SAINT JOHN’S CHURCH
(The Beloved Community)

Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community)
St. Louis, MO
Pastor
Missouri Mid-South Conference, St. Louis Association
November 4, 2019

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS
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“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)
LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: Saint John’s Church (The Beloved Community)
Street address: 4136 N. Grand, St. Louis, MO 63107
Supplemental web links: http://sjuccstl.org/

Conference: Missouri Mid-South Conference
Association: St. Louis Association
UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person:
Rev. Nicole Havelka
Minister for Search and Call Discernment
314-301-9842
nicole@mmsucc.org

Summary Ministry Description:

St. John’s UCC (SJUCC) is a 167-year-old church, founded in 1852 by German immigrants. Throughout this time, we have had committed pastors and congregants that have been through many transitions, a changing environment, and sustained SJUCC. By the early 2000s, our congregation had evolved considerably, and we found ourselves in a different cultural context with a different set of needs. While at one time the church and the neighborhood surrounding it were predominantly white and middle-class, the flight of the white and then black middle-classes from the city radically transformed the congregation and the neighborhood.

In order to speak to the new set of needs in the congregation and the neighborhood, the church was transformed in 2009 under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Starisky Wilson. Under Pastor Wilson’s leadership, St. John’s became “The Beloved Community,” a multi-cultural congregation theologically rooted in the black liberation tradition and practically rooted in the black church tradition. A new mission statement was developed during this period of spiritual and vocational renewal, which has guided us for the last 10 years. It reads as follows:

As a racially diverse, increasingly open congregation, St. John’s UCC, whose future is tied to its North Saint Louis neighborhood, has as its mission: (1) to share the gospel in bringing all people into relationship with Christ and discipleship in the Body of Christ; (2) to continue to nurture the closeness,
care, fellowship & faith of the congregation; (3) to be a catalyst for neighborhood wholeness & growth; & (4) to work toward the elimination of violence (especially among youth).

Ten years later, we are looking for a leader to join us in our ongoing transformation, which will consist of developing a sustainable way of living into our mission statement. We are looking for a leader who can help us grow and develop in our faith while also addressing the emerging challenges of financial stability and neighborhood health. With respect to financial stability, we are looking for a leader who can help us grow membership and nurture spiritually mature stewardship practices so that we can worship in a fully functional space of hospitality. With respect to neighborhood health, we are looking for a leader who can help us grow from a neighborhood resource for subsistence-level assistance into a catalyst for neighborhood wholeness. In short, we’re looking for a leader who can help us solidify our foundation into one that can last another 167 years.

3rd from left & right are wonderful church partners, though not SJUCC members.
What we value about living in our area:

Located on the banks of the Mississippi river, St. Louis is composed of 79 distinctive and interesting neighborhoods, and is home to many unique cultural landmarks, including the Gateway Arch, a world-class system of museums and parks, beautiful cathedrals, a thriving university system, and two major league sports teams. The city is also home to a large UCC community, including over 30 local congregations, the nearby Camp MoVal, a network of non-profits, and Eden Theological Seminary. Our church neighborhood of Fairgrounds is home to Fairgrounds Park, Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club, the historical Beaumont High School, historical Grand Water Tower, numerous community gardens that feed the community, and neighbors that provide great fellowship during outreach events.

Current size of membership: 110

Position Title: Pastor

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:
Full-Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?
Yes

SCOPE OF WORK

Scope of work for full time PASTORAL POSITION
(40-50 hours weekly / 10-12 units)

- Preparation and leadership of Sunday worship including scripture study, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, sermon preparation, guiding and sometimes finding lay liturgists, planning of music in coordination with musical staff or volunteers, preaching, offering of prayers, etc;
- **Faith formation and vitality** through prayer, Bible study, service, identifying helpful resources and opportunities and helping persons take advantage of them;
- Responsibility for overall Christian Education of children, youth and adults, including but not limited to selection of content for study and reflection;
- **Leadership development** by working with lay people and seminarians in the church to create ministry and programs;
- Pastoral care in collaboration with lay people;
- **Community engagement** and leading the way for the church to be an ambassador of God’s love;
- Weddings and funerals for participants in the worshipping community;
- **Strategic planning for current and new directions in ministry**;
- Attend meetings and give leadership as needed to church programs, in collaboration with lay leadership;
- Participate in wider church activities such as conference and association meetings;
- Administration responsibilities (unless delegated) such as email, website, church supply purchasing, more;
- **Faithful financial development** and stewardship;
- Responsibility for supervision of staff;
- Availability to wider community for funerals, weddings, special worship programs, and as a representative of the church to local organizations;
- Counseling, listening and referral;
- Study and prayer to increase faith and to improve skills so as to lead, teach, preach better; and
- Energizing and deepening the spiritual connections and faith understandings of others in all they do.

Core Competencies:
- Courageous
- Leads by example
- Committed to ongoing introspective Bible study, a student and teacher of the Bible
COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis (from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/Housing Allowance): $52,000 - $59,000

Benefits:
- Health benefits through the United Church of Christ
- 4 weeks paid vacation
- Continuing education allowance: $1000 and 2 weeks paid absence

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?
Living elsewhere to commute as needed

Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister.
Live in the St. Louis region so she/he can meet the needs of the congregation

State any incentives (e.g. school debt reduction or retention bonus after a certain number of years in position):
Sabbatical provided after 5 years

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference:
There are various trainings, peer meetings and supportive activities available through the Missouri Mid-South Conference and the St. Louis Association. St. John’s also has strong relationships with other churches and pastors in the community with whom we partner for social justice issues and actions. We also have a strong connection to Eden Theological Seminary.

If applicable, describe how your church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister’s bi-vocational employment:
Our previous pastor was in a bi-vocational employment arrangement. St. John’s may accommodate if necessary or preferred.

WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.
We are seeking a pastor that will push us to more fully live out our mission and vision, and to take the work to the next level. We desire to grow closer to God through preaching and teachings, as well as through strengthened bonds within our congregation and in the broader community. We’ve engaged and been responsive to current needs and issues in our neighborhood and city, and we seek to be a greater resource to the community and stronger advocate for social change.
Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.

We desire a pastor that is able to relate to and connect with our immediate neighbors and our diverse congregation. We seek someone that is able to connect a deep theological understanding of the Bible to today’s realities, and drive us towards prayer, study, reflection, and action.

Based on what you have learned about who your church is, who your church’s neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, describe four areas of excellence from *The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry* that your next minister will display to further equip the congregation’s ministry in these areas.

- **EXHIBITING A SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION AND ONGOING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**
  - We seek someone who can lead by example, is committed to ongoing spiritual development, and will help to draw the congregation into stronger spiritual practices.

- **WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE AND MERCY**
  - We believe in a direct connection between our faith in Christ and our action in the world. We seek someone willing to confront injustice and oppression, who is able to lead the congregation in a faithful response.

- **PARTICIPATING IN THEOLOGICAL PRAXIS**
  - Members of our congregation come from a wide variety of denominations and backgrounds, and we seek someone who can draw on deep theological understandings and reflection to help guide the congregation on our faith journey.

- **CARING FOR ALL CREATION**
  - We seek someone with a deep care and compassion for the congregation and our neighborhood, who recognizes the importance of spiritual, social and emotional well-being.
**WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?**

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

**Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?**

We believe God is calling us to grow deeper into our Vision Statement, which reads as follows:

By the power and movement of God, St. John’s UCC will be a restored and renewing community of Reconciliation:

- Seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit and gospel of Jesus
- Praying, praising, and preaching the gospel of Jesus
- Worshipping in a fully-functional space of hospitality
- Maturing in practice of spirituality and stewardship; and
- Growing through intentional action to a sustainable membership

In particular, the third and fourth bullet points above emerged as common themes during the congregational discernment discussions prerequisite to developing this church profile.

With respect to “worshipping in a fully-functional space of hospitality,” we desire to become more inclusive of and integrated with our neighborhood in order to better discern our neighbors’ needs and better align our gifts toward effectively addressing those needs. We have a long history and deep connection with our neighborhood, and continue to discern the need to remain and deepen these connections. Becoming a “fully-functional space of hospitality,” will require addressing the needs of our congregation and neighborhood.

With respect to becoming “mature in practice of spirituality and stewardship,” we desire to become a more fully-engaged congregation. In his book *Spiritual Maturity: Preserving Congregational Health and Balance*, which we recently read in Bible Study, Dr. Frank Thomas identifies the mature congregation as one that takes seriously the “privilege of participation” conferred upon individuals when they join the Body of Christ. According to Thomas, the “privilege of participation” is:

... the spiritual commitment to the standard of equality for each member of the Body. We will not require one person to over function while most of us under function. We will grace each other with the status of equals and extend to each other the privilege to participate.

We recognize our tendency to over rely on committed volunteers and leadership. Becoming a congregation that is genuinely mature will require overcoming this tendency by strengthening participation and further democratizing decision-making.
Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation.

Three major emerging challenges and opportunities for our congregation are:

- **Neighborhood Health** - The health of the neighborhood in which our church is situated continues to decline as a result of private and public disinvestment, exploitation by landlords and lenders, gun violence, drug addiction, and the extraction of social resources by way of over-policing and mass incarceration, just to name a few of the major problems.

- **Relationship with Neighbors** – The majority of the congregation does not live in the neighborhood and we recognize that building and maintaining our relationship with the neighborhood will require ongoing, intentional action.

- **Building Expenses** - The clay tile roof, intricate brick masonry, and stained-glass windows of our historic church building make for a beautiful exterior but expensive maintenance. As our church building ages, the cost of maintaining and repairing the building is mounting.

When considering how to address the emerging challenges and opportunities above, we look to our past to see how we have overcome previous obstacles.

In the past, when the health of our neighborhood has been threatened, direct action, coalition building, and political advocacy have been the tools of choice. Past challenges include the closing of one of the only grocery stores in the area, the proliferation of predatory payday lenders, as well as over-policing and police brutality. Congregational responses to these challenges have included protests, marches, joining with local advocacy groups to raise awareness and gathering signatures for ballot initiatives.
WHO ARE WE NOW?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

11-YEAR REPORT

CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING
CHURCH FINANCES
HISTORICAL INFORMATION

CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith.
The life of faith at St. John’s is primarily shaped by our mission statement, which describes our purpose as follows:

As a racially diverse, increasingly open congregation, St. John’s UCC, whose future is tied to its North Saint Louis neighborhood, has as its mission: (1) to share the gospel in bringing all people into relationship with Christ and discipleship in the Body of Christ; (2) to continue to nurture the closeness, care, fellowship & faith of the congregation; (3) to be a catalyst for neighborhood wholeness & growth; & (4) to work toward the elimination of violence (especially among youth).

Toward our goal to “share the gospel in bringing all people into relationship with Christ and discipleship in the Body of Christ,” we strive to be a congregation of openness, hospitality, and healing for anyone who comes through our doors, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, class, or denominational background. In fact, while undergoing the discernment process prerequisite to developing this church profile, the most used word in all discussions and responses was “open.” Our openness is grounded in the belief that God’s love is unconditional, and therefore, shared by everyone we encounter. Our goal to bring “all people” to the realization of God’s love is facilitated by the Testimony & Witnessing ministry.

Toward our goal to “nurture the closeness, care, fellowship & faith of the congregation,” we strive to be a congregation that is sustained by prayer, discipleship, as well as the care, encouragement, and enjoyment of one another. In addition to our individual prayer lives, our congregational life of prayer consists of daily morning prayer calls, weekly prayers of the people, and corporate prayer during all worship and meetings. Discipleship, which is facilitated by our Discipleship and Christian Education ministry, consists of Wednesday night Bible Study, Sunday School (where we study the Echoes Curriculum), monthly Girl Talk About God women’s fellowship, S.W.A.G.G youth fellowship, and Vacation Bible School. We use a variety of resources in Christian Education. Recent studies include the UCC’s God is Still Speaking Bible Study curriculum, Spiritual Maturity by Dr. Frank Thomas, Discerning the Voice of God by Rev. Priscilla Shirer, The Cross and the Lynching Tree by Dr. James Cone, and Pursuing God’s Will Together by Dr. Ruth Haley Barton. Congregational hospitality and fellowship is facilitated by the Relationship ministry and consists of the passing of the peace, visiting the sick and shut-in, congregational get-togethers, bi-annual retreats to Camp MoVal, bi-annual men’s and women’s retreats, as well as other community events.
Toward our goal “to be a catalyst for neighborhood wholeness & growth,” we strive to engage in the liberation and healing of our North St. Louis neighborhood, which has suffered decades of disinvestment, exploitation, and violence. Direct action toward this end includes the daily provision of food, and hygiene supplies to neighbors who drop by the church, monthly prayer breakfasts, a yearly community BBQ picnic, and a yearly door-to-door communion in the community. Indirect action toward this end includes engagement in activism and advocacy. SJUCC is an active participant in Metropolitan Congregations United, whose recent initiatives include ending the school-to-prison pipeline, closing the “Workhouse” (the city jail), Medicaid expansion, and passing Prop B and Amendment 1. Additionally, the church was an active participant in the Ferguson Uprising of 2014 with members not only directly engaging in the protests but also opening the church as a safe space for activists.

Finally, toward our goal “to work toward the elimination of violence (especially among the youth),” we strive to be a congregation where kids are an integral component of our life together (as one person noted at a recent discernment gathering, “at St. John’s, kids matter”). In S.W.A.G.G. (Students Witnessing About God’s Grace), the church’s youth fellowship, youth have a safe place to do homework, spend time together, go on outings, etc. Every month, the youth in church lead worship and are honored in a Superstar Sunday ceremony, where we all celebrate their recent accomplishments (e.g., getting on the honor roll, completing a big school project, getting into a band, etc.). Additionally, SJUCC also hosts one of the four Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools in the St. Louis area, a summer literacy program that seeks to curb summer learning loss and close achievement gaps by generating more positive attitudes toward reading and learning.

**Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.**

1. We are an inclusive congregation that is open to people of any age, gender, race, sexual orientation, class, and denomination. With respect to LGBTQIA+ inclusion, we have not undergone the official UCC ONA process, but in practice, we are open and affirming.

2. We are a hospitable congregation where people are cared for, encouraged, and valued. There are many opportunities to connect as well as to provide or receive support from the church.

3. We are a social justice-oriented congregation that is fearlessly committed to the liberation of our neighborhood and city from political and economic bondage.

4. There are many talented SJUCC members who are highly engaged within and beyond the church (e.g., pastors, musicians, seminarians, activists, civic leaders, non-profit workers, etc.).

5. We are a church that believes in training and sending forth the next generation of church leaders. As such, we are often home to a cohort of seminarians who are practicing preaching and teaching.

6. We are a church that is willing to be vulnerable. During worship, there is a call to discipleship, where we learn from one another how to share our burdens and celebrate our blessings.

7. There is an order to the worship service, but we are a congregation that seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit.
8. We are dedicated to engaging, encouraging, and discipling our youth.

9. As a result of the strengths above, we are also a diverse congregation, attracting and retaining people from all walks of life.

**Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.**

*Preachers entering the pulpit experience a congregation at worship and hungry for The Word powerfully proclaimed.*

We open worship with 2-3 songs led by the music ministry followed by prayer. The music consists of both hymns and contemporary worship songs. The music in this portion of the service serves a variety of functions: it is energizing, uplifting, and unifying. It draws us back from our lives outside the church and into connection again with the Holy Spirit and one another. We believe the entire worship service is “the work of the people,” and we strive to extend this model to the musical element of worship, as well. On this model, the music ministry is not performing for the people, but is an idealized reflection of the people’s participation in the act of worship.

Next, we move to the portion of the service where we extend to one another the peace of Christ. This consists of hugging or shaking the hand of another person while extending to them the peace of Christ in the form “May the peace of Christ be with you.” This portion of the service is an act of hospitality where we can make a physical connection with our community. It’s something we look forward to and sometimes don’t realize how much we need.

Once everyone is seated, we move to a centering song, which serves to calm and prepare our hearts for receiving the Word from the preacher.

While there’s no doubt that the preaching at SJUCC is theologically informative and thought-provoking, it is most often described in exhortative terms: strengthening, powerful, encouraging, and relevant to our lives in the St. Louis community. It renews and equips us to go back into our communities once again and participate in what God is doing there. That’s not to say that all the preaching at SJUCC is the same. In the past, even when the Senior Pastor position is filled, there is a constant flow of preachers through the pulpit, all of whom have a distinctive style and bring a fresh perspective to the Word.

After the sermon, there is a call to discipleship, when people can go to the altar to ask for prayer, share joys, or become members. This is often a powerful portion of the worship service when we learn how to be vulnerable with our burdens, care for one another, and celebrate one another.

The last major movement in the service is the time of Thanksgiving when we give our offerings to God. At this point, the service generally draws to a close after some announcements and a benediction.
Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

SJUCC relies on dedicated staff and volunteers to live out our ministry and mission. Many volunteers also serve in leadership roles for the church. We currently have a Consistory made up of five elders with one moderator. This group oversees the administrative side of church business and will be a direct support to a new pastor. In addition, we have Deacons that oversee the ministry teams of our church: Relationship, Stewardship, Discipleship, Worship, and Testimony. Our structure includes two deacons over each ministry. We have two trustees that oversee the budget and finances of the church with the Pastor. Deacons, elders, trustees, staff, and church ministers meet quarterly (monthly during this time of transition) for a Spiritual Council Meeting. Ministry and consistory meetings also occur on a quarterly (monthly during this time of transition) basis. Quarterly congregational meetings occur with large decisions being voted on by the congregation, such as the annual budget. More details can be found in our church by-laws.

11-YEAR REPORT
### CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of active members:</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of active non-members:</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 10 years:</td>
<td>17 X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 10, more than 5 years:</td>
<td>32 X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 5 years:</td>
<td>50 X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of total participants by age:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0-11</th>
<th>12-17</th>
<th>18-24</th>
<th>25-34</th>
<th>35-44</th>
<th>45-54</th>
<th>55-64</th>
<th>65-74</th>
<th>75+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of adults in various household types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single adults under 35:</td>
<td>15 X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint household with minors:</td>
<td>40 X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single adults age 35-65:</td>
<td>20 X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint household with no minors:</td>
<td>20 X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single adults over 65:</td>
<td>5 X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Education Level of Adult Participants by Percentage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High school:</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College:</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate School:</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Training:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percentage of Adults in Various Employment Types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults who are employed:</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults who are retired:</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults who are not fully employed:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Describe the Range of Occupations of Working Adults in the Congregation:

Our church family members are involved in: community organizing, teaching, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, self-employment, business management, fitness coaching, carpentry, painting, counseling, students (including several seminary students), law, nonprofit management, EMS, gardening, music, and more.

### Describe the Mix of Ethnic Heritages in Your Congregation, and the Overall Racial Make-Up. What does diversity mean in your context?

Diversity is a core part of who the Beloved Community is. Members come from a wide variety of church backgrounds and have found common ground within this UCC Congregation. We recognize that diversity is a unique aspect of our church, and we do not take this for granted. We are proud to look out over our congregation and see a multi-racial congregation with a fairly even mix of white and black members throughout. Within the highly segregated St. Louis region this is a very sacred space, and people that come to our church are often looking for such a space. We are an increasingly open congregation, continuing to have conversations of how we can be a more inviting space. We welcome and greatly respect our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters, and we are also proud of our socio-economic diversity.
Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one on the near future (perhaps using, for example, the Welcoming Diversity Inventory)?

Throughout the process of putting together this church profile, we have had many conversations on embracing diversity, and it has been a core component of responses to each of the three foundational questions: Who are we, Who is our neighbor, and Who is God calling us to become? We have invited conversations around each of these questions and held potluck style events to engage in communal conversations. We recognize that we are a uniquely diverse congregation, but that it takes intentionality to retain that. We’ve recalled how the church served as a safe space for the Black Lives Matter Movement after the death of Michael Brown, and how our open-ness was what allowed us to serve in such a way. As we transition and adapt to new leadership, we are committed to being “an increasingly open congregation” (church mission statement).

**PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ways of Gathering</th>
<th>Estimated number of people involved in attendance</th>
<th>Who plans each of the listed gatherings? (list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Groups or Classes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pastor/discipleship deacons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms (2)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Groups or Classes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pastor/discipleship deacons/youth leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve and Easter Worship</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Pastor, Worship ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church-wide Meals</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Relationship Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choirs and Music Groups</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Worship Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church-based Bible Study</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion (Monthly)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Pastor, Worship Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Meals</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Relationship Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation (number confirmed last year)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Pastor, Ordained Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama or Dance Program</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Discipleship Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals (3)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Pastor, Relationship Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Ministry Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Worship</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Testimony Ministry, Worship Ministry, Relationship Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer or Meditation Groups</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Relationship Ministry, Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Advocacy Work</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Testimony Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreats</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pastor, Discipleship Ministry, Relationship Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weddings (0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship (time slot: 10:30AM)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Pastor, Worship Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Groups or Classes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Discipleship Ministry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)</th>
<th>Ministry Setting</th>
<th>Type of Ministry Role</th>
<th>Retired? (Y or N)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Anthony</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>St. John’s UCC</td>
<td>Pastor in Transition</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Gerth</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nonprofit</td>
<td>Executive Director of Metropolitans Congregation United St. Louis</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kara Reece</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Baynham</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Friedens UCC</td>
<td>Interim Pastor</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Rogers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nonprofit</td>
<td>Executive Asst to CEO &amp; Pres. of Deaconess Foundation</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List all current staff, including ministers. Exclude the position you are seeking to fill. Indicate which staff person serves as head of staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff member’s name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Full/Part-time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Kevin Anthony</td>
<td>Pastor in Transition, Head of Staff</td>
<td>Full-Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornelius Davis</td>
<td>Minister of Administrator, Staff Musician</td>
<td>Full-Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFLECTION
After reviewing the congregational and community demographic data, three data points stick out. Our congregation is young, enjoys a large number of ordained ministers and seminarians relative to the overall size of the congregation, and is situated in one of the poorest neighborhoods in St. Louis. These three data points determine our ministry focus. We are focused on providing a safe place for our youth to grow in their love for God and each other, engaging in discipleship and spiritual formation, and extending our time and resources outward in service and advocacy.

CHURCH FINANCES

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving</td>
<td>$167,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Proceeds (as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)</td>
<td>$N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Draw (beyond what is permitted by spending policy, “drawing down the principal”)</td>
<td>$N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Events</td>
<td>$700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose</td>
<td>$13,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rentals of Church Building-afterschool program</td>
<td>$ 500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAINT JOHN’S CHURCH (THE BELOVED COMMUNITY)</th>
<th>2019 Budget January 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>Budget</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4000/week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beloved Disciple Tithes</td>
<td>$208,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Offerings</td>
<td>$4,950.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Offerings</td>
<td>$2,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Giving</td>
<td>$6,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise &amp; Media Sales</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrations</td>
<td>$1,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Income</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants / Sponsorships</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Cemetery &amp; Misc)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$231,900.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Without Cemetery Contribution</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry Personnel</td>
<td>$123,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries - Assoc Min, Min Admin, Custodian, Youth Min, Musician, Media support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Minister Package (based on MMSUCC 2016 Minimum Compensation Guidelines)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits - Social security, FICA, taxes, health insurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual - IT, Security, Bookkeeper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services (Contractual)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contextual Education / Stipends</td>
<td>$4,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe benefits - FICA, taxes etc.</td>
<td>$8,327.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PERSONNEL-RELATED EXPENSES Sub-total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$136,527.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testimony Ministry</td>
<td>$11,750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipleship Ministry</td>
<td>$4,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship Ministry</td>
<td>$2,050.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship Ministry</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Ministry</td>
<td>$5,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-PERSONNEL EXPENSES Sub-total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24,700.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitorial Supplies</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair/Maintenance</td>
<td>$17,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACILITIES MAINTENANCE Sub-total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,500.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$28,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Liability Insurance</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>$2,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Support</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alarm</td>
<td>$1,050.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O Box</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
<td>$2,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting/Payroll Service</td>
<td>$5,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copier</td>
<td>$4,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and Misc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office supplies/Food</td>
<td>$2,800.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADMINISTRATION Sub-total**  
$48,800.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
$227,527.00

**NET INCOME**  
Without Cemetery Contribution  
$4,373.00

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage?  
60%

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)*  
X 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%)*  
10%

What is the church’s current indebtedness?  
Total amount of loan debt: **None**  
Are capital and other payments current? **Yes**

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.  
Building needs are financed on a project by project basis.
If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Take a Seat Campaign</td>
<td>Renovated classrooms and purchased furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Building Repairs</td>
<td>Tuckpointing, roof and gutter repair, and renovated restrooms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does your church have an endowment? None

Other Assets

- **Reserves (savings):** $30,147.00 currently
- **Investments (other than endowment):** $28,300.00 currently

Does your church have a parsonage? Yes

**How is the parsonage used?** Church meetings. Bible study and office space

**Street / City / State / Zip:** 4138 N Grand, St. Louis, MO

**Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms:** 4 Bedrooms 1.5 Baths

**Assessed real estate value:** $489,188

**Available for minister residence:** No

**Expected minister residence:** No

**Condition of structure, systems and appliances:** Good

**Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs:** Spiritual Council

Describe all buildings owned by the church: Sanctuary and Parsonage

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

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? (worship space, pulpit, fellowship space, facilities, etc.) The space is not currently accessible to wheelchairs, though there is much desire to increase our accessibility, and we have explored options and costs.

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

After careful reflection, our current budget reflects our desire to continue our social justice-oriented mission but also maintain our aging church building. Additionally, there is a lot of personal contribution (time, money, and resources) toward our ministries that is not reflected in the budget.
HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Significant happenings in the history of the church:
1. Increased integration of Saint John’s in the early 1970s led to a unique worship space and congregational life compared to most other churches where Sunday is the most segregated time of the week.

2. Beloved Community Conferences
   This annual signature event, created by Rev. Dr. Starsky D. Wilson, centered around Dr. Martin Luther King’s dreams of equality involved the intersection of justice and faith. Activities included interfaith worship, community health fairs, educational sessions led by prominent theologians and Community Calls to Action.

3. The Most Important Event in the last 10 years – Heavy Ferguson Involvement
   The tragic death of Mike Brown sparked a fury of protest and unrest in St. Louis and the Ferguson area. With Rev. Starsky Wilson serving as a Co-Chair of the Ferguson Commission, Saint John’s became immersed in the theological and justice work associated with the endeavor. Most of the involvement with Ferguson actions were congregation-driven. We hosted the first Black Lives Matter Ride to Saint Louis. We protested in the streets. We participated in Ferguson Commission meetings. We fought for accountability when it came to follow through of Commission Report recommendations. The involvement with Ferguson led to further increase in membership, both locally and virtually. The rebuild of the website as well as the implementation of live-stream/Audio-visual teams were driven by people who wanted to stay connected to the congregation.

Other Events in Saint John’s History
2002 First African American pastor, Rev. Dr. Horace Allen, was called & installed
2005 First female pastor, Rev. Donna Philips, called. Food pantry incorporated.
2009 First all-female Consistory Board commissioned
   Heating, ventilation & air conditioning system installed for sanctuary & lower level
2012 Community Garden dedicated. Youth ministry launched.
2013 Parsonage remodeled and dedicated. First African American and first woman elected president of St. John’s Church Cemetery Board
2014 Renovation of Christian Education Wing
2015 Live Stream implemented. Atrium Roof repaired.
2016 Audio/Sound System upgraded
2017 First CDF Freedom School held. Renovation of church bathrooms
2018 Rev. Starsky D. Wilson transitions pastoral leadership at Saint John’s

Describe a specific change your church has managed in the recent past.
The re-vitalization of Saint John’s Cemetery has occurred in the last 5 years. During this time, the Cemetery Association Board has done a faithful job of creating needed business structure. The Cemetery has gone from a maintenance phase to one that is thriving and creating growth opportunities.
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. Values and practices that Saint John’s Beloved Disciples use to handle conflict can be found in the Church By-Laws. For particularly complicated conflicts, the Consistory leads the process of finding a resolution. The procedures are biblically based, and we believe they stem more from love and concern about each other than anything else.

Ministerial History: (Called Senior Pastors)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff member’s name</th>
<th>Years of service</th>
<th>UCC Standing (Y/N)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson</td>
<td>2008-2018</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Donna Philips</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Dr. Horace Allen</td>
<td>2002-2005</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Allin Walker</td>
<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under the recent leadership of Pastor Wilson, all ordained clergy were considered "Associate Ministers," whether they were paid or not. These clergy regularly supported the worship team through leadership at the Table, prayers, call to discipleship, or call to worship. They also regularly helped lead special events and often played a leadership role within the ministries. Current Associates include: Rev. Kara Reece, Rev. David Gerth, Rev. Aaron Rogers, and Rev. Tom Baynum.

Seminarians also have held distinctive leadership in worship, ministries and special events. Current seminarians include Duana Russell-Thomas, Sarah Nash, and Annie Girresch. Two recent seminary graduates have not sought ordination and are active in leadership: Alexis Tardy and DeMarco Davidson.

Pastor Wilson had other ministers serving on staff. Rev. Herbert Becton served as Minister of Music and Youth. Rev. Aaron Rogers and Rev. Kara Reece served as Executive Minister. Rev. Kevin Anthony served as Executive Minister before becoming the current Pastor in Time of Transition.

Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership:
We have learned that ministry is not the responsibility of the ministerial leadership alone. Ministry teams are doing better at working well with designated leaders to partner and share the workload as much as possible/reasonable. We have found that laity at Saint John’s appreciates opportunities to build relationship with leaders and we expect transparency in sharing of information. Healthy boundaries between leadership and laity are in place. We also support leadership continuing to learn and grow through educational engagement. Laity tries to hold a holistic view of wellness and we better understand the need for all in the congregation, especially leadership, to engage self-care.
Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination?
No

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?
No

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church?
No

WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

COMMUNITY VISION

COMMUNITY VISION

How do the relationships and activities of your congregation extend outward in service and advocacy?
As part of our mission statement is “to be a catalyst for neighborhood wholeness and growth, in our neighborhood,” we strive to be a resource for our neighbors and much of our service and advocacy work is focused in the neighborhood. The community garden around the church contains free vegetables for both members and neighbors. Daily, we provide food, clothing, and hygiene supplies to anyone in need who drops by the church. We host a monthly prayer breakfast where neighbors can come by to eat, receive prayer, and occasionally receive health and dental care. We also host an annual community BBQ complete with music, dancing, food, games, and more.

However, our service and advocacy work extends beyond the neighborhood, as well. As mentioned above, SJUCC hosts one of the Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools, a summer literacy program. Additionally, we are a member of Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) and participate in MCU campaigns and leadership development.

SJUCC is connected to the wider United Church of Christ in the following ways:
- Conference representation - We typically send delegates to denominational conferences
- Eden Theological Seminary - There is usually a seminarian placed at SJUCC to train in preaching and pastoral leadership, multiple seminarians attend the church, several of the pastors at SJUCC received their formal theological and pastoral training at Eden, and professors from Eden are frequent guest preachers in the pulpit at SJUCC.
- Deaconess Foundation and Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools - As mentioned previously, SJUCC hosts one of four Freedom School.
• Camp MoVal - SJUCC attends a spiritual retreat at Camp MoVal every other summer.

• Friedens UCC in St. Charles, MO - SJUCC enjoys an informal connection with Friedens through Rev. Tom Baynham, acting pastor at Friedens and member at SJUCC. Youth from Friedens have attended SJUCC and also attended Camp MoVal with our congregation in the summer of 2019.

• Christmas Eve with Christ the King UCC

Many local churches love to tell the story of what they are doing in the community to transform lives. Some have identified certain aspects of their witness into the wider community using language shared with other UCC congregations. (Find more information as desired at ucc.org.) Check any statements below that apply to your UCC faith community.

__ Accessible to All (A2A)  __ Just Peace
__ Creation Justice  __ Global Mission Church
__ Economic Justice  __ Open and Affirming (ONA)
__ Faithful and Welcoming  __ WISE Congregation for Mental Health
X_ God Is Still Speaking (GISS)  __ Other UCC designations:
__ Border and Immigrant Justice  __ Designations from other denominations
__ Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I’M)  __ 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?

We’ve been involved in many of these projects at local level, but not officially through UCC programs. We are interested in growing our involvement with the broader UCC.

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

• St. Luke’s AME - Annual New Years Eve service

• United Hebrew Congregation - MLK Shabbat and Cantor Eichaker has taught the youth a couple of times during S.W.A.G.G.

• Ward Chapel AME and Christ the King UCC - Annual Christmas Eve service

• Metropolitan Congregations United
• Visiting university students from North Park University and Saint Louis University
• World Communion Sunday

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? 5%
REFERENCES

Name up to three people who have agreed to serve as phone and written references. Advise the three references: “The contact information you provide may be shared publicly. Please use contact information that you feel comfortable giving to candidates so they can reach you with their questions.”

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Rev. Muriel L. Johnson</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Associate Minister</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Baptist Churches, Great Rivers Region</td>
<td>Eden Seminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 30698</td>
<td>475 E Lockwood Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia, Missouri 65205-3698</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO 63119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:muriel@abcgrr.org">muriel@abcgrr.org</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:dgreenhaw@eden.edu">dgreenhaw@eden.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Rev. Wendy Bruner</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rev. Rhonda R. Aldridge</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastor and Teacher</td>
<td>Pastor and Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace UCC</td>
<td>New Hope Community Christian Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204 East Lockwood Ave.</td>
<td>P.O. Box 26236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster Groves, MO 63119</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO 63136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:wendybruner@peaceuccstl.org">wendybruner@peaceuccstl.org</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:aldridgerhonda@yahoo.com">aldridgerhonda@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLOSING PRAYER

Most Gracious and Merciful God,

We come to you with bowed heads and open arms. Giving you all of the glory and all of the honor.
Lord we pray that our pastor grows as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
Leading your flock to love and care for one another.
Thanking you right now Lord for your seen and unseen blessings.
Fill him/her with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of your will and your way.
Give O'Lord, our pastor a spirit, mind, and soul of discernment in making decisions on how to lead your people.
A thirst to seek justice for those who cannot speak for themselves.
A vision of financial peace and timely order for your worship service.
Strengthen our pastor when he/she is weak and feeling unappreciated.
Put your whole armor upon him/her when the whiles of the devil and the evils of this world seek to attack them.
Most Heavenly Father, we ask that you protect and care for our pastor and his/her family.
Nurture their bodies in times of Sabbath rest, exercise, and eating well.
Teach us as your people how to love, respect, and communicate with our pastor.
Anoint our pastor's head with your Holy oil.
These words we pray in your Holy name.

AMEN,

AMEN, &

AMEN.
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? Our church Consistory selected a Discernment Team to put together the Local Church Profile. The Discernment Team was made up of seven congregation members, including three members of the Consistory. The Discernment Team then engaged the broader congregation through a series of Table Talk Conversations, and connected with church staff and leadership team members for the more detailed questions. We took time to go slow throughout this process, and felt that it was a valuable process for the entire church to be part of.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed: [Signature]
Name / Title / Date: [Date]

Nov. 17, 2019
VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment:

My signature below attests to the above item.

Signature:

Name / Title: Rev. Nicole Havelka, Interim Minister for Search and Call Discernment

Email: nicole@mmsucc.org

Phone: (314) 301-9842

Date: 11/21/2019

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
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
June 10, 2019

To: Prospective Candidates

Why would a Baptist Minister be writing a letter of reference for a UCC congregation one might ask? Well the short answer is wrapped up in one word – Relationship! I have been a part of the life of this congregation for approximately 11 years. On numerous occasions, I have preached taught and provided leadership in retreat settings for the women of the church. It has also been my privilege and blessing to participate in worship from the perspective of the pew.

Upon meeting and engaging with this congregation, I found myself among a people whom love God and seek to authentically to serve the community and stand for JUSTICE in the public square. As my relationship with the people grew I found myself drawing closer and falling in love with this congregation who strive to be welcoming to all people and who were doing the hard work of learning to live, love and do ministry in a way that reflects the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The ongoing challenge for St. John’s will be to stay attentive to the commitment and the work of being a multi-cultural church while serving Jesus Christ. Working on the day to day complexities of what it means to live out the already present and growing theological, social and economic diversity will not only be the gift of this congregation to kingdom living-- it will also represent the continuing growing edge that will need to be sharpened with intentionality of process, practice and proclamation inside and outside the walls of the church.

My direct contact info is represented above via the Area V office in Columbia Missouri. I can be reached via phone, email or via “zoom” video conferencing to further answer and or explore any questions that you might have about this congregation and the context in which they do and live out the Ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Shalom, Muriel L Johnson
To Whom it May Concern:
St. John’s is a church of and for and with the community. The people who are part of this church community live out their call as followers of Jesus – speaking truth to power, addressing systemic and structural oppression as well as attending to the day to day needs of the community. In other words, St. John’s is serious about proclaiming the Good News. This is a community of love. When you walk in the door, you know you are welcome.

I was one of the people who knew I was welcome when I walked in the door. People embraced me with loving arms- accepted and affirmed me for who I was. They supported me as I went through seminary. They rejoiced with me in good times and provided grace and forgiveness as I stumbled in my role as student pastor. In this community I learned the importance of intentionality in ministry and what it means to be present and listen.

When I was installed as a pastor in Indiana, this wonderful community of people chartered a bus and drove 6 hours one way to sing and preach and be with me because they claimed me as one of their own. Though I am a pastor and member of another church, I am and will always be a child of St. John’s The Beloved Community

Rev. Wendy Bruner
Pastor and Teacher
Telephone: 314-968-1727, Cell: 314-281-0272
Email: wendybruner@peaceuccstl.org

Relationship to the congregation: My home church
June 10, 2019

To: Prospective Candidates

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