

Search and Call Tools for Congregations

Advancing the Spirit's guidance into God's future

INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Who
are
we

Who
is our
neighbor

Who is
God
calling us
to become

?

The new Local Church Profile is not just for congregations in search of a pastor. *All* congregations are encouraged to engage in its process of discovery every 3-5 years. The UCC Local Church Profile reflects valuable data, assesses ministry, clarifies change, and helps advance the calling of the congregation. Not just to be completed by a search committee – the more participation, the better!

MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE,
SUPPORT & AUTHORIZATION

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

First United Church of Christ
Burlington, Iowa

Pastor

Iowa Conference, Southeast Iowa Association

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)*

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 preparation of a Local Church Profile. Using the Profile, the church 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.

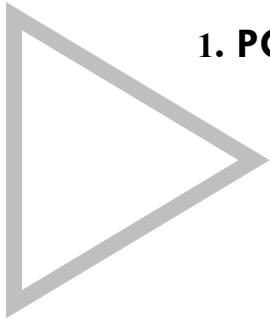
The interim season is not the only time in a church's life when it's valuable to give attention to explore a congregation's vocation. Three sections of the Local Church Profile – **WHO ARE WE NOW**, **WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR**, and **WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME** – are meant to be updated every 3-5 years. Known together as the “Discovery Document,” these three sections can be completed by a visioning group, a governing body, a transition team, or other group – not just the search committee – in order to draw forward the gifts and imaginative possibilities of a congregation. The church's engagement with the “Discovery Document” might not have the same sequence as the completed Local Church Profile that is read by candidates.

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 story-tellings and many prayers. 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.



1. POSITION POSTING

- a. LISTING INFORMATION
- b. SCOPE OF WORK
- c. COMPENSATION & SUPPORT
- d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: First United Church of Christ

Street address: 611 Columbia St. Burlington, Iowa 52601

Supplemental web links:

www.firstuccburl.org

Additional ecumenical affiliations (*e.g. denominations, communions, fellowships*):

Conference: Iowa Conference

Association: Southeast Iowa

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person (Name, Title, Phone, Email):

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones– Associate Conference Minister

Phone 808-631-2444 (cell)

E-Mail sarah@ucctcm.org

Summary Ministry Description:

In a short paragraph, reflect on where your church is going and what it might look like when you get there. What do you need to get there? Who are you seeking to join you on this part of your church's faith journey?

Support for small congregation. Ministerial guidance for continued search process.

Needs- Leadership for church growth and renewal

Photographs:

Insert 1 – 3 images of your church, its people, its parsonage or building or gathering space, etc.

What we value about living in our area (*2 – 3 sentences*):

1. Excellent public school systems K-12 with local Area Community College (A.A. and technical degrees), four year colleges nearby and strong evening adult education programs.

2. Beautiful, historic community with appreciation for cultural diversity and heritage; organized preservation of downtown; revitalization of our riverfront, park areas, library and residential areas. Active tourism promotion.
3. Expanding regional medical center, local sheltered workshop and residential living for developmentally disabled and variety of housing from historic homes to new subdivisions, many restaurants, a regional mall, adjoining community(West Burlington) and proximity to Chicago, St. Louis, Des Moines.
4. Wide range of recreational opportunities: Mississippi River boating; excellent city, state and private parks and recreational sites; local minor league baseball team; YMCA-YWCA; Burlington Regional Rex-Plex (Soccer, softball, baseball, football, sand volleyball) and FunCity Turf (Dome for all sports) ; 3 golf courses; casino; city and regional music; bicycle and cultural festivals; Big Hollow Recreation Area (camping, fishing, swimming, boating, etc.), Starrs Cave Nature Center, art center; civic music; amateur theater; adult and youth choirs, 34 Raceway (dirt track automobile racing)

Current size of membership:72

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*):

Position Title: Pastor

Position Duration (*choose one, delete the other options listed*):

Part Time 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 (*choose one, delete the other options listed*):

½ Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? The salary package is negotiable depending on the candidate's experience and needs.

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

(add here the Scope of Work developed by your church using the Call Agreement Workbook)

Core Competencies:

(List three core competencies that you imagine could be foundational in your next minister's relationship with the church. For example, a church seeking a pastoral care minister might hope to call someone who is caring, sensitive and sociable, while a church seeking an executive minister might want an organized, detail-oriented and time-conscious person.)

Caring, energized, organized, sensitive and sociable

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

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

Salary and Benefits are negotiable.

Benefits *(choose one)*:

Negotiable

What is the expected living situation for your next minister *(e.g. parsonage, living nearby with a housing allowance, living elsewhere to commute as needed)*?

Living nearby. Housing allowance negotiable.

Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister.

Within 15-20 minute commute.

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

Our church has a good reputation, our congregation is friendly and caring. We have good music, good food, and our church building is beautiful, well maintained and highly visible in the downtown area sitting on top of historic Snake Alley.

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference:

Association and conference support.

Contact with other association pastors. Other UCC congregations are close by.

If applicable, describe how your church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment:

Flexible

1d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

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

Guide us to better utilize the church facilities and help grow as a congregation. Continue to guide us as a prayerful, caring congregation and serve our pastoral needs for sacraments, service, funerals and care.

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

Willingness to serve and foster community service. Do some service outside of church walls (i.e. nursing homes, special services when conditions allow these.)

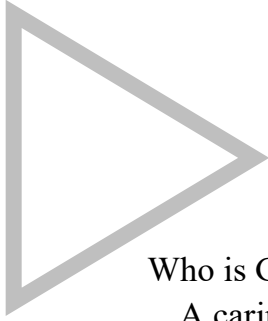
Specify language requirements or culturally-specific capacities preferred in a next ministerial leader, and why those matter to the congregation's sense of calling.

English, Nothing specific

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.

Based on our perceived needs of: proceeding on with the search for a permanent pastor; improving congregational growth and stewardship; and providing typical ministerial needs, the areas of excellence (from the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers) that our next Pastor would need would be the characteristics described under the qualities of:

1. Strengthening Inter- and Intra- Personal Assets
2. Exhibiting A Spiritual Foundation and Ongoing Spiritual Practice
3. Building Transformational Leadership Skills
4. Engaging Sacred Stories and Traditions



2. 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?

A caring and welcoming, loving congregation. We are looking to spread the word of God in community as well as congregation.

Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation.

For example, describe two experiments your congregation has initiated or engaged in the past year, what were the results and where do you see your next steps? Has your church had a multi-year strategic plan or vision statement; if so, where do you see that plan/vision taking you?

We experimented using a worship team with lay people from our congregation, participating in and leading worship services.

We are using more volunteers from within the congregation (ex: for music, cleaning, C. E.)

3. WHO ARE WE NOW? “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

- a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS
- b. 11-YEAR REPORT
- c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
- d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING
- e. CHURCH FINANCES
- f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith.

For example, what beliefs and commitments are stated in your congregation’s purpose statement or membership vows? How is God most often described in worship liturgy? In what ways would you describe the Holy Spirit in your midst?

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

We have great congregational pride in being part of a historic district. (We sit atop beautiful Snake Alley)

As a congregation we have strength in our ability to work together for fundraising efforts, luncheons, youth events and outreach projects.

Our building has a beautiful sanctuary with well maintained property and adequate space for programs.

We have dedicated volunteer Christian Education and Outreach workers.

There are no debts.

Our paid staff includes: part time church office manager, organist and pianist, choir director, Christian Education director.

We are talented, hardworking, conscientious members.

We maintain and use a pipe organ and piano for worship.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

For example, where does worship take place, and what is it based around? What was a recent baptism like? What are some words used to describe good preaching?

Traditional usual form using UCC liturgy, traditional hymns and music

Frequent lay participation in service.

90% sanctuary and 10% special service in community.

Baptism is traditional using anointing with water and participation with family and congregation.

Preaching is thoughtful and relatable yet traditional.

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

For example, how are young people in leadership? How do people continue to form their faith over a lifetime? Name a topic studied or curriculum used recently; what was the impact of this study on those who attended?

Youth help with ushering, do several services per year, pick up communion cups after service, help with meals.

We try to include students as much as possible.

Confirmation is a 2 year program culminating with confirmation as a member at the 8th grade level.

Youth group meets periodically, usually with a summer day trip.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

For example, how are decisions communicated in your church? How are teams or committees organized? Where does your church struggle for vision?

- When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month?

Committees are: Elders, Consistory, Christian education, worship, finance, personnel, kitchen ministries, property and stewardship. Hours depends on business. Committees usually meet monthly.

- Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished?

Special committee meetings are called and special meetings are called with congregational participation. At times Consistory is polled via phone for emergency decisions. Pastor and Consistory president converse too.

- 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/No]

Yes

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

(add here the 11-Year Report developed with the help of your conference staff, UCC Data Hub, and MissionInsite)

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	55	
Number of active non-members:	17	
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	72	

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	31	
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	30	
Less than 5 years:	22	

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	8	
Households with minors:	8	
Single adults age 35-65:	2	
Joint households with no minors:	20	
Single adults over 65:	21	

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:		Yes, we have all these demographics represented.
College:		
Graduate School:		
Specialty Training:		
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	25%	
Adults who are retired:	75%	
Adults who are not fully employed:		

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

Blue collar to white collar. We are diverse. We have some who load trucks and some who work at local community college. Some who were in local businesses and homemakers.

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?

Our heritage stems from German Evangelical and Reformed and some long term members descend from those families while others are believers who have joined because they find us friendly and like the traditional worship format and, honestly, some liked the Pastor. We are currently all Caucasian members.

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)?

Please note the date. Comment after the exercise:

We have not had recent conversation about this, but open to diversity.

3d. 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	0 New member classes as needed	Pastor
Baptisms (<i>number last year</i>)	0	
Children’s Groups or Classes	9	C.E. Director and teachers
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	Christmas Eve 91	Pastor

	Easter 94	
Church-wide Meals	8-12	Kitchen Ministries
Choirs and Music Groups	8-10 Choir	Choir Director
Church-based Bible Study	12	Pastor, Lay leaders also
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	Once a month & Special event 4-6 serve	Pastor and Worship committee and Consistory
Community Meals: 2 per year in normal years plus monthly luncheons	75-100	Committees
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	0 in 2019 (though we have had 1-3 in some recent years)	Confirmation leaders -2
Drama or Dance Program	0	
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	4	Pastor
Intergenerational Groups : Called 1's and 2's	12-15	Pastor – Members dine together at restaurants
Outdoor Worship	Sunrise 41 Picnic 30-35	Pastor for Sunrise Pastor and worship for picnic
Prayer or Meditation Groups	3 prayer chains	Elders, Consistory and Bible Study
Public Advocacy Work	5	Pastor, C.E. committee, Kitchen Ministries
Retreats	0	
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community		
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	0	
Worship (time slot: 10:00 summer)	Varies	Pastor
Worship (time slot: 10:30)	Varies	Pastor

Young Adult Groups or Classes	0	
Youth Groups or Classes	2- confirmation and one room	
Other : All church gatherings: Talent/Hobby show Annual Meeting Meal Oktoberfest Supper Snake Alley Day Luncheon Cookie Walk	1x year	C.E. Kitchen Ministries and Consistory All members- KM coordinates All members – KM coordinates All members- Chandra coordinates

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- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)

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 staff person 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
C.E. Director	Debbie	Part time	Pastor	18 years

Choir Director	Chandra	Part time	Pastor	1 year
Office Manager	Donna	Part time	Pastor /Personnel	3 years

REFLECTION

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

We realize we are primarily an “older” group of members.

We realize we have fewer young families and youth.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

Current annual income (dollars used during most recent fiscal year)2019

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$55,574
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$11,693
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, “drawing down the principal”</i>)	\$28,528
Fundraising Events	\$13,888
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$4,990
Grants	\$0
Rentals of Church Building	\$735
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$0
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women’s Group</i>)	\$0
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$0
Other (specify): Interest	\$170
Other (specify):	\$
TOTAL	\$

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$

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

\$109,365 for 2019

\$103,703 for 2020

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? 28.9%

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%)*

What is the church's current indebtedness? 0

Total amount of loan debt:

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. N/A

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: N/A

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

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe:

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? Yes

What is the market value of the assets?

Agency Account \$287,008 as of 3/30/20

Edward Jones \$116,647

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

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

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

Ongoing projects – Building maintenance

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

It depends on the market

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

5% draw is what is permitted by trust yearly

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$178,822

Investments (other than endowment): \$287,008

Does your church have a parsonage? No

Fair market rental value of the parsonage:

How is the parsonage used?

Street / City / State / Zip:

Finished square footage:

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms:

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

Describe all buildings owned by the church:

Our church, at 611 Columbia St., is a red, brick three level building located on a high and prominent point, at the top of historic Snake Alley. It has an attractive, carpeted, oak appointed sanctuary which seats up to 600 people and is air conditioned. This building contains six classrooms, has a well-maintained, large kitchen, a social hall/banquet room with a stage, and restrooms. The adjoining two story addition has central air conditioning throughout. The first floor contains a large multi-purpose parlor with kitchenette, restrooms, storage room, church office with computers and private pastor's office. The lower floor consists of a large, partitioned area. An outdoor patio area attaches to a driveway. There is a ramp for access to the main entrance and sanctuary. There is a chair lift going from main floor to the downstairs social hall.

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

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? (*worship space, pulpit, fellowship space, facilities, etc*)

Worship space 1st floor, other areas are handicapped accessible

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

For example, when was a time the church made a major budget change? How is the budgeting process done? What new ministry initiative has your church financed?

The budget is done by stewardship committee and approved by consistory, then congregation at the annual meeting.

The Consistory makes investment decisions in consultation with stewardship/ finance, trust officers and financial advisors. Pastor assists with allocation of special gift recommendations.

3f. 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 have been in stability with a long term, well liked and respected pastor. With her move to part time, we have utilized a worship team concept using lay people from our congregation for worship services, set on a schedule until the recent months.

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

We worked through selling of parsonage methodically, we researched and ultimately members made decision whether or not to sell.

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.

For example, what is an example of a recent conflict and something your congregation learned from it? Describe an occasion when your church experienced conflict without being able to resolve it well. Does your church have policies, protocols or structures for dealing with conflict?)

Issues are assessed by Consistory- They do investigating, research, debate, fact find and most issues are addressed through consistory. They may make a decision or it may go to the congregation at annual meeting for a vote.

Some conflicts are resolved with or by the pastor.

We try to value everyone's opinion and try to reach out and keep open communication and resolve any issues that may come up.

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

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Judy Ann Morse	18 years	
Milo VanVeldhuizen	6 years	
Pam Webb (interim)	3 years	
Brian Crousore	5 years	

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

Our church is relatively traditional and we like cooperative leadership

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

Y/N/Ask us

Yes – Involuntary termination

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

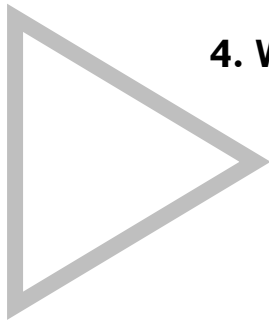
Y/N/Ask us

Yes

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

Y/N/Ask us

None we are aware of.



4. WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

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

- a. COMMUNITY VISION
- b. MISSION InSite

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

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

For example, which service activities has your church participated in this past year?

Where has the church participated in global connections of care and justice? What is currently transformational in your church’s engagement with neighbors near or far?

We have a mitten tree at Christmas and they go to the UCC children orphanage and St. Joseph Indian School.

We have a red wagon and food/package goods contents go to various local charities

We contribute to: School lunches, project crayon, Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter Baskets to ones in need.

We have a blood drive.

We are involved with the Heifer Project and periodically other local and global support.

We collect aluminum cans with proceeds to Heifer Project.

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

Association

In previous years some members attended association and conference meetings but not recently.

Pastor was encouraged to attend association meetings until she wanted to decrease her hours.

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.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible to All (A2A) | <input type="checkbox"/> Border and Immigrant Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creation Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I’M) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Just Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Mission Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> God Is Still Speaking (GISS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA) |

WISE Congregation for Mental Health

Designations from other denominations

Other UCC designations:

None

At this time, our outreach is more local except for UCC wide outreach envelopes.

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?

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

We host a Donkey Walk and invite other denominations. Choir joins singing with other denominations for Good Friday service/Cantata. Participated in organ crawl. Sunrise service open to all. Encourage Pastor to participate in Nursing Home rotation.

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.

Our activities are consistent with our mission statement.

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?

We support our Pastor to do church activities in the community spreading the word of God, but because she is part time most time is spent in our congregation.

4b. MISSION InSite

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

We are not aware of Mission Insite report.

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?

Our demographics reflect the neighborhood composition.

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

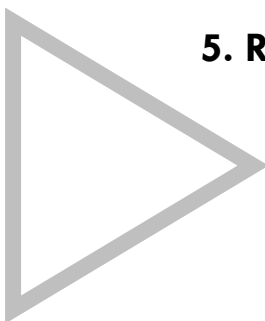
Our community has lost population and employment opportunities and our congregation has decreased since the height of membership, though it has increased and stabilized since about 2002.

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

Nice building, beautiful sanctuary, good food, that we get participation and volunteerism from congregation, friendly welcoming and prayerful, great location

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

Traditional service, friendly family atmosphere, the outreach of Pastor who has contacted visitors and her support of those who have attended regularly though haven't joined.



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.

REFERENCE 1

Name / Position / Setting

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

Joe Deal/ 319 750-4888/ email jsdeal@aol.com/ Board of Southeastern Association and Iowa Conference Board of Directors and member of another local UCC church

REFERENCE 2

Name / Position / Setting

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

Rhonda Zihlman/ 319 752-3973/ pianist/ email rzihlman@yahoo.com

REFERENCE 3

Name / Position / Setting

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

Jacob Yocum/ 319 850-8361/ former choir director

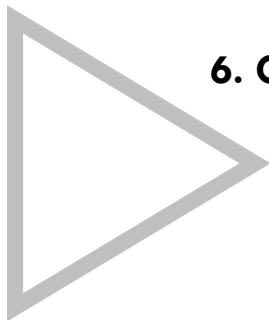
PROMPTS FOR REFERENCES

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.



6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

- a. CLOSING PRAYER
- b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT
- c. CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

Include here any prayer or dream for the minister you imagine journeying toward you... a poem, for example, or a Scripture passage or a piece of music that is meaningful to your Search Committee:

A Prayer for Our Church

July, 2020

Dear Father:

"Praise be to God, the Father, the Almighty, the King of Creation!" "Oh, my soul Praise Him!" We have sung these words and our lips were not without truth for we believe in Your Kingdom. As our Father, we trust you are looking down on us today and every day. You are ready to hear us. And we remember your promise that you will listen our prayers. Praise You, God!

We compose this prayer at a time of global concern, as an invisible but mighty virus spreads death, illness, and disrupts our everyday lives. We come to you with faith, our Father, because although the

contagion spreads, we believe Your Power is stronger. We praise you for the wisdom you send to our scientists, the compassion you pour into health care providers, the strength you give workers and all those who support us with efforts to manage and overcome this disease. And we pray that by working together and with your grace, all your humanity will gain relief and we can rejoice.

Our world and our country also need the blessings of peace and reconciliation. It seems we are in a period of change in so many facets of our lives. Even here, within the little sphere of our congregational life, we are stepping onto the path of searching for new Pastoral leadership. Guide us as we contemplate, then plan for a future that will faithfully reflect Your teaching and honor our traditions and heritage.

Lord, we believe as a church family, we have taken good care of our house of worship. But we know a “church” is not just about a building. As a congregation we are not perfect. We confess we may not always live up to our faith values and callings. Are we at times too shortsighted or comfortably complacent? Do our actions align with our words? Some would answer yes. Some might say, “We could do better. We may find some “turns” in the road ahead so help us live your teachings as we evolve.

We thank you for the sincere, loving Pastoral care and spiritual leadership of recent years. Thank you for the mentors who have guided us and provided for us in the past and for our young who remind us to plan for a future. Thank you for our faithful members. Thank you for holding us up during some tough times and letting us celebrate happy joys together. Thank you for optimism as we move forward. At times, we can verily feel your loving care and sense the wisdom or strength you send to us. Other times, we can hear your calling and feel the gentle prodding to “go forth” living as a reflection of your words. Now, as we embark on the search for a Pastor, give us guidance and insight; send the blessings of your care, love and good health to all the members and friends within our “church” and send resolution of the pandemic and peace to our world.

We pray these words in Jesus’s name. Amen.

6b. 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? (*for example, church council or consistory, transition team, etc.*)
Search committee, current pastor, and accountant
2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed:

Name / Title / Date:

Debbie Bliesener – Chairperson of Search Committee- August 9, 2020

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment: Yes

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

Staff Comment: Yes

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

Staff Comment: Yes

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:



Name / Title: Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones, Associate Conference Minister

Email: sarah@ucctcm.org

Phone: (808) 631-2444

Date: August 16, 2022

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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