship		179.58	
Advertising			
Total	1,100.00	1,414.99	1,250.00
Administrative Expense			
Bank Charges/late fees Box Rental	25.00	0.00	25.00
Vanco Services	70.00	71.76	80.00
Total	95.00	71.76	105.00
Salaries & Benefits			
Minister's Salary	15,250.00	9,531.30	
Phone expense/DSL/cell phone	1,450.00	1,311.29	
Interm Minister		1,120.00	7,000.00
Family Protection/Pension Board	15,000.00	8,956.21	
Supply Minister	800.00	1,037.50	1,000.00
Mileage/Pastor reimbursables	1,500.00	602.33	
Church Cleaning	3,600.00	3,300.00	3,600.00
State Clearances	50.00	34.00	50.00
Church Secretary	6,825.00	5,935.40	6,825.00
Musican	2,000.00	1,155.00	2,000.00
Payroll Taxes	950.00	880.54	1,500.00
Workman's Comp	730.00	276.00	500.00
Total	48,155.00	34,139.57	22,275.00
Denomination Expenses			
Conference Delegates	400.00	810.00	400.00
Our Church Wider Mission	100.00	50.00	100.00
Juniata Assoc.	675.00	633.00	675.00
Total	1,175.00	1,493.00	1,175.00
Office Expense			
Petty Cash - postage newsletter	750.00	1,016.00	800.00
Office Supplies	1,000.00	181.65	700.00
Equip Maint Contract	830.00	776.25	825.00
Telephone	1,500.00	1,494.47	1,500.00
PO Box rental	60.00		60.00
Total	4,140.00	3,468.37	3,885.00
Properties Operating Expense			
Church Sewer & Garb	620.00	635.00	620.00
Church Electricity	5,200.00	4,333.62	5,200.00
Pasonage Heat/Hot Water	3,150.00	639.76	2,000.00
Parsonage - Electric	850.00	766.21	500.00
Parsonage-Sewer & Garb.	620.00	635.00	400.00
Trailer (Boy Scouts)	10.00		10.00
Total	10,450.00	7,009.59	8,730.00
Properties Maint & Imp.			
Insurance - parsonage& Church	9,000.00	8,538.00	9,000.00
Janitorial Supplies	200.00	46.90	200.00
Water Testing Supplies	200.00	181.50	300.00
Kitchen Heat & Pump Repair	200.00	490.77	200.00
Snow Plowing	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Parsonage R/E Taxes	1,200.00	1,193.72	1,250.00
Total	11,800.00	11,450.89	11,950.00
Benevolences			
Donation Shawnee Fire Co.	100.00	100.00	100.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00
Miscellaneous			
Food License	14.00	14.00	14.00
Total	14.00	14.00	14.00
Unbudgeted Miscellaneous			
Dancers		49.87	
Pastor Loan		3,441.38	

GRAND TOTAL

77,029.00

62,653.42

49,484.00

← Does not include new minister salary

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? 45.5%

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church?

No

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year? (*indicate those included during the most recent fiscal year*)

- Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM - Basic Support)
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Strengthen the Church
- Neighbors in Need
- Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage? (*recommended 10%*)

\$100 budgeted

What is the church's current indebtedness?

Total amount of loan debt: None

Reason for debt:

Are capital and other payments current?

If a building program is projected or underway, describe it, including the projected start/end date of the building project and the total project budget.

NO

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: NO

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
		\$	\$	
		\$	\$	

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe: n/a

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
		\$	\$	
		\$	\$	

Describe the prominent mission component(s) involved in the most recent (or current) capital campaign.

Does your church have an endowment? No

What is the market value of the assets?

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances?

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)?

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years:

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last?

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$

Investments (other than endowment): \$61,190

Does your church have a parsonage? Yes, but we may sell it.

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: Unknown. Work needs done.

How is the parsonage used? Not used

Street / City / State / Zip: Schellsburg, PA 15559

Finished square footage:

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms: 4 bed, 1 ½ bath

Assessed real estate value:

Available for minister residence: Y/N

Expected minister residence: Y/N

Condition of structure, systems and appliances

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs:

Property Chairman

Describe all buildings owned by the church: Church and Parsonage

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church:

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs?

~Sanctuary, some classrooms and Office

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's mission and ministry?

~In 2013, we took a financial hit within the congregation. We had to reduce our full-time minister to a part-time minister. It is our hope, that we can have a full-time minister again.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Name one to three significant happenings in the history of your church that have shaped the identity of your congregation. Add the most important event in the life of your church in the past 10 years.

~We celebrated our 50th year anniversary in 2014. In 1964, four churches in Schellsburg combined to make one. After a large amount of work and discussion, the United Church of Schellsburg was the result. A memorial pathway was erected to commemorate this event.

Describe a specific change your church has managed in the recent past.

~Changing our full-time minister to part-time

Every church has conflict, some minor, some larger. "Where two or three are gathered, there will be disagreement...." Describe your congregation's values and practices when it comes to conflict.

~We may have minor disagreements, but we love each other like family, and there are really no fights. Items on which we disagree are discussed in most cases, resulting in a congregation with the same goal, 'that we all may be one.'

Ministerial History *(include all previous ministerial staff for the past 30 years)*

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/No)
Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver	10	Y
Rev. Dr. Merle Correll	8	Y
Rev. Arden Fritz	4 years Part-time	Y
Rev. Paul Miller	10	Y
Rev. Donald Evans	8	Y

Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership:

~We have always had good long-lasting relationships with our pastors.

Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination?

Y/N/Ask us

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

Y/N/Ask us

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church?

Y/N/Ask us

WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

COMMUNITY VISION
MISSION INSITE

COMMUNITY VISION

How do the relationships and activities of your congregation extend outward in service and advocacy?

~We do many things in our community. Food banks, local shelters, free dinners to needy, Christmas caroling

Describe your congregation's participation in meetings, relationships and activities connecting the wider United Church of Christ (association / conference / national setting).

~We usually have 2-3 participants that attend annual meetings. Our youth have attended the youth conferences. We have a dance group that travels to other churches and meetings to perform.

Check all of the following "statements of witness" that apply to your UCC faith community. (Find more information on these statements at ucc.org.)

- Accessible to All (A2A)
- Creation Justice
- Economic Justice
- Faithful and Welcoming
- God Is Still Speaking (GISS)
- Immigrant Welcoming
- Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M)
- Just Peace
- Global Mission Church
- Open and Affirming (ONA)
- WISE Congregation for Mental Health
- Other UCC designations:
- Other similar designations in affiliated denominations
- None

Reflect on what the above statement(s) mean(s) to your community. Is your congregation interested in working toward any of the above statements of witness in the near future?

~God is still working in our lives, no matter what we do.

Describe your congregation's participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities (with other denominations and religious groups, local and regional).

~The Lenten Services are community-wide, with several churches participating. Ministers exchange pulpits at these services making it interesting to participate in other types of worship. It brings together various denominations.

If your congregation has a mission statement, how does that mission statement compare to the actual time spent engaging in different activities? Think of the range of activities from time spent gathering, to governance, to time spent going out.

~A little church with a BIG heart. That describes us perfectly. We thrive on Christian fellowship and unity within the church.

Reflect on the scope of work assigned to your pastor(s). How is their community ministry and their ministry in and on behalf of the wider church accounted for in the congregation's expectations on their time?

~They would participate in the meetings of the Juniata Association as well as the Chestnut Ridge Ministerium. When time allows, this person would attend annual meeting, general synod, and take youth to meetings and gatherings.

MissionInSite

Comment on your congregation's MissionInSite report with data for your neighborhood(s) or area. What trends and opportunities are shown?

~It seems like less and less people are attending church due to various reasons. The crowd seems to be between the ages of 35-60. If couples are married, mostly the women attend with children.

How do your congregation's internal demographics compare or contrast to a) the neighborhoods adjacent to your church, and b) other neighborhoods with which your church connects?

~Most churches in our area are more traditional bible based churches. Our church preaches from the bible, but applies to our everyday lives. That's what makes our church different from adjacent neighborhoods.

How are the demographics of the community currently shaping ministry, or not?

~The church is doing more things for the youth and young adults to get involved in the church. The older generation is dying off, leaving churches with lower numbers in the congregation.

What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for?

~openness to all who are on a faith journey

What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved?

~Youth

~a genuinely welcoming feel

~very friendly

REFERENCES - See Attached Pages

Name up to three people who have agreed to serve as phone and written references. Make sure they are not members of your church but are persons who know your church well enough to be helpful to candidates seeking more information. Request a letter from each reference in answer to the four prompts below. Attach the letters (up to three) as desired.

REFERENCE 1

Name / Position / Setting

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

REFERENCE 2

Name / Position / Setting

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

REFERENCE 3

Name / Position / Setting

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

PROMPTS FOR REFERENCES

Describe some areas of strength in this church's ministry.

Describe some areas for improvement in this church's ministry.

Describe a significant experience you have had of this church's ministry.

Anything else you wish to share.

United Church of Schellsburg Reference

David N. Whysong, RPh.
Business Owner/ Entrepreneur
257 Highland Rd.
Schellsburg, PA 15559
814-733-2550
whysongrx@comcast.net

Relationship to Congregation: Currently looking for a Congregation to join.

1. Describe some areas of strength in this church's ministry.

It is important to note that my family and I have had a very limited interaction with this church and its' congregation over the past year and half. Our very hectic schedule is not conducive to regular worship attendance. However, we do know a vast majority of the congregation due to my business dealings in the community.

We have been looking for a congregation to join for many years. We decided to try this church because some very good friends of ours had started attending. Our biggest complaints with congregations that we had observed over the years was that no matter how inclusive they 'claimed' to be toward prospective members we found that 'claim' to come with strings attached.

When we walked into this church, we didn't feel excluded at all! In fact, we received a warm welcome from the Minister and congregation which seemed non-judgmental. This is and I hope continues to be the main area of this church's strength. They truly do seem to welcome new people! No odd, uncomfortable questions were asked. No one immediately asked for loyalty to the church. No one tried to enlist our help on committees and boards. More importantly, no one judged us because of our "perceived" personal successes.

As we attended more services, we liked that the ministry was more 'intellectual' and spoke on a level that encouraged not only a spiritual connection with God, but also a cognitive connection. We liked that the Minister encouraged us to use our minds to discover God. We are an educated family and the 'fire and brimstone' sermons are welcomed on occasion, but we believe that God wouldn't have given us a brain if we weren't intended to use it and contemplate his message on a higher level. This is also strength of this church.

Lastly, this church is very family oriented- a strength with any organization. We liked that there were children attending and active in the church. A sign of potential growth!

2. Describe some areas of improvement in this church's ministry.

It is fair to say that **all** things can stand some improvement in any organization and business. Because of our limited exposure I can only express what I would look for as a business owner and consultant as far as improvement. Most are superficial items and as far as impact, may or may not help.

Mainly, more exposure to the public is necessary. It is a shame that I have lived three miles from this church and it took me 15 years to notice and attend. My noticing came from word of mouth from a friend. The ministry could be improved simply by self-promotion! Of course, social media could make a difference with this as well.

I would assume the church could use more help with steering committees, financial committees and property committees. This would be the case with any organization.

3. Describe a significant experience you have had with this church's ministry.

When we first came to the church the Minister at the time sat with us and we talked about our belief processes. She was well spoken and intelligent. She believed in the foundations of science and a Universe much larger and more complicated than that which is explained in the scriptures. She believed that people could believe

in science and yet experience faith, a foundation I wholly support. She believed the scriptures were a guide whose meanings opened themselves up to each person individually and encouraged people to think about their meanings instead of saying 'this is the way that it is.' Moreover, she understood the constraints of everyday life in my situation and encouraged us to attend services when we could. I didn't feel like my family and I would be ostracized because we couldn't attend services on a regular basis.

4. Anything else you wish to share.

Oddly enough and certainly contradictory enough, when we came to this church I noticed something which intrigued me more than anything. This congregation is seemingly very conservative and located in a conservative geographical area. However, the Minister was obviously very liberal! I found the juxtaposition incredibly desirable!

As time went on, the Minister seemed to become more left-leaning and I believe that this is one of the reasons which led to her leaving.

With this in mind, a Minister who is not wholly conservative or liberal would benefit this church, or any church for that matter. I think a person who's religious and political views are open-minded and more toward the middle yet with a certain sternness to keep the flock in line would be an ideal candidate.

Heidi Rizzo
524 Kauffman Rd.
Alum Bank, PA 15521

Phone: (814) 839-0148

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the pleasure of being involved with the United Church of Schellsburg for the past 3 years as part of the Cub Scout pack chartered by the church.

The church has been incredibly welcoming for the Cub Scouts and generous in letting us use different areas of the church as needed each week for our meetings and special events. The church members have also supported various programs for us such as collecting cans for the Cub Scouts to use for crafts and purchasing popcorn as part of our annual fundraiser.

The church holds many community events throughout the year and welcomes everyone in the area to participate. The church service is uplifting and I have found the congregation to be friendly each time I have visited.

One area I feel the church could improve on would be increased membership and Sunday attendance.

Overall, I feel that this church is an incredible blessing to this community. Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Heidi Rizzo
Pack Committee Chair
Cub Scout Pack 4490

Mickle-Geisel Funeral Home
Jack H. Geisel, Jr., F.D., Owner
3779 Pitt St., P.O. Box 68
Schellsburg, PA 15559

Phone (814) 733-4211

To Whom It May Concern:

I work closely with the church in regards to funerals, and living within the community, I have much interaction with the ministry.

1. Describe some areas of strength in the church's ministry.

The Easter egg fundraiser has contributed tremendously towards the church's ministry. A few Saturdays before "Easter Sunday," the church comes together to make their Peanut butter or Coconut flavor eggs. This project demonstrates coordination along with teamwork within the church family. The community (non-members) even participate by purchasing these items which in return makes it a success.

2. Describe some area for improvement in this church's ministry.

The church needs to put more emphasis toward the contributions on their music that would enhance the worship service.

3. Describe a significant experience you have had of this church.

We have always enjoyed the former pastor's sermons & fondly remembering the guest pastor Rev. William Fenstermaker.

Sincerely,

Jack and Sandee Geisel

CLOSING THOUGHTS

CLOSING PRAYER

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

CLOSING PRAYER

The Good Shepherd

by Laura Smith (an excerpt from "A City Without Walls")

There once was a flock
That was lost and afraid
It wandered around
Without direction for days

But the Lord looked down
With compassion from above
And sent a good shepherd
To lead them with love

The shepherd was kind
Loving and wise
And he cherished his whole flock
No matter the color or the size

Though the shepherd was quiet
Humble and meek
Every ear listened
Whenever he would speak

He showed them the way
To walk in the light
And he prayed every day
For God to give them true sight

He taught them about
The blood of the Lamb
And about the creator
The great I AM

They flourished and they grew
Through the knowledge they gained
About the Savior from above
Who lived without blemish or stain

The flock was so thankful
To the Lord up above
For sending a wise leader
Who was so full of love

He lead them with
A strong and gentle good hand
And took the whole flock
Safely into God's Promised Land

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates.

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates. We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinions about our church. We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile? *Church Council and Search Committee*
2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed: *Mandy Shroyer*

Name / Title / Date: *Mandy Shroyer, Search Comm. Pres., Jan. 17, 2017*

VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

The congregation is currently in good standing with the association / conference named.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, ministerial history information is complete.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, available church financial information is presented thoroughly.

Staff Comment:

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:

Name / Title:

Email:

Phone:

Date:

This document is created through support to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and is only possible through the covenantal relationships of all settings of the United Church of Christ.

"Jesus answered them, 'Have faith in God!'" - Mark 11:22