

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

Templeton UCC Wessington Springs, SD
Minister/Part Time
South Dakota Conference – Prairie Lakes Association
06/03/2021

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

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

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

INSTRUCTIONS

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

For many congregations, the interim time between ministers is an intentional season that is guided in part by the 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.

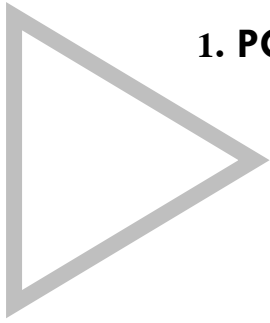
The interim season is not the only time in a church's life when it's valuable to give attention to explore a congregation's vocation. Three sections of the Local Church Profile – **WHO ARE WE NOW**, **WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR**, and **WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME** – are meant to be updated every 3-5 years. 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: Templeton United Church of Christ

Street address: 22994 374th Avenue, Wessington Springs, SD 57382

Supplemental web links: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/129213177234792>

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

None

Conference: South Dakota Conference

Association: Prairie Lakes Association

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

Rev. Samantha Houser - Associate Conference Minister

3500 S. Phillips Avenue STE. 100

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

samantha@ucctcm.org

Summary Ministry Description:

Our congregation intends to keep our church family alive. We need a minister who is a leader both spiritually and inspirationally. We want to keep God's word moving us forward.

Photographs:

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





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

We have a small, friendly, caring town where everyone knows each other and are willing to help when someone needs it. It has many services needed by people such as hospital, nursing home, apartments included in the health complex and also dentists plus many commercial businesses. Our small country church is a very close-knit family with great Christian values and appreciation of the open spaces of our area.

Current size of membership: Approximately 80

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

English

Position Title: Minister/Part Time

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

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 - Willing to Negotiate

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

Yes

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.

We are seeking a Pastoral Care minister who is caring, sociable, and sensitive to parishioners. Organization is important and being prepared for the worship service with stimulating and meaningful messages.

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis (*from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/Housing Allowance*): \$15,000.00 for ½ time minister plus the parsonage and utilities furnished. It will be negotiable with the minister. This is an approximate amount.

Benefits (*choose one*):

Salary plus Benefits

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*)?

A 4 bedroom Parsonage is located in Wessington Springs which is 8 miles away from the church. Utilities will also be furnished.

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

The distance is 8 miles away from the church and mileage will be furnished.

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

Negotiations on these things.

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

The Conference and Association are very supportive with information. There are Association meetings and the Annual Conference Convention.

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

The church is very open to the minister helping with responsibilities to parishioners plus accounting for time needed for extra employment.

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.

We need to reignite our congregation, get new members, and keep the members that we have coming to services. Activities need to be organized for members, Bible study, and ways to do Christian work (visiting shut-ins etc.), in other words, rebuild a sense of purpose and unity. We have listed many goals we would like to achieve and we realize it would take much work to achieve them and don't expect to reach them all right away, but our Deacons, Deaconesses and many members of the congregation are willing to work with the minister on reaching them. With the Covid, it is difficult, but the longer we are without a minister, the harder it will be to get people back.

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

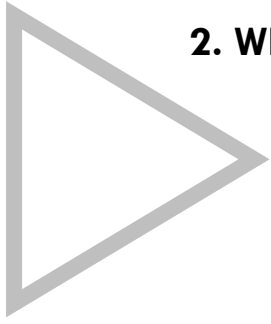
Work with the five denominations that are in the Ministerial Association in Wessington Springs to help with the 3 or so community services and projects. Stay connected to the Regional Conference office to bring us information on missions and projects away from our community so we can participate.

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

Not Applicable

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, 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.

Templeton Church is a group of family, friends, and neighbors who are loving, kind, and helpful. Their faith in God is strong and they are active in mission work. It is a small, rural church concerned about everyone, if someone is absent from church, people find out if they are okay. The congregation is dedicated, committed to stay open to keep God's teachings and love alive, and welcoming to everyone. It has young farm families and older folks gathering to socialize and worship, basically a family and community of faith.



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?

We hope to become a more active Christian presence in our community. We should be active as Christians and advocates for Christian living.

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

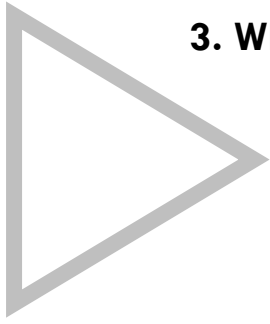
For example, describe two experiments your congregation has initiated or engaged in the past year, what were the results and where do you see your next steps? Has your church had a multi-year strategic plan or vision statement; if so, where do you see that plan/vision taking you?

Templeton Mission Statement as written in our Constitution: We hold it to be the mission of the church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all mankind exalting the worship of the one true god and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood.

Two experiments are:

Parishioners give the sermons and other help for the worship services. This has helped us keep going without a minister.

We have started a coffee time before worship services for time of fellowship and it has been well attended. The youth group did this many years ago to raise money for their projects and it was well attended then also, but we of course, are not raising money, it is a time to catch up with our members activities and their families. The ladies of the Fellowship take turns bringing goodies to eat with the coffee. We started this in January and we hope to do this again after social distancing is not required.



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?

We are guided by our statement of Faith and the Holy Spirit is in our midst as a loving God and ever present Guiding Presence.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

Our congregation has kind, friendly, caring and sharing families that have long associations with the church and each other's families. It has determined, faithful people committed to making Templeton a success in worshipping God and are willing to go the extra mile to help others in need. It is a close-knit family who is open and welcoming to newcomers. Church services are well attended and members are always willing to help with projects to help spread God's compassion and word.

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?

Our worship service is based on the standard lectionary and at times the minister feels free to use their own. At Baptism, more people are present and we celebrate a new life. Words used to describe good preaching: Knowledge of the Bible, and interpretations and applications to contemporary life.

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

Templeton Church has Sunday School for grades preschool through 6th grade. Children engage in weekly Sunday School lessons and prepare a Christmas and Easter program. We are currently using the Sparks digital curriculum. The curriculum has been great in engaging children in weekly lessons and relating back to everyday occurrences in their lives. Sunday School students also are involved in collection and packaging of gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child and activities for members who are now living in the local nursing home. Depending on the year (Confirmation is only offered every other year currently) students in 7th and 8th grade take part in Confirmation classes. Students have weekly classes with the instructor (the current minister or worship leader) and a mentor (a member of Templeton congregation). Confirmands help with reading scripture and leading children's sermons during worship. They also participate in Christmas programs and Advent services. 7th – 12th grade students are also encouraged to take part in the weekly community youth group. This involves several of the local churches, their ministers, and church members of the community. Our church members may volunteer to help with serving meals etc. for the students. Leslie Tanke, SS Superintendent

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

Our Church Board meets monthly for approximately 2 hours, plus the Ladies Fellowship meets monthly for approximately 2 hours. When a crisis needs to be announced, or even happy events etc., we have a prayer chain that can be sent in a short time to all members and the Chairman of the Board.

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

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

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



Church#: 721370

Assoc: 736

Schedule: 0

Templeton UCC

Wessington Springs

SD

57382

YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION	CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR REAFFIRM	DEATHS OR TRANS OUT	OTHER LOSSES	NET MEMBS ADDS-REMOVED
2010	100	50	25	0	0	2	2	0	0
2011	98	45	28	0	0	0	2	0	-2
2012	97	25	25	0	0	0	1	0	-1
2013	97	43	29	2	0	0	2	0	0
2014	106	47	19	7	0	5	3	0	9
2015	106	47	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	106	47	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017	106	47	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	106	47	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	106	47	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	106	47	19	0	0	0	0	0	0

YEAR	CURRENT EXPENSES	CAPITAL PAYMENTS	BASIC SUPPORT	TOT OTHER UCC GIVING	TOTAL OCWM	OTHER GIFTS	WIDER MISSION	BASIC SUPP% CURR LOCAL	TOTAL EXPEND	PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS
2010	\$22,232	\$0	\$700	\$1,385	\$2,085	\$0	\$2,085	3.15	\$24,317	\$23,268
2011	\$17,804	\$0	\$2,700	\$3,511	\$6,211	\$0	\$6,211	15.17	\$24,015	\$24,373
2012	\$9,230	\$0	\$2,700	\$1,058	\$3,758	\$0	\$3,758	29.25	\$12,988	\$22,693
2013	\$27,416	\$0	\$2,700	\$984	\$3,684	\$0	\$3,684	9.85	\$31,100	\$25,637
2014	\$25,139	\$0	\$2,700	\$2,326	\$5,026	\$0	\$5,026	10.74	\$30,165	\$22,962
2015	\$25,139	\$0	\$2,700	\$1,426	\$4,126	\$0	\$4,126	10.74	\$29,265	\$0
2016	\$25,139	\$0	\$2,700	\$1,466	\$4,166	\$0	\$4,166	10.74	\$29,305	\$0
2017	\$25,139	\$0	\$2,700	\$868	\$3,568	\$0	\$3,568	10.74	\$28,707	\$0
2018	\$25,139	\$0	\$0	\$295	\$295	\$0	\$295	0.00	\$25,434	\$0
2019	\$25,139	\$0	\$75	\$0	\$75	\$0	\$75	0.30	\$25,214	\$0
2020	\$25,139	\$0	\$75	\$0	\$75	\$0	\$75	0.30	\$25,214	\$0

% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
2015-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-98.18	-13.84
2010-2020	6.00	-6.00	-24.00	-100.00	-100.00	13.08	-96.40	3.69

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	40	Yes
Number of active non-members:	4-6	Yes
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	44-46	Yes

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	100%	Results from a survey
Less than 10, more than 5 years:		
Less than 5 years:		

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>
				18.5%		48.1%		33.3%	Results of a survey

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:		
Households with minors:	13	Yes
Single adults age 35-65:		
Joint households with no minors:	25	Yes
Single adults over 65:		

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	14.8%	Results from a survey
College:	63%	“
Graduate School:	18.5%	“
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:	48.1%	Results from a survey
Adults who are retired:	51.0%	“
Adults who are not fully employed:		

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

Farmers, Machine Repair, Doctor and other medical persons, Lawyer, Teachers, Ag Employees, and Clerical.

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?

Scandinavian, German, and Euro-American

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:

It is our nature to be welcoming to everyone.

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	15-18	Fellowship President
Baptisms <i>(number last year)</i>	1	Minister

Children's Groups or Classes	10	Volunteer led SS classes weekly September - April
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	100 & 80	Christmas Eve Services historically held with WS congregation
Church-wide Meals	5	Fellowship organizes. Annual Mtg. Easter, summer picnic, Harvest Fest, Christmas
Choirs and Music Groups	0	Volunteers present solos etc.
Church-based Bible Study	15	Community study weekly at nursing home and Fellowship has Bible lesson
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	10-12	Held monthly- organized by Deaconesses
Community Meals		
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	5	Held bi-annually in conjunction with Lutheran church
Drama or Dance Program		
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)		Services for members were held at other churches
Intergenerational Groups		
Outdoor Worship	30	Led by minister, lay minister, or parishioners at outdoor picnic
Prayer or Meditation Groups		
Public Advocacy Work		
Retreats		
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community		
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)		
Worship (time slot: 11:00 a.m._____)	30-40	Minister, Lay Minister, or parishioners

Worship (time slot: _____)		
Young Adult Groups or Classes		
Youth Groups or Classes		Community wide youth group held at the Lutheran church weekly. Each congregation takes a month to organize activities, lead worship, and feed kids and leaders.
Other		

Additional comments:

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

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
Rodney Huisman	3		Lay Minister	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 staffperson serves as head of staff.

Staff Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation (full time, part time, volunteer)	Supervised by	Length of Tenure for current person in this position
Secretary	Minister	Part time	Minister	10 years

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REFLECTION

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

We are a small but very active church.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$19,777.47
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	\$0
Fundraising Events	\$337.37
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$2930.00
Grants	\$0
Rentals of Church Building	\$0
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$1600.00
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women's Group</i>)	\$800.00
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$0
Other (specify): Money received from Parsonage Fund	\$6053.91
Other (specify): Checks to help pay for Parsonage	\$5650.00
TOTAL	\$36,351.09

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$31,058.46

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.

Budgeted \$16,975.00

TEMPLETON BUDGET

	2020	Spent	2021
Minister/Love Gift	3000	4000	8400
Supply Minister	500	2206	1500
Snow Removal/mow	500	425	500
Office Supplies	150	995.95	
Insurance	1800	844.33	2275.96
Templeton Utilities	3500	2901.34	4500
Parsonage Utilities	1000		
Copy Machine	300	525	900
Piano	1250	362.50	1200
Supplies and Repairs	1200		1000
Secretary and Taxes	1500	1345.90	1400
Confirmation/Youth	500	0	0
Good Samaritan	200	100.00	200
Prairie Lakes	325	711.00	518
Parsonage Exp.	500	26124.30	1500
Miles/Car	300	0	0
Tending Furnace	300	0	
Olson's Pest		752.40	750
Advertisement		180.00	0
Defibulator		898.86	0
Motel		130.00	0
Conference Fee		62.50	62.50
Furnace			6000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 16,975.00	\$ 42,565.00	\$31,058.46

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? 57%

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

- ☒ 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?

We have budgeted \$2700.00 for many years.

What is the church's current indebtedness?

Total amount of loan debt:0

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. None

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

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
	Remodeling Parsonage	\$32,500	\$	Had to supplement with church budget
		\$	\$	

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe:

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
	None	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	

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? \$5000.00

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

Under certain circumstances. The funds are kept for improvements

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)? 0

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years: 0

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

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$ 0

Investments (other than endowment): \$ 0

Does your church have a parsonage? Yes

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: \$400.00 Being charged now

How is the parsonage used?

Right now as a rental, but when minister is hired, for the minister

Street / City / State / Zip:

306 College Avenue N., Wessington Springs, SD 57382

Finished square footage:

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms:

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms

Assessed real estate value: \$50,000.00

Available for minister residence: Y

Expected minister residence: Y

Condition of structure, systems and appliances

Very good – new appliances, newly remodeled

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs

Trustees of the church

Describe all buildings owned by the church:

Templeton Church Building and Parsonage

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

Currently space and equipment are rented from the Lutheran Church

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

The Worship and Fellowship space have a handicap ramp. The Parsonage does not.

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 proposed by the Treasurer at the Annual meeting and approved by the Congregation.

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.

Templeton Church is now 137 years old. There have been many events, but the longevity of the church explains something about its identity. In 1924, a tornado blew down the church building and even though times were tough, they worked together to build a new and bigger building. In 1963, they outgrew the building again and they built an addition. In 2000, the bell tower had to be removed, but the bell itself was saved as Reverend Cross, who started the church, gave the bell with the understanding that it would stay a Congregational Church and be called. Templeton. This all proves the strength and faith of the people of Templeton.

In the last 10 years, the church has been very busy. The congregation and Sunday School grew, we served meals at the Banquet in Sioux Falls, a church picnic was held in August, there was good youth ministry with confirmation and high school youth group, and new types of Christmas programs. Then, our minister left and the congregation worried what the future held for us. Without leadership, attendance dropped and now our yoked church in Wessington Springs is closing. But again, the members are coming together to keep Templeton active. A gentleman became a Lay Minister to lead the services along with members, the Sunday School is still active, and 5 youth were taught and confirmed by our Lay Minister. The congregation is very hopeful to find a minister.

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

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?)

Through the years, conflicts have happened at the church and with the yoked church in town. Even though we had the same principles, ways of doing things sometimes differ. Templeton as a whole, handles conflict well, listening to others and valuing others opinions. Talking things out and facing the conflict head on is a great method, then solve the problem and move on. We did have one problem with people wanting to install running water and bathrooms in the building and others who thought it would cause too many problems. The donors were upset when the vote didn't pass and haven't attended as often. The congregation learned to take time

to explain things and not to vote too quickly. There are no values or practices about conflict written down, but we have depended on ministerial guidance and respect for others.

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

Ministers Serving Templeton In the Past 30 Years

Reverend Susan Taylor	1987-1993	
Reverend R.J. Stohler	1994-1995	
Reverend James Schatz	1996-2000	
Reverend Richard Salmonson	2000-2001	Interim
Reverend Joel Reed	2001-2002	
Reverend Donald Grubb	2002-2003	Interim
Reverend Todd Wise	2003-2006	
Jeff Adel	2006-2008	Interim, Seminary Student
Reverend Roger Easland	2009 January – June	
Reverend Sara Olson-Dean	2009-2018	
Jeff Luce	2018-2020	Lay Minister
Rodney Huisman	2018-2020	
Reverend Melody Smith	2020-2021	November - March

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Michelle Brodkorb - Secretary	10	Yes

Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership: We have welcomed several Ministers, Interim, and Lay Ministers who are from different religions. This shows that the congregation is very open and welcoming.

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

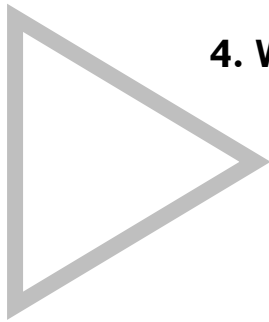
N

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

N

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

N



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 help with serving lunch at the town rodeo, participate at Community worship services, serve funeral lunches, and the Fellowship does a variety of service activities.

The Templeton Church has a women's association known as the Templeton Ladies Fellowship. The members meet every month September through May. This organization is very active. We have a regular meeting in addition to a Bible lesson. Each year in the Fall, a special auction is held. People in the church, not just the Fellowship, donate items for the auction. Items donated vary from fresh eggs, hamburger, scratch bread, kuchen, pies and cakes, and canned goods to handmade quilts, crafts, and gravel by the truckload. This is a lot of crazy fun with overbidding for \$100 pecan pies and such. The sale benefits many. Proceeds are used as donations to the church quarterly, funding for Sunday School and Bible School. We also use funds to help many community projects such as the Senior bus, and the school backpack program to name a few.

We donate to Samaritan's Purse, collect items for 2 different women's shelters, the local elementary school, and the local food bank. We also purchase animals through World Vision to assist 3rd world families. We have a hospital and nursing home in our community. We ask them for their special needs and each year sew items that are requested. We take lunch and play bingo with the nursing home clients. We serve funeral lunches for our members when requested. I feel that our group is the backbone of our church. Fran Peterson, Fellowship Pres.

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

Delegates attend the Association meetings, and State Conference Conventions and bring church news back to the congregation.

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"/> Creation Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> WISE Congregation for Mental |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming | Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> God Is Still Speaking (GISS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other UCC designations: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Border and Immigrant Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Designations from other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M) | denominations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Just Peace | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global Mission Church | |

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 as a church are unclear what it looks like to go through the process of any of the designations but would be willing to consider it.

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

We have helped lead worship services that are community wide with other churches involved. The Youth Group is also interfaith based.

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.

We do not have a written 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?

The time spent with these activities are shared with members of the congregation. These times will not add considerable amount to the schedule of hours expected and these things can be negotiated.

4b. MISSION InSite

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

Not Applicable

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?

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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

We requested this information from the minister at the Lutheran church in Wessington Springs.

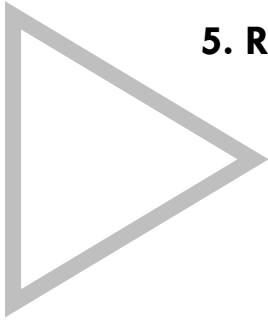
TEMPLETON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Templeton UCC is a family-oriented church located of the border of two of the least populated counties (60th and 61st out 65) in South Dakota, itself one of the least-populated states in the union (46 out of 50). There is great community spirit among their members, which includes a nationally recognized physician, a former Boy Scout leader, and passionate baseball family, along with farmers, ranchers, teachers, musicians, some committed lay leaders and other talented folks. Templeton is a rarity for our time: an open-country congregation currently unattached and un beholden to any other congregation. Strongly independent and proud of its rural heritage, Templeton Church has declined to adopt many of the amenities of modern life, including running water. (Yes, there is still a "little house out back" for those that need it.) Even as other area congregations have merged and /or closed, Templeton has chosen to carry on, demonstrating creativity in the process. Its firm (some would say stubborn) sense of survival and independence has come at a cost, which the current pandemic has not helped. However, the fact that it is still looking for an ordained pastor is evidence of the congregation's resilient faith and determination.

-Pastor John Paulson, Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Wessington Springs.

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

Some say convenience to their homes. But most say that the congregation was welcoming and friendly.



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

Reverend Donald Grubb, Pastor of the Foothills Church in Wessington Springs

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

605-999-4477 vetchap@venturecomm.net He has been an Interim for Templeton

REFERENCE 2

Name / Position / Setting

Susan Arnott, community member of Wessington Springs

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

Cell: 206-251-3558 Home: 605-539-1999 Garnott@aol.com Attended Templeton as a child

REFERENCE 3

Name/Position/Setting

Ellen (Barber) Powell, Support Specialist at Avera Memorial Hospital in Wessington Springs

(Telephone/Email/Relationship to the Congregation)

Cell: 605-730-1186 Home: 605-539-1881 Work: 605-539-1201
ellenpowell63@gmail.com She was raised attending Templeton

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.

UCC TEMPLETON CHURCH

I am Rev. Don Grubb, (Pastor Don). I pastor the Foothills Bible Fellowship. Over the past thirty years I have interacted w/parishioners and leadership from this church. There have been occasions when requested that I have filled the pulpit during vacancies of Pastoral Leadership. I also worked bi-vocationally as a large animal Vet-Assistant and feel comfortable with the relationships fostered during this time. You may reach me by cell @ 605-999-4477 or at this email, vetchap@venturecomm.net

Templeton UCC is the only country parish remaining in Jerauld County. I consider this a strength as it ministers to a wide variety of age and vocational groups. I am not privy to their financial stability.

Templeton UCC has aspects of need that if met would be an encouragement to elder and mobility conscious parishioners. Indoor/handicap restrooms and accessibility to fellowship areas would be inclusive projects for the leadership and parishioners to address.

Templeton UCC ministers to a wide range of age groups and until recently maintained the largest children's ministry. These children are the church of tomorrow and will be vital to the existence of this parish and ministry. The community of Wessington Springs offers Wednesday evening children's ministry through the AWANA program and also conducts WSCYG (Wessington Springs Community Youth Group) which includes all churches in the area. The Templeton UCC has embraced and supported both of these ministries as well as Vacation Bible School in the summer.

Pam/Templeton UCC leadership: if the above info does not meet your expectation re my experience w/UCC please let me know and I will try to address needs,
Pastor Don Grubb

Susan Dean Arnott
Cell 206-251-3558
Home 605-539-1999
Garnott@aol.com

I attended as a child 60 years ago. My grandparents and many of my relatives have attended there and some still do. It was my father's church, and my parents and their young children attended there until it became too difficult for my mother to manage with their 4 kids because my father, a country doctor, could rarely help much. At that time, around 1958, our family started attending the town (Wessington Springs) UCC.

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

It is a community center promoting cohesive and supportive relationships among the families who attend. The Women's Fellowship is active and strong, also creating a sense of belonging and mutual support among members, and they support important causes in the Jerauld County area. (One of the latest that I am aware of is sewing many masks for Avera Medical Centers.) There are a large number of young families with children, and unlike some of the other churches in the area, the parents at Templeton see to it that there is a Sunday School program for children.

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

Having no seminary educated, ordained minister and leader seems to me to be a significant drawback and it is one that apparently is difficult to solve. Also, if I attended, I would like to see a stronger music ministry. Adding running water and plumbing would make the church more attractive to me also.

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

Within the past 10 or 15 years, I attended an anniversary celebration which drew many local people and also friends from away and was a wonderful occasion.

Templeton is the scene of many good childhood memories for me: A well-run Bible School, wonderful potluck dinners served in the basement, Sunday School classes held all over the Church building including behind the altar when I was a child, Christmas craft parties and programs, fun bridal showers, playing in the church yard, weddings and funerals of

relatives, the choir led by my mother and rehearsed in our home decades ago. Many afternoons, I brought my father to this place to feel the comfort of sitting in the unlocked church as he and I journeyed together through years of his deepening dementia before he died in 2009.

4. Anything else you wish to share.

I know many of the parishioners who are strong community contributors besides being deeply loyal to this church. They have shown their determination to keep this special old church alive and strong.

The very beginning of this church had a connection to my great-grandparents who lived just a mile up the road and whose children and grandchildren attended Fauston School just across the intersection from the church. I hope Templeton Church always stays open out on the South Dakota prairie to spread the Gospel of Christ.

Susan J. Arnott
August 15, 2020

Ellen (Barber) Powell
Cell: 605-730-1186
Home: 605-539-1881
Work: 605-539-1201
Ellenpowell63@gmail.com

I was raised at Templeton Church, living about 4 miles away. My great, great grandparents (Barber) helped to start the church. I have many fond memories of this church and have many family members that still attend, including my parents. I joined the United Methodist Church in Wessington Springs when I married as that was my new husband's church.

Areas of Strength:

It is truly a church family. All members are committed to keeping Templeton strong for generations to come. They have active women's fellowship. Sunday school and the yearly Harvest Festival which I have great memories from a child getting prizes at the fish pond to a teen when we gave the kids their prizes. The fellowship would give a bridal shower to every member no matter how active. They help support other churches in the area as well, like the all church concession stand for the rodeo and bull bash.

Areas of Improvement:

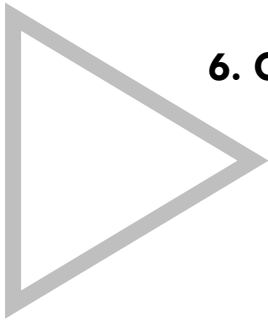
Possibly running water and plumbing for an indoor bathroom.

Significant experience in church ministry:

I have not been a member of Templeton church for 38 years, but have never felt like I wasn't still a part of the church family. Many of my family still attend Templeton church. It helped me in many ways growing up and believe it is a big part of how I view my faith today.

When they had their last church celebration over 10 years ago, there were many past members and pastors in attendance. It was great to see everyone and it brought back wonderful memories with friends I grew up with at Sunday school.

The church was used by 4-H clubs in the area for a place to hold a meeting or party in the basement as well. I built wonderful friendships over the years and treasure them all to this day. This church is as I said before, a church family.



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:

Our Committee immediately thought of the Hymn “The Church’s One Foundation”. That is what we pray for with our new minister, someone to remind us that the foundation of our church is Jesus Christ our Lord. We also pray that he or she will be open to serving our small but faithful congregation, with loving and caring people.

In 2008, we celebrated our 125th Anniversary at Templeton Church and we printed a booklet including all of our members and activities. One of our members writes poetry and she wrote this for the booklet. We feel it is very appropriate and would like to share it with you.

“We still carry on for we see a great need
Both young folks and old we cherish indeed
With members and friends to help us along
We hope to continue and keep our church strong”

Written by Alexa Kleppin

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.*)

Profile Committee: Kathy Dean, Fran Peterson, Pam Hainy, Leslie Tanke

Church Treasurer: Trish Messmer; Gwyneth and Pat Fastnacht, church Clerk

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:



Signed:

Pam Hainy, Profile Committee member, May 22, 2021

Name / Title / Date:

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment:Y

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

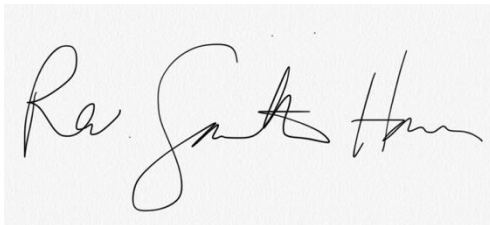
Staff Comment:Y

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

Staff Comment:Y

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Samantha Houser", written on a light gray rectangular background.

Name / Title: Rev. Samantha Houser/Associate Conference Minister

Email: samantha@ucctcm.org

Phone:402-350-1714

Date:06-03-2021

**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