

# **Union Memorial Church**

## **Stamford, CT**



**A Friendly Church**  
**Learning, Celebrating, and Sharing**  
**Christ's Love**

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

**Union Memorial Church  
Stamford, CT**

Settled Pastor  
Southern New England Conference, Fairfield West

April 1, 2022

### 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)*



**Choir**



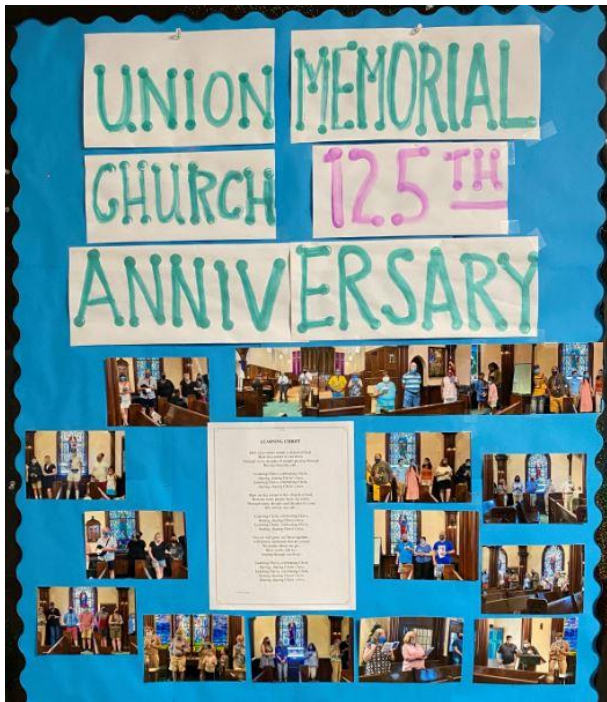
**Church Picnic**



**Bell Choir**



**Youth Group**



**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**Tiffany Stained Glass Window**

# 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

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Church name: Union Memorial Church

Street address: 58 Church Street, Stamford CT 06906

Supplemental web links: [www.unionmemorialchurch.com](http://www.unionmemorialchurch.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UMCGlenbrook](https://www.facebook.com/UMCGlenbrook)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/unionmemorialchurch](https://www.instagram.com/unionmemorialchurch)

Conference: Southern New England

Association: Fairfield West

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person:

Rev. Dr. Michael Ciba Area Conference Minister and Team Leader

(860) 761-7198

[cibam@sneucc.org](mailto:cibam@sneucc.org)

### Summary Ministry Description:

We are searching for a personable pastor to spiritually and intellectually inspire our small, diverse congregation that has experienced an aging, and declining membership over the last decade. Our church needs to grow in membership numbers in order to sustain itself long-term, however we understand that a Pastor cannot be expected to bring in new members so our ideal candidate will work with us to create ways to attract youth and new families to join us in Christian faith.

### What we value about living in our area:

This area is a very diverse population and culture, as is our congregation. We are fortunate to be located between New York City and New Haven, CT. We are near all the arts, theater, sports venues, restaurants, beaches, parks and the many activities the area has to offer. As of the 2020 census, Stamford Connecticut became the second largest city of the state. It is reported to be the safest city in Connecticut and New England.

Current size of membership: 106

Language used in ministry: English

Position Title: Settled Pastor

Position Duration: Settled

Compensation Level: Full Time

## **1b. SCOPE OF WORK**

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- Preparation and leadership of 10 AM Sunday Worship service both virtual and in person.
- Planning sermons, coordinating with Music Director, bulletin, offering of prayers.
- Faith formation through Bible Study.
- Conduct confirmation classes.
- Visit hospitalized and home bound congregants and persons in need.
- Provide pastoral services for weddings, baptisms and funerals.
- Lead seasonal services during Advent, Lent, Holy week and Christmas Eve.
- Provide leadership for Church staff and attend committee meetings.
- Provide inspirational communication for monthly newsletter.

### **Core Competencies:**

We are praying for a settled Pastor who can preach the Gospel with love and has the ability to relate the scriptures to our daily faithful living. One who is welcoming, personable and caring and can deliver pastoral care with compassion and empathy.

## 1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

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- Base Salary \$80,000.
- Compensation package includes base salary and benefits:
  - Either housing allowance or Parsonage
  - Pastor's Equity Fund provides Pastor with equity to offset the Pastor's lack of real estate equity if not residing in the Parsonage.
  - Opportunities for professional support and growth are available through the Conference and Association.
  - Four week vacation, two week paid time off for education and annual ministry expenses of \$1000, and up to \$1000 annually for continuing education.

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?

- Parsonage preferred.

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

- To live within an hour commuting distance of the church.

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

- Opportunities for professional support and growth are available through the SNEUCC Conference.

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

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We see ourselves as a kind, caring congregation. We hope to grow our church family by being able to keep old traditions while possibly starting new traditions that will make all feel welcome. Union Memorial Church belongs to the community and serves the community but is not limited to the community in its outlook. The ministry of the Church is available to everyone, regardless of Church affiliation.

We believe that God is calling our new Pastor to:

- Encourage and nourish the personal spiritual growth of adults, children and youth.
- Increase membership in part through community activity and outreach.
- Communicate and engage with the membership, committees and staff, in person, by telephone and/or zoom.

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

- Our church services are conducted in English.
- Our community is very diverse, with a growing Hispanic population. We embrace everyone regardless of their cultural background.

Based on what we have learned about who our church is, who our church's neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, the following four areas of excellence were selected from *The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry* that we'd like our next minister to display to further equip the congregation's ministry in these areas:

- Exhibiting a spiritual foundation and ongoing spiritual practice
- Building transformational leadership skills
- Caring for all creation
- Strengthening inter- and intra- personal assets

## 2. WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?

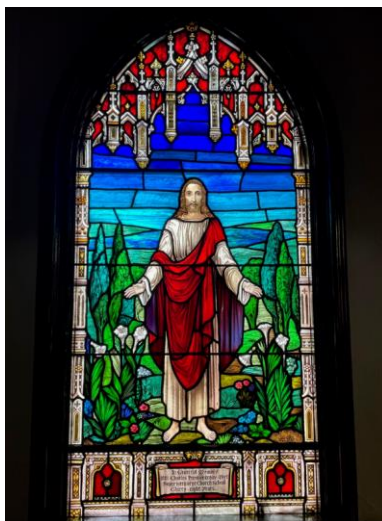
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?

Union Memorial Church has a strong sense of family and we support one another. We are still open and working out our future calling.

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

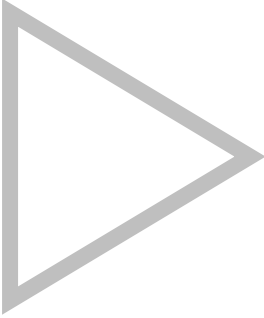
We are committed to showing our congregation and community that UMC is a place of spiritual renewal, safety and familiarity. Our fulltime pastor of 27 years retired less than a year before the pandemic struck. Our congregation is dealing with diminishing pledges due to lack of new members and several members relocating out of state as well as the aging of previously highly active members. Leadership understands the need for adaption so during the pandemic we offered zoom services. We are happy to be able to have resumed in person services recently as well. We are in the beginning stage of resuming our normal church services, meetings and social gatherings as well as community activities.





### 3. WHO ARE WE NOW?

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

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

#### 3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

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Describe your congregation’s life of faith:

The church receives the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice. The Church holds that the intention to live in accordance with the faith and teachings of Jesus Christ is the basis for inclusion in membership. Each member shall have the undisturbed right to follow the Word of God according to the dictates of his or her conscience enlightened by the Holy Spirit and enriched by the Christian community. We are a friendly church – learning, celebrating and sharing Christ’s love.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation:

We are a small but mighty congregation. We have very caring, dedicated members on all church committees. There has been no history of division. We are a church at peace. The congregation feels that Union Memorial Church is a “second family”.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers:

Worship service is held on Sundays at 10am in the sanctuary. Communion is held on the first Sunday of the month. Infants and children are welcome in the sanctuary for the first part of the service. After the children’s sermon our children are invited to Sunday school to the nursery or they may remain for the rest of the service. Our music director is our organist and pianist. We have a small choir and a bell choir.

The sermon is the focus however music is a vital part of our worship service as well. We believe that a sermon should help us connect the scriptures to our personal and spiritual lives.

We had a baptism in August 2021 where the baby’s family, friends and our welcoming church family attended.

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?*

- Pre-Covid we had weekly adult bible study and our youth group met once a month. We are gradually returning to those activities.
- We currently have 4 youths in confirmation class which meets weekly. We use UCC materials which offer sound content.
- Some youth members are currently serving on committees.

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?*

- The church council includes the officers of the church and representatives from each committee and our Pastor. Church Council, Trustees and Deacons and the other committees each meet once a month for 1-3 hours. Policies are followed per our Bylaws. Communication is through a weekly newsletter, Sunday service announcements and through committee attendance.

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

- We have 5 committees that meet approximately 10 hours 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?

- Covid was the disaster. Our Trustee chairman put the technology together for zoom services and meetings. Committee members via zoom meetings and phone conversations decided steps to temporarily discontinue in-person services according to State & local guidelines and conduct zoom meetings. The same committees also met to follow steps to begin the reopening process. This was accomplished during a time of significant reduction in staff and volunteers.

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

# 3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ELEVEN YEAR CHURCH PROFILE BASED ON DATA REPORTED IN UCC YEARBOOKS



Church#: 787236

Assoc: 908      Schedule: 0      Union Memorial UCC      Stamford      CT      06906

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	116	65	0	0	0	0	2	6	-8
2011	116	65	10	0	3	0	3	0	0
2012	106	60	10	1	2	0	8	5	-10
2013	112	60	8	6	0	3	3	0	6
2014	108	60	8	0	0	0	4	0	-4
2015	104	60	16	0	0	0	2	0	-2
2016	109	55	17	4	5	0	4	0	5
2017	112	55	17	0	4	0	1	0	3
2018	112	48	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	116	50	10	0	5	0	1	0	4
2020	116	50	10	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	\$259,424	\$0	\$2,000	\$4,169	\$6,169	\$34,201	\$40,370	0.77	\$299,794	\$95,353
2011	\$234,871	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$4,353	\$6,353	\$36,697	\$43,050	0.85	\$281,421	\$119,515
2012	\$321,725	\$0	\$2,000	\$4,912	\$6,912	\$32,482	\$39,394	0.62	\$361,119	\$89,978
2013	\$269,800	\$0	\$2,000	\$4,474	\$6,474	\$34,955	\$41,429	0.74	\$311,229	\$100,819
2014	\$239,344	\$0	\$2,000	\$6,923	\$8,923	\$35,617	\$44,540	0.84	\$283,884	\$99,788
2015	\$228,232	\$0	\$2,000	\$5,400	\$7,400	\$13,570	\$20,970	0.88	\$249,202	\$84,000
2016	\$215,345	\$0	\$2,000	\$8,433	\$10,433	\$39,050	\$49,483	0.93	\$264,828	\$95,532
2017	\$225,356	\$0	\$2,000	\$4,070	\$6,070	\$23,654	\$29,724	0.89	\$255,080	\$81,240
2018	\$272,955	\$21,526	\$2,000	\$3,515	\$5,515	\$32,412	\$37,927	0.73	\$310,882	\$76,852
2019	\$252,430	\$59,242	\$2,000	\$4,179	\$6,179	\$23,100	\$29,279	0.79	\$281,709	\$83,285
2020	\$252,430	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,196	\$4,196	\$0	\$4,196	0.79	\$256,626	\$41,247

% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
2015-2020	11.54	-16.67	-37.50	0.00	-100.00	10.60	-43.30	2.98
2010-2020	0.00	-23.08	0.00	0.00	-100.00	-2.70	-31.98	-14.40

Please note: Zero values ("0" or "\$0") may reflect missing information in some years. Christian Education/Faith Formation refers to Church School Enrollment for all figures before 2007.

### 3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

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		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	53	
Number of active non-members:	53	
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	106	

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	73%	✓
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	15%	✓
Less than 5 years:	12%	✓

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>
11	4	4	1	6	8	15	15	8	✓

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	4%	
Households with minors:	22%	
Single adults age 35-65:	19%	
Joint households with no minors:	33%	
Single adults over 65:	22%	

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	32%	
College:	45%	
Graduate School:	14%	
Specialty Training:	9%	
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	47%	
Adults who are retired:	35%	
Adults who are not fully employed:	18%	

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

- Mostly white collar - administrative and professional

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?

- Currently we are a small but relatively diverse congregation with members from the Caucasian, African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino and Asian ethnic groups.

Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one on the near future?

- No, it’s threaded into our sermons, social gatherings and activities. We have a growing Hispanic population in our community and we would like to explore the possibility of offering a Spanish service to expand our congregation and presence in the community.

### 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?
Adult Groups or Classes	4-5	Pastor
Baptisms ( <i>number last year</i> )	2020 – 2 at homes 2021 – 1 at church	Pastor
Children’s Groups or Classes	Pre-Covid Weekly Sunday School	Christian Ed Committee
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	Pre-Covid 120-125	Pastor
Church-wide Meals	Pre-Covid 75-80	Maundy Thursday, Christmas Holiday, Lenten Lunches, Annual meeting, Summer picnic. Various committees
Choirs and Music Groups	7	Director of Music
Church-based Bible Study	4-5	Pastor
Communion ( <i>served how often?</i> )	Pre-Covid Monthly	Pastor and Deacons
Community Meals	N/A	
Confirmation	4	Pastor
Drama or Dance Program	N/A	
Funerals ( <i>number last year</i> )	2-3 yearly	Pastor

Intergenerational Groups	N/A	
Outdoor Worship	N/A	
Prayer or Meditation Groups	Prayer chain/Phone and email	Lay Lead
Public Advocacy Work	N/A	
Retreats: Women's retreat	10-20	Christian Ed
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	N/A	
Weddings ( <i>number last year</i> )	0	
Worship (time slot: 10 AM)	30	
Young Adult Groups or Classes	N/A	
Youth Groups or Classes	8-10	Christian Ed
On site Pre-school	26	Christian Ed (Advisory Board)

List all members or regular participants in your congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant?	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? ( <i>Y or N</i> )
Rev. Dr. Blaine Edele	No	None	No role	Retired

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
Interim Pastor	Yes	Part Time		1 ½ years
Admin Assistant	No	Part Time	Trustees	Open
Bookkeeper	No	Part Time	Trustees	Open
Music Director	No	Part Time		2 years
Media Coordinator	No	Part Time	Deacons	3 years
Marketing Coordinator	No	Part Time	Pastor	2 years

Sexton	No	Part Time	Trustees	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?

- Overall, the ministry has to be sensitive to an aging congregation and their needs.
- We must strive to become more creative in finding ways to attract new/younger members.

## 3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$43,244.00
Endowment Proceeds ( <i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i> )	\$143,862.00
Endowment Draw ( <i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i> )	\$ -0-
Fundraising Events	\$3,340.00
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$2,524.00
Grants	\$ -0-
Rentals of Church Building	\$31,210.00
Rentals of Church Parsonage (Effective as of April 2021)	\$31,850.00
Support from Related Organizations ( <i>e.g. Women's Group</i> )	\$ -0-
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$ -0-
Other (specify): Miscellaneous Revenue	\$15,546.00
Other (specify):	\$ -0-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$271,576.00</b>

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$259,306.00



*Most recent church budget can be provided upon request.*

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? 30% (2021)

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 (Christmas Eve collection – ½ of donations go to UCC)

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage?

It is determined by our Missions & Benevolences Committee

What is the church's current indebtedness? None

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

Does your church have an endowment? Yes

What is the market value of the assets? \$3,380,398.00

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

We receive monthly interest only checks on our endowment funds.

What is the percentage rate of draw: 4.5% (we only draw on interest earned)

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last? 10 years

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

Market value of assets (monthly interest draw x 12 months)

Other Assets:

Reserves (savings): N/A

Investments (other than endowment): N/A

Does your church have a parsonage? Yes

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: \$3,900.00 per month

How is the parsonage used? Currently as a rental property.

The Parsonage currently rented through April 2023 however it can be made available with a 90 day notice.

33 Kirkham Place, Stamford, CT 06906

Finished square footage: 2,326

Number of Bedrooms: 4 Number of Bathrooms 2 full baths

Assessed real estate value: \$484,911.00

Available for minister residence: Not at this time

Expected minister residence: Yes

Condition of structure, systems and appliances: all in good working order,

Rental compliant

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs: Board of Trustees

Describe all buildings owned by the church: Church & parsonage

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs?

Worship space, fellowship area & restrooms

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

All of our church boards are responsible for submitting their own individual budgets annually which are then passed on to the budget committee for review and approval. Once approved by the budget committee it is presented to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting. We are a fiscally conservative and responsible church and try our best to be good stewards of the resources we have.

### 3f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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The story of Union Memorial Church properly begins in the year 1884. The village of Glenbrook (then called New Hope) was a small hamlet of homes. In that year, The Rev. Samuel Scoville of the Congregational Church of Stamford, with the help of interested residents, promoted the founding of a Sunday School, which began meeting in the Elm Place School. This school united three smaller schools which had been meeting in private homes. The Sunday School soon changed its meeting place to another location but the quarters were quite limited and unsatisfactory in other ways. In 1885, through the generous gift of a local resident, given in memory of his wife, a chapel, named the Glenbrook Chapel was erected on Church Street to house the Sunday School. The Glenbrook Chapel served for many years as a center of community life, as well as the home for the Sunday School. For several years, students from Yale Divinity School were engaged for the weekend to conduct services. In the spring of 1895, Samuel J. Evers, a Yale Divinity student was invited to take his place for the summer. He was subsequently invited by the people to remain as regular supply for the pulpit. With the coming of Mr. Evers, a new era began in the life of Glenbrook Chapel. Under his leadership, the people of the community undertook the founding of a Church. On June 11, 1896 a group of residents met for the purpose of formal organization. Twenty five members consented to become charter members. It was unanimously agreed that the name of the Church should be "The Union Memorial Church of Glenbrook, Connecticut". One week later at another business meeting the following resolution was adopted which firmly established the basic policy of the church regarding membership: "The Union Memorial Church of Glenbrook, Connecticut, having declared its belief in the Holy Catholic church, welcomes to its membership and communion all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth...by whatever name they may be called."

Name one to three significant happenings in the history of your church that have shaped the identity of your congregation.

Union Memorial Church has been extremely lucky to have enjoyed long Pastor tenure in our history. Our former Pastor was here for 27 years and was adept at shepherding us through everything so that nothing stands out as significant. We have always been a church family, caring for and helping each other and he encouraged and expanded that type of environment.

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

The most important event has been the retirement of our Pastor. Unfortunately it happened at the onset of the pandemic so many people did not attend worship in person or via Zoom at first. A core group has stayed active and taken on many responsibilities to help keep the church going.

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.

We try to resolve conflict by listening to all sides of an issue, trying to find a solution and being as transparent as possible. We have had two instances in the last 27 years where an employee has been the cause of conflict. In both cases we have had neutral church members work with them and when, after a time, nothing changed for the positive, we parted ways.

### Ministerial History

Staff member’s name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Rev. Dr. Blaine Edele, Ph.D.	27	Yes

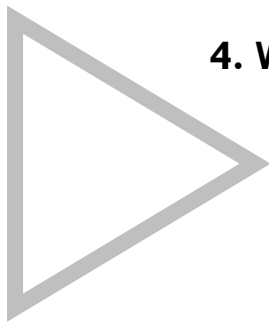
Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership:

We are very fortunate to have experienced long tenured pastors (6 total) in our 126 years.

Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination? No

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

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



## 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

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

Although the Covid Pandemic has limited our in-person participation in many of our community outreach programs, we are happy to still have been able to contribute weekly grocery donations to our local food bank & Christmas gifts for Inspirica residents as well as monetary donations to local, national and international charities.

Prior to the pandemic we hosted AA, Gamblers Anonymous, New Moms Group and Men’s Alzheimer Support Group. We participated in Thanksgiving service with 4 local churches, Salvation Army Christmas bell ringing, preparing and serving dinners to Pacific House shelter, community tag sale & Christmas Boutique.

We remain the host site for Intempo (offers music lessons for under privileged youth), Troupers Light Opera and The Haitian American Church. This past fall we were able to hold our Trunk or Treat Halloween fundraiser - a favorite event of our surrounding neighborhood!

Describe your congregation’s participation in meetings, relationships and activities connecting the wider United Church of Christ.

Our Interim Pastor attends bi-weekly lunch meetings with other local clergy.

A church member conducts bible study for Pivot Ministries in Bridgeport, CT and also at a church he attends in Florida during winter months.

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](http://ucc.org).)

Check any statements below that apply to your UCC faith community.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible to All (A2A)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Just Peace                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creation Justice                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Mission Church                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming                       | <input type="checkbox"/> WISE Congregation for Mental 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 denominations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M) | <input type="checkbox"/> None                                  |

We are a church in the Glenbrook neighborhood of Stamford, CT that welcomes all who “love the Lord Jesus in sincerity and truth.” Our mission is “Learn, Celebrate and Share Christ’s Love.”

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

At Pentecost Sunday, Union Memorial Church shares its worship with the other denominations who rent space in the church for their worship which have included Haitian, Tamil and African American Evangelical denominations.

Reflect on the scope of work assigned to your pastor. 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 congregation in the 27 years of the prior settled Pastor’s tenure never designated an amount of time he was to spend on these ministries. He always accomplished what was called for by these ministries within the general time allotted to him to serve as Pastor of this church. He was not supervised as to how he spent his time executing his responsibilities; he did not have to be. Nor has such a segregation of time been dictated to the present interim Pastor.

## 4b. MISSION InSite

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

There seems to be unique and enthrusting opportunity to attract and thereby increase the numbers of young and middle-aged congregants (who will later become members). There is also an established diverse and well-educated foundation of members and thus a need to reach and appeal to working class/blue collar populations in the Glenbrook/Stamford area. Ostensibly, these new adherents would bring spouses and families which include children and adolescents. This could result in a more progressive vibrancy in both programming (i.e., Sunday School Class Curricula, and weekly Youth Ministry activities) and community outreach and service. Ultimately, in the right hands, Union Memorial Church could become a beacon for all in the larger community that seek a deeper spiritual walk with the Lord and the opportunity for fellowship and to receive ongoing support from a committed church family.

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?

We are in a multi ethnic area. The church is older but reflects the diversity of the community.

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

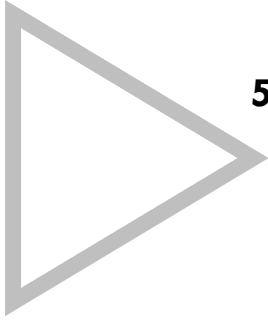
We are a protestant church in a predominately Roman Catholic area.

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

We are known for the liberal use of our facility.

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

Our Pastor, the friendliness of the congregants, the church feels like a second family.



## 5. REFERENCES

### REFERENCE 1

Emily Benett  
Union Memorial Preschool Director  
(203) 559-8869  
umcpreschoolct@gmail.com

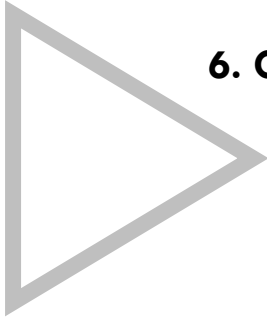
### REFERENCE 2

Steven Ayres, Esq.  
Captain US Naval Reserve Retired  
Former Moderator of a Congregational Church  
(203) 979-1080  
Friend of our former Pastor  
Provides legal advice for the church

### REFERENCE 3

Reverend Richard Williams  
PIVOT Ministries, Inc.  
(203) 725-2229  
[richardwilliams@pivotministries.org](mailto:richardwilliams@pivotministries.org)  
A Union Memorial Church parishioner teaches bible study at Pivot.  
We have been associated with each other 10+ years.





## **6. CLOSING THOUGHTS**

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

### **6a. CLOSING PRAYER**

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Almighty God, You who called the universe into being, You who formed our inmost being and called us to be your people.

We give you thanks for your constant presence. Through seasons of constancy and even change, you are with us – calling us into deeper waters, calling us together in your spirit of unity, calling us out of ourselves into the world to serve others.

Grant that our settled pastor called into new waters might hold fast to unending love and mercy as a buoy – a love that promised to hold onto us even as we go where your Spirit leads us. May our church that receives the new pastor be a community of mercy and grace.

May our church, that has experienced loss and change, hold fast to the promise that your mission is bigger than any single pastor or church. Grant that such a promise would bring both comfort and discomfort – comfort in a season of change and discomfort as it drives us all to love you and each other more.

Strengthen us to be your church in all times and seasons of life – a place where all are truly welcomed and embraced in your love; a place where we find ways you are active among us and calling us to join in your work; a place where the story of your love, grace and mercy are embodied. We offer our prayers in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## 6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

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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?

- Search Committee comprised of 7 members with assistance of the Interim Pastor, members of Diaconate and Trustees.
- An anonymous survey of the congregation was also conducted, with 30 responses that helped shape the contents.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed: Cricket McCowie  
Chair, Search Committee  
4/1/22

## 6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment:

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

Staff Comment:

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

Staff Comment:

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:

Name / Title:

Email:

Phone:

Date:

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*