

PROSPECTUS

South Parish Congregational Church UCC

September 2018



9 Church Street

Augusta, ME 04330

Our Community

Worship, family and fun!



What we value about living in our area: Augusta is a small town (less than 20,000 people), but it is a service center and the state capital. Therefore, while it is a small and friendly community, there is much more shopping opportunity, more restaurants, and more entertainment than would be expected of a small town. Our downtown is active and growing with small shops, popular restaurants, a brewery and a historic theater renovation underway. Augusta, like the rest of Maine, is a safe place to live, the air is clean, and people are much friendlier than legend has it. We contribute spiritually, historically and musically, home of the Augusta Symphony.

Current size of membership: The active membership is 75, and the non-active membership is 20. Many of the non-active members still support the church, even though they are unable to actively participate in worship services. We also consider the folks who come to help with our missions as part of our community, not everyone shows up on Sunday, but they are attracted to the South Parish spirit of giving and supporting our community. Many nonmembers support our free community meals, our pet pantry and Teddy tubs for children moving out of homelessness.



What is our facility like? We are steeped in history and full of contrasts. We are actively improving our buildings and grounds thru the extensive work of our property maintenance team.



Small intimate chapel



Grand Granite Sanctuary

Who are we?

We have gone thru an extensive discernment process and will share the entire detail with viable candidates. Some important aspects of our faith that have come out are our individuality and the collective desire to be able to believe what we believe and not be judged. We have realized our diversity is our strength. We are not political, yet we care deeply about the injustices in our community and world. Our life of faith is one of contrasts....those who like the chapel and those that like the sanctuary; those who like traditional music and those that like more modern tunes; those who are young at heart and those that are old; those who are quiet and those who are outspoken and finally, those who have learned to forgive and those who are still trying.



Our demographics are consistent with the world around us. We are retirees and working professionals, we are individuals and families. We are all here for different reasons and we all came from different backgrounds.

We are human. We have the need to be nurtured and accepted for who we are. We have heart and we are devoted. And if you're really our next minister, you need to know we take some risks and we break some rules, yet always with good intent.

Participation in activities follows the 80/20 rule on the surface, however, when a call goes out to help, almost all do what they can in whatever fashion they can. We have a strong lay group leading the charge

Who will our next minister be?

Our next minister will be an empathetic Spiritual Guide who doesn't judge our diverse paths and personalities. Our new minister will provide leadership of Sunday Worship; leadership development within the church, pastoral care and growing a lay person visitation ministry. Our next minister will be musical and a teacher. Our new minister will have a sense of humor and spend time counseling, listening and guiding. Our next minister will be passionate about missions, a common theme from our discernment. Our needs are to be spiritually strengthened and to be strengthened as a community.

The new minister needs to be willing to involve the community in our activities, especially our missions, reach out to our neighbors, and be willing to attend community meetings and organizations, representing our church. We will support interaction with the community as part of your work.

We are called to work with those in poverty and with those who have basic, simple needs. Our programs continue to grow as we help with food scarcity, housing needs, clothing and even the occasional prescription for suboxone that needs to be filled. Our congregation knows we have each other's backs. If there is a need there is a response. Our long-term vision is that there is enough: enough things, enough support, enough companionship and enough love.

One of our congregants remembers how positive and welcomed they immediately felt. They said, "I could feel it in the air". We know this energy is the fuel for our growth.



Giggling is allowed!

Helpful websites: Our website is currently under construction so be sure to find us on Facebook. Some other helpful sights are:

The Augusta Downtown Alliance <https://augustadowntown.com>

KV Chamber of Commerce: <https://augustamaine.com>

Contact Information

Rev. Deborah J. Blood, Maine UCC Conference Minister
djblood@maineucc.org, 207-530-0429