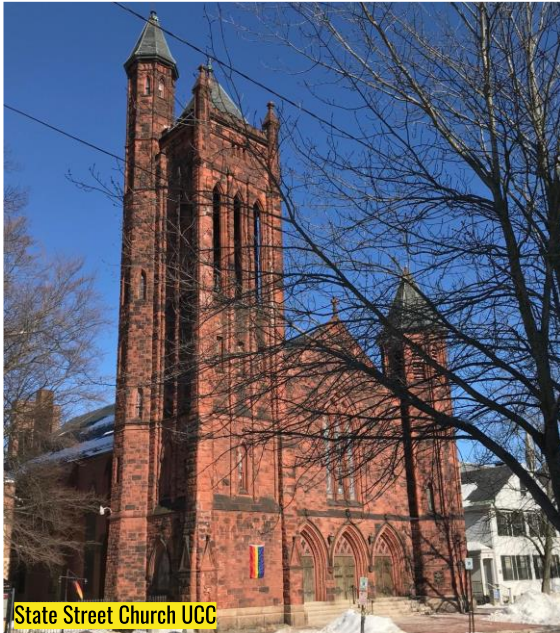


PROSPECTUS
State Street Church,
United Church of Christ
159 State Street
Portland, Maine



Welcome to State Street Church. We are a diverse growing congregation, intentional in creating a safe community for all. We are located in the active port city of Portland, Maine.



1. Describe your community. What makes it special to you? What distinguishes it from surrounding communities?

Portland, Maine has been designated one of the 25 best places to live in the U.S. in 2019, by *U.S. News Rankings*, and the 2018 Restaurant City of the Year by *Bon Appetit*. With a population of over 525,000, it is Maine's largest metropolitan area. Situated on the Casco Bay, Portland is studded with lighthouses, cobblestone streets, entrepreneurial businesses, and art and entertainment venues. Portland currently ranks sixth on the Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index, which asks residents of the largest 125 metropolitan U.S. areas how they feel about where they live. All this makes Portland and its surrounding communities a wonderful place to live.

Portland's West End has been called "one of the best preserved Victorian neighborhoods in the country". It is replete with historic homes, parks, and quiet streets within walking distance of many attractions.

State Street Church, United Church of Christ is located in the West End between St. Luke's Episcopal Cathedral and *Portland Magazine* offices - across the street from Mercy Hospital and the Portland Club. Like our city and the greater West End, our immediate community is full of contrasts. Our neighborhood includes restaurants, arts venues, apartment buildings and social services. Our neighborhood also

includes the poor, individuals who suffer from mental illness and substance abuse disorders, and the homeless. The city's growing popularity means that many residents find it harder to afford housing in the city.

2. Describe your congregation. Briefly describe the building. What is characteristic about the members of the congregation? What do you value most about this faith community? What are your congregation's greatest challenges?

The congregation.

We are an intentionally diverse congregation. Our active membership includes people of every walk of life. We are an inner-city church with vulnerable populations all around us and in our congregation; and we are a progressive faith community which attracts members from all over Portland and its suburbs. We welcome refugees from Africa and elsewhere who are active members and friends. We also have a shut-in population.

There are strong social action groups, including the Mission Board and a group exploring the Church carbon footprint. Our members and friends are enthusiastic for the strong preaching tradition that integrates faith and the wider world.

The building.

The original building, built in 1852, included the large sanctuary with one steeple at the front. The current façade with two towers was designed by John Calvin Stevens, a well-known Portland architect. The historic Roosevelt Organ is located in the towers of the Church on the balcony level. The balcony is only partially available for use because of fire code restrictions.

In the 1920s, a large addition included a large Chapel, meeting rooms, Sunday school rooms, offices and a kitchen, bringing the building to over 30,000 sq. ft. A Clothes Closet (open three Wednesdays each month) operates in part of the basement. On Thursday evenings a Contra Dance Group rents Chapel Hall. The Children's Nursery School leases the Church School rooms, and shares them with the church on Sundays.

The church office, and offices of the pastor, Christian education coordinator, and music director are located behind the sanctuary. A music practice room doubles as board meeting room and workshop meeting space. Most of the basement is currently rented to Rippleffect, a non-profit outdoor youth program. Vajra Vidya, a Tibetan Buddhist meditation center, leases the room above the music room. Below the sanctuary, former Sunday School classroom space now hosts Narcotics Anonymous Groups and an Alcoholics Anonymous group. The boiler room and a workshop space are also located in that area.

Congregation characteristics.

Our congregation is a pluralistic, open and affirming church. We are from varying racial, ethnic and faith backgrounds. We are professionals, artists, laborers, active retirees and business owners. We are seekers and believers, recent immigrants and settled US inhabitants, able-bodied and disabled, homeless and housed, healthy, struggling with health issues, and in recovery.

What we value most about this community.

Vibrancy, openness, vision, and its call to reflect on life of faith in the world.

Our community's greatest challenges.

- Recruiting, integrating and retaining new members, outreach.
- Meeting needs of children/families of the church.
- Better integrating asylum seekers/immigrants into the full life of the congregation.
- Managing a building built for 1200 with a congregation of 200.

3. Describe the pastoral needs of the congregation and community. What are the top gifts and/or skills you are looking for in a new pastor? What do you hope the new pastor will accomplish?

Our pastoral needs are as diverse as our congregation. We seek an interim minister who will:

- help us maintain stability and gain the confidence of our congregation;
- promote love, compassion, hope, forgiveness, and respect for our differences;
- help maintain our sense of security, hopefulness, and enthusiasm;
- provide clear and consistent communication about where we are in the transition process;
- assure that each of us is heard regarding that process;
- assist us with issues of loss involved in pastoral change.

4. List helpful websites.

- 1) State Street Church, UCC: <https://statestreetchurch.org>
- 2) Official tourism site for greater Portland: <https://www.visitportland.com>
- 3) Good website to explore downtown Portland: <https://www.portlandmaine.com>
- 4) Portland Head Light and Fort Williams Park: <https://portlandheadlight.com>
- 5) University of Southern Maine (largest university in Portland):
<https://usm.maine.edu>
- 6) Sea Dogs baseball (AA affiliate of the Boston Red Sox):
<https://www.milb.com/portland>
- 7) Maine Mariners hockey team (aka Puckland): <https://marinersofmaine.com/>
- 8) Article from Portland Press Herald on 4/9/19 summarizing US News and World Report's ranking of Portland, ME as the 23rd of the top 125 best cities to live:

<https://www.pressherald.com/2019/04/09/portland-named-in-top-25-best-places-to-live/>

- 9) Article from Bon Appetit naming Portland Restaurant City of the Year:
<https://www.bonappetit.com/story/portland-maine-city-of-the-year-2018>
- 10) Portland Museum of Art: <https://www.portlandmuseum.org/>
- 11) MECA (Maine College of Art): <https://www.meca.edu/>
- 12) Portland Ovation: <https://portlandovations.org/>
- 13) Portland Symphony Orchestra: <https://portlandsymphony.org/>
- 14) State Street Church United Church of Christ also has an active Facebook Page

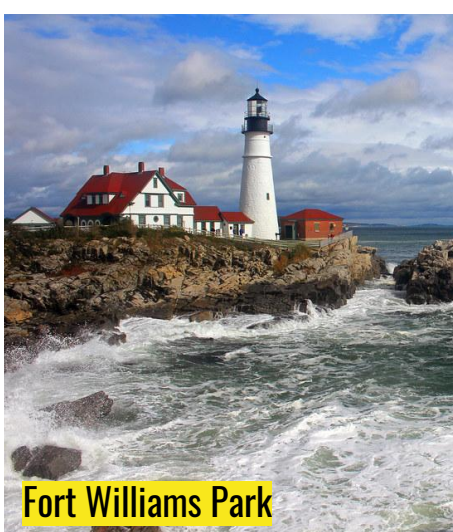
5. Search committee chair and contact information. Maine Conference staff person assisting search process and contact information.

Ministerial Transition Team Chair:
Margery Clark, Church Moderator
Contact through State Street Church (M-Th: 207.774.6396)

Maine Conference:
Rev. Deborah Blood
Conference Minister
207.530.0429



State Street Church UCC



Fort Williams Park

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Old Port parade



Our city is home to a bustling waterfront, delicious food and State Street's Roosevelt Organ.

Portland waterfront



Roosevelt Organ



Lobster Roll



Fellowship



Organist: David Maxwell



Annual Women's Retreat