# **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!





# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA) Rockford IL

**Senior Pastor** 

Illinois Conference, Prairie Association Blackhawk Presbytery

[April 22, 2024]

#### 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 pastorates 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: Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

Street address: 318 N. Church Street Rockford, IL 61101

Supplemental web links: www.secondfirst.org www.facebook.com/secondfirstchurch/

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

Conference:

Association:

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

Rev. Kathy Lawes, Associate Conference Minister

815-501-2288

<u>ilconfkathy@gmail.com</u> kathylawes@ilucc.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?

God was still speaking in 2012, when members from Second Congregational Church and First Presbyterian Church listened and decided to federate the two churches. The result was Second Congregational UCC/ First Presbyterian Church PC(USA) (SecondFirst Church), and we have been operating successfully as a federated church since then. The last few years at SecondFirst Church have been spent in transition. We are not alone in facing the challenges of the Covid pandemic: the loss of community feeling from the lack of in-person activities, the quick adoption of high-tech solutions to Worship and meetings in order to allow the continued functioning of the church, the loss of members to the disease, and the slow return of members to Sunday Morning Services. We are also not alone in facing the challenges of turnover in the Senior Pastor position. We are still discerning where we are headed. However, our mission statement asserts that we seek to energize downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace. This is who we have been, who we are, and who we will continue to be in whatever form it takes

in the days ahead. We also assert that mission begins at home, and we see the nurturing and supporting of our members as a crucial mission. We need a Senior Pastor to love us, help each of us to see our part in the Body of Christ and encourage us as we navigate these days together. 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):

We are pleased with the opportunities for outreach in our low-income neighborhood. We host annual pig roast, are involved in two soup kitchens, provide overnight shelter in Jan-March, and partner with other churches through Jeremiah Development to provide outreach to our neighborhood.

Current size of membership: 430: 325 UCC, 105 PC(USA)

Languages used in ministry (other than English):

Position Title:

**Senior Pastor** 

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

<u>Settled</u> – 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):

Full Time

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) The full-time senior pastor will be proficient in ministries of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and organization leadership to a congregation of 430 members.

#### 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 <u>caring</u>, <u>sensitive</u> and <u>sociable</u>, while a church seeking an executive minister might want an <u>organized</u>, <u>detail-oriented</u>, and <u>time-conscious</u> person.)

Team player as well as a team leader

Compassionate listener

Committed to justice in our community and beyond

#### **Personal Qualities**

- a. Be a flexible, creative, team player who can think outside the typical church box
- b. Have a sense of humor, be open-minded and open-hearted, be self-aware and a compassionate listener
- c. Have a passion and energy for the work of justice in our community and beyond

- d. Take the Bible story of sharing the Good News of the love of God seriously, but not literally, and see it as a continually evolving speaking text
- e. Have a deep and developing spiritual life and practice
- f. Graciousness of presence—especially an openness to ALL of God's children and the care of God's creation
- g. Ability to think theologically, interpret the Christian tradition to multiple generations and diverse populations

#### Job Specifications

- a. EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: MDiv from accredited seminary, ordination in UCC or PC(USA) or partner/formula of agreement denomination; years of experience negotiable
- b. PRINCIPAL DUTIES: 1) Preaching and Worship: collaboratively plan and implement weekly Sunday worship service; officiate at weddings, funerals, special services, baptisms, and other liturgical rites including the necessary preparatory counseling; work collaboratively with the relevant staff and members. 2) Faith and Community Formation: establish and build relationships with members; collaborate in development and implementation of faith formation opportunities for all ages. 3) Pastoral Care: coordinate and/or provide pastoral care and advising as appropriate; collaborate with staff and Called to Care team. 4) Administration: establish a positive collegial rapport with members and staff; maximize their effectiveness by delegating and working collaboratively with staff, Moderator, Executive Committee, and Ministry Teams to coordinate and oversee functions and activities of the church; act as the staff advisor to the Governing Council and Ministry Teams; 5) Day to Day Operations: clearly communicate weekly schedule and office hours with office manager and others as needed; provide for staff supervision with the Executive Committee, including working to complete performance evaluations of the staff; report to and be evaluated by the Executive Committee on a mutually agreed upon schedule. 6) Organizing and Nurturing Lay Leadership: collaborate with Stewardship Team to lead in holistic (time/treasure/talent) year-round Stewardship focusing on our church's unique mission, vision, and values; play an active role in implementing the Stewardship process; enhance our public presence and engagement beyond our doors (Outreach); work collaboratively with members and staff toward broadening UCC and PC(USA)'s creative and effective participation in community, denominational, ecumenical and interfaith opportunities; work collaboratively with Jeremiah Development; invite, welcome, and nurture potential new members into the ministry of the congregation (Evangelism), assist members in effectively inviting others into our fellowship; assist

- members in nurturing relationships with new members in shared ministries; collaborate with members in areas of justice and mercy, planning and action (**Mission**).
- c. SPECIFIC SKILLS DESIRED BY THE CHURCH 1) Transition Skills: as we revitalize the congregation following the years of Covid restrictions, bridge the gap between online and in-person worship and meetings, and promote healthy relationships among staff and between members and staff. 2) Inclusive

  Language in Worship: as we work to welcome all and promote equality as a progressive church; awareness, understanding, and sensitivity to both chosen names and chosen pronouns. 3) Knowledgeable in working with diverse populations: as we minister to the LGBTQ+ community, the homeless, the physically and mentally challenged, etc.; being open, welcoming, and prepared to minister to those populations as well as inquiries from potential new members; be open to all and an ally to those of the community both in and out of the church; have an open heart and mind, willing to listen to and learn from others, as well as on your own.

#### 1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

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

\$70,399-\$75,896 (Conference guidelines, assume 7 years' experience, and housing range)

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)?

Living nearby with a housing allowance

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

We would like our senior pastor to reside in the greater Rockford area, to feel that Rockford is home, and be comfortable with the opportunities and challenges of this city.

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

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

- 1. Prairie Association Associate Conference Minister
- 2. The Search Committee members
- 3. The Executive Committee
- 4. Area UCC/PC(USA) clergy

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

- 1) Gain the "Open and Affirming" credential from the UCC
- 2) Continue ministering to both the people of the neighborhood and congregants
- 3) Explore future sustainability through membership and finances

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

- 1) Develop connections to the city and Jeremiah Development
- 2) Stay open to opportunities that arise
- 3) Connect with our denominations at a national level

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

Culturally sensitive language should be used concerning racism, homelessness, and mental illness since those populations are represented in our programming.

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.

- 1. Be a collaborative presence through Jeremiah Development, with other area churches, and with clergy.
- 2. Be hands-on with our neighborhood outreach projects.
- 3. Participate in the Mayor's monthly Faith meeting.

4. Be supportive of the Homeless Coalition.

#### **YHO 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?

- 1) To be people who participate in the life of the church
- 2) To contribute both time and money to support programming
- 3) To continue the Called to Care ministry
- 4) To be good neighbors in every sense of the word; to use our resources including the building to do good work in the community and increase diversity in the 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 have a 5-year Strategic Plan that has been approved, and the Ministry Teams are assessing their efforts to contribute to the plan. We will continue to serve downtown Rockford and beyond. We are challenged by an aging membership and feelings of burnout in members. However, we have some new initiatives:

Ice cream social for the neighborhood

Holiday lights bus trip followed by social time with hot chocolate

El' Shaddai congregation using our chapel

New-ish mural on the west side of the gym building

Broadening of fellowship opportunities

On-going efforts include Overnight Café, boots for Haskell School children, Bridge Clinic, Love Rockford event, church picnic, KFACT use of part of the building, Jeremiah Development support, shower van in the parking lot, Serious Soup lunches weekly, Deacons/Fellowship/Hospitality partnerships, and Trunk or Treat.

#### **"HO 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?

- 1) Wherever you are on life's journey, no matter who you love, you are welcome here.
- 2) Our faith is seen in actions of service as we demonstrate our faith.
- 3) Pulpit Talks: in place of a sermon, an opportunity for a member to talk about their faith journey in the worship service.
- 4) God is Love.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

- 1) We are a friendly people.
- 2) We are willing to be involved in the work of the church.
- 3) We work to live out our mission.
- 4) We care for one another.

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?

- 1) Worship is based around people, the Word of God, the liturgical calendar, and the lectionary.
- 2) Baptism is a reminder of vows made by us or for us in our own baptisms and emphasize that the child (or adult) is now a part of our church family.
- 3) It is meaningful to preach in response to what is happening currently.
- 4) Good preaching reminds us how much God loves us and for us to love each other.

- 5) Good preaching elicits an emotional response, touches the mind and heart.
- 6) Beautiful music is meaningful.
- 7) Humor is appreciated.

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?

- 1) We have a very committed Adult Christian Education program. A core group of members meet each Sunday morning before the Worship Service. These members both develop and take turns presenting content for this class in conjunction with the Adult Education Ministry Team. Programming covers a diverse range of topics from raising a transgender grandchild to discerning spiritual gifts.
- 2) We have young people assist in the worship service and represented on the Family Christian Education Ministry Team and Senior Pastor Search Committee. We also enjoy an annual youth-led Sunday Service.
- 3) We have faithful leaders for elementary age children and young teens.

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]
  - 1) Like most churches, a significant amount of time is spent in meetings!
  - 2) We have individual Ministry Teams (monthly meetings) based on a purpose, the chairs of which report to the Governing Council (monthly meetings) led by the Moderator.
  - 3) Most Ministry Teams meet for at least an hour per month. Governing Council meets for 1-1.5 hours on average.
  - 4) We have Ministry Team minutes that are available for any member in the congregation to read. Teams will occasionally submit articles to the weekly eWord

- or monthly Tower publications. Announcements of upcoming activities or important information are made from the pulpit weekly, as well as included in the worship order.
- 5) We have an annual visioning meeting when new Ministry Team members are seated after the May election.
- 6) Quick Action Example 1: When the El Shaddai congregation asked to use our chapel on very short notice, all the pews that had been rearranged had to be set back into their original places. Repairs to the area are continuing. A few good church members got right to work and had the pews in place in time. Trustees were notified first and a plea went out for helpers.
- 7) Quick Action Example 2: We experienced flooding in the basement area (the 'catacombs') and the church office sent an email for help, resulting in an immediate response from several members. Although we had to call in professionals in the end, moving a lot of items out of harm's way helped.

#### 3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

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

Not available

### 3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
Number of active members:	430	
Number of active non-members:	4	X
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	434	X

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
More than 10 years:	60%	X
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	25%	X
Less than 5 years:	15%	X

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)
15	5	6	6	15	15	33	114	50	X trend is correct numbers are estimates

# Percentage of adults in various household types:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
Single adults under 35:	3%	X
Households with minors:	10%	X
Single adults age 35-65:	2%	X
Joint households with no minors:	60%	X
Single adults over 65:	25%	X

# Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
High school:	10%	X
College:	60%	X
Graduate School:	15%	X
Specialty Training: trades	14%	X
Other (please specify): Didn't finish high school	1%	X

# Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
Adults who are employed:	55%	X
Adults who are retired:	35%	X
Adults who are not fully employed:	10%	X

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

Unskilled workers through professional workers

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?

SecondFirst Church is primarily made up of white Americans, a small number of Black Americans, and a smaller number of Hispanic Americans. We are largely mono-cultural. Diversity can encompass race, gender, and sexual orientation.

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:

In planning

#### 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? (list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff)
Adult Groups or Classes	18	Lay Leaders and Adult Christian Ed Team
Baptisms (number last year)	4	Pastoral Staff, Family
Children's Groups or Classes	12	Youth Leaders
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	180	Pastor, Youth Leaders, Music Director
Church-wide Meals	On hold	
Choirs and Music Groups	40+	Music Directors, Handbell Directors
Church-based Bible Study	5	Pastor
Communion (served how often?)	Monthly; 80	Pastor and Deacons/Fellowship Team
Community Meals Weekly	50-60	Group of 10 to prepare

Confirmation (number confirmed last year)	0	
Drama or Dance Program		
Funerals (number last year)	13	Pastor, Family, Music Director
Intergenerational Groups		
Outdoor Worship		
Prayer or Meditation Groups	8	During Lent, Pastor
Public Advocacy Work		
Retreats		
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community		
Weddings (number last year)	0	
Worship (time slot: 10 am)	70-125	Pastor, Music Director, Youth Leaders
Worship (time slot:)		
Young Adult Groups or Classes	8	Youth Leaders, Pastor
Youth Groups or Classes	3	Youth Leaders, Pastor
Other: After Church Social Gatherings	50	Hospitality and Deacons Membership Teams

# 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)
Rev David Jones			Stewardship	Y

Rev Bob Saunders		Crop Walk	Y
Rev Bob Bates		Adult Christian Education	Y

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
Acting Senior Pastor	Currently serving as head of staff	Full time	Executive Committee	2 yrs (has been in various roles at the church for 27 years)
Children's Director		Part time	Senior Pastor	4.5 yrs
Youth Director		Part time	Senior Pastor	3 yr
Organist/Music Director		Part time	Senior Pastor	11 yrs
Bell Directors (2)		Part time	Senior Pastor	1 yr and 8 yrs
Choir Director		Part Time	Music Director	3 months
Building Manager		Full time	Senior Pastor	7 yrs
Doormen/ Greeters (3)		Part time	Building Mgr	15 yrs, 7 yrs, 2 yrs
Housekeeper		Part time	Senior Pastor	7 yrs
Secretary and Graphic Design		Full time	Senior Pastor	1 yr
Business Manager		Part time	Senior Pastor	22 yrs
Church Administrator		Volunteer; Part time	Executive Committee	3 yrs

#### REFLECTION

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

This listing of staff positions indicates our value for various ministries: children, youth, music, having a welcoming and helpful presence at the door that people enter, as well as the day to day running of the church's business.

#### 3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$ 347,128
Endowment Proceeds (as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)	\$ 283,274
Endowment Draw (beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal")	\$
Fundraising Events	\$
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$
Grants	\$
Rentals of Church Building	\$ 30,800
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$
Support from Related Organizations (e.g. Women's Group)	\$ 6,514
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$ 10,908
Other (specify): miscellaneous	\$ 381
Other (specify):	\$
TOTAL	\$ 679,005

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$ 682,662

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.

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

Budget \$ 181,095/\$ 682,662 = 26.5%

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) Yes

Our	Church's	s Wider	Mission	(OCWM-	Basic	Support)
				(		11 /

- \_\_ 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%)

Paid from the annual budget of the Mission Ministry Team

What is the church's current indebtedness? None

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:

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
2013- 14	Install a new sanctuary sound system and a hearing aid loop	\$90,000	\$90,000	When the project was completed, the congregation could hear the worship service better and those with hearing aids could access the loop

2021	Upgrade sanctuary video system and donate to Pilgram Park UCC Camp and Conference Center for	\$12,000	\$12,692 matched by the First Pres Endowment	The video system in the sanctuary was upgraded which benefited the congregants who were watching Sunday Services via Facebook Live; \$5,000 was
	use in the Cleveland		for a total	· · ·
	Chapel		of \$25,000	donated to Pilgrim Park

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe: N/A

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

Describe the prominent mission component(s) involved in the most recent (or current) capital campaign.

We upgraded our sanctuary video system as a way to better broadcast our Sunday Services through Facebook Live during the pandemic. We also raised and donated \$5,000 to Pilgrim Park UCC Camp and Conference Center's Cleveland Chapel during this campaign.

Does your church have an endowment?

Yes, the Second Congregational Foundation and the First Presbyterian Endowment Fund

What is the market value of the assets?

Second Congregational Foundation \$ 4,246,099

First Presbyterian Endowment \$ 420,290

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

The Second Congregational Foundation provides funds regularly and the First Presbyterian Endowment provides funds under certain circumstances (such as special projects).

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

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

SC Foundation provides monthly support to operating expenses at 5.75% figured on the average from the previous three years.

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

For SC Foundation this depends on the financial markets, whether there are additional contributions to the foundation, and whether the principal is utilized for emergency repairs (for example, the Foundation has supplied funds for roof repairs). Our goal is to have it last 35 years, at a minimum.

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

#### Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$ 0

Investments (other than endowment): \$ 0 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:

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.) The pulpit, choir loft and choir room are not currently wheelchair 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?

We are a financially conservative church which strives to be responsible with the funds placed in our care. We are committed to large expenses relating to the building for which it would be very difficult or impossible for funds to be raised from the current congregation. We balance this with a similar commitment to supporting the Church's mission, in general. For example, in supporting the local group KFACT, the Foundation supplied funds to renovate an area of the church so it would better serve their needs of supporting at-risk teenage girls through mentoring and educational support.

#### 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.

- 1) Merging to become a Federated Congregation
- 2) The emphasis on community outreach (e.g. Serious Soup weekly on Mondays, using the gym for the Overnight Café during January-March)
  - 3) Commitment to the downtown neighborhood

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

Like many other congregations, we have had to change thanks to the Covid pandemic. Our Sunday morning services are both in person but on Facebook Live. This online presence required an upgrade in sound and video equipment in order to have a quality feed. We also learned Zoom! And even with its ups and downs, plusses and minuses, we continue to have hybrid Ministry Team meetings via Zoom.

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?)

Two years ago, conflict with the Senior Pastor culminated in her resignation. Although the details surrounding personnel must remain confidential, in this situation the church's policies and procedures regarding periodic evaluation and feedback had been followed and behavioral goals were set, but, ultimately, these actions did not affect change. During this time, we consulted with an attorney well-versed in employment issues, and followed her professional advice. We were also in contact with our Associate Conference Minister both during the period of resignation and at multiple points over the previous years. However, this situation resulted in a painful period for the church, and we lost some members.

From these circumstances, we learned some important lessons. For example, during conflict, we should maintain a better paper trail, adhere to a strict behavioral contract much earlier, and try to communicate with the congregation to the greatest extent we can. A positive outcome of this situation was the way that the lay leadership came together to form a cohesive unit. While trying to maintain a focus on what was good for the church as a whole, different leaders were able to use their strengths and areas of expertise.

Our church has spent the last two years healing from this situation. Under the leadership of our Acting Senior Pastor, who has served in various roles in our church for the last 27 years, the congregation has rallied around common outreach experiences, fellowship gatherings, and faith development opportunities.

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

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Pastor Becky Erbe, Acting Senior Pastor, SecondFirst Church	5/1/1997	Y
Rev. Rebecca White Newgren, Senior Pastor SecondFirst Church	2/25/15-12/30/22	N
Rev. Gary Stillwell, Interim Pastor, SecondFirst Church	11/24/14-2/27/15	Y
Rev. Stephen Hill, Interim Pastor, SecondFirst Church	2/19/14-11/28/14	Not known
Rev. Robert Meissner, Interim Pastor, SecondFirst Church	8/7/13-12/27/13	Y
Rev Elizabeth Wagner, Transitional Pastor, First Presbyterian Church	1/1/13-8/30/13	N
Rev. J Michael Solberg, Senior Pastor, Second Congregational Church	9/23/02-7/30/13	Y

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

SecondFirst Church's Senior Pastor is expected to take on a variety of roles such as faith leader, congregant nurturer, outreach coordinator, staff supervisor, and lay leader coordinator. These diverse roles can lead to strong bonds and wonderful connections. However, they can also lead to differences of opinion or internal conflict.

Although the Senior Pastor reports to the Executive Committee, this committee is made up of individuals who serve in roles that often only have a one year term (Moderator, Treasurer, Chair of Trustees). As a result, we found that there was a lack of institutional knowledge, that different Executive Committees dealt with issues differently based on their collective strengths and weaknesses, and that the supervision of the Senior Pastor could be inconsistent. In response, we have worked on developing systems for the Executive Committee to aid in consistency. For example, Moderators now sit on the Executive Committee both during the year in which they are Moderator and the year following. In addition, more specific policies and procedures have been developed and recorded.

The Executive Committee works hard to provide both oversight and support to the Senior Pastor, but is careful not to micromanage. In addition, the committee is committed to resolving issues that arise in a timely manner.

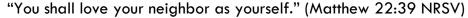
Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination?

Ask us

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

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

#### 4. WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?



- 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?

The Bible tells us in Matthew 25:40, "Jesus said, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you do it to me." At SecondFirst Church, we seek to incorporate this Biblical teaching by serving others through our mission work. Our two biggest outreach programs include "Serious Soup," a soup kitchen that serves a hearty noontime meal every Monday to an average of 50 people and "The Overnight Café," a wintertime warming center that provides nighttime shelter for up to 70 people each night. In addition, we take part in other mission work such as providing new boots for every student at a local elementary school each winter, housing several nonprofits in our church building, and working in conjunction with other neighboring churches to host resource fairs. On a global scale, we partner with Saut-d'Eau, a small town in Haiti where we have been able to fund education for hundreds of students, provide tools and heritage seeds for farmers, and buy an ambulance for the community. In addition, we run a small Fair-Trade store.

In 2008 (before the federation), Second Congregational Church and First Presbyterian Church came together with the Methodist and Episcopalian churches in the neighborhood to form Jeremiah Development, a 501(c)(3) that aims to better our surrounding neighborhood. We feel that Jeremiah Development is transformational for our neighborhood. We have representation on Jeremiah Development's Board, support the Small Engine Repair class in our building, and house its community garden. In addition, we provide volunteers and space for their Love Rockford event (e.g. clothes closet, lunch, food bank, bicycle repair, etc). This event not only provides our neighbors with needed services, but also connects them with agencies which can assist them in the days ahead. The churches of Jeremiah Development historically have a combined worship service annually, but this was a casualty of Covid for the last few years.

Our other outreach work includes:

Jubilee Center Soup Kitchen (Saturday lunch, 6x per year)

Habitat for Humanity (summer lunches for volunteers)

KFACT use of the building for meetings, mentoring, office space, and programs

Annual Pig Roast

Ice Cream Social

Bridge Clinic (a weekly clinic that provides free health care for low-income individuals)

Apples for Education (provide apples to Haskell School)

Thrift Shop

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

Many individuals in our congregation are involved in wider UCC and PC(USA) programs. We have representation at regional meetings, and many individuals serve on regional committees in the Prairie Association, IL Conference, and Blackhawk Presbytery. They are active in areas such as Committee on Ministry, IL Conference Council, and Outdoor Ministries.

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

Accessible to All (A2A)	Just Peace
Creation Justice	Global Mission Church
Economic Justice	Open and Affirming (ONA)
Faithful and Welcoming	WISE Congregation for Mental Health
x_ God Is Still Speaking (GISS)	Other UCC designations:
Border and Immigrant Justice	Designations from other denominations
Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M)	None

Reflect on what the above statement(s) mean(s) to your community. Is your congregation interested in working toward any of the above statements of witness in the near future?

We plan to work toward the ONA designation with the help of our new Senior Pastor.

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

In addition to working with both the UCC and the PC(USA) denominations, SecondFirst Church participates regularly in interfaith opportunities. In the past, SecondFirst Church has partnered with Pilgram Baptist Church (a predominantly Black church) for youth activities and has had joint programing with the Muslim Association of Greater Rockford. We also work regularly with Rockford Urban Ministries (a nonprofit that focuses on interfaith social justice advocacy). In addition, the founding of Jeremiah Development was a culmination of our work with the local Methodist and Episcopalian churches. Recently, we had a "Pastor Switch Sunday" in which our pastor preached at Court Street Methodist Church while their pastor preached at our service.

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 mission statement, "Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace" encompasses the outlook our church has on its role in our community, and we reference this mission statement in every worship service. In our most recent survey of the congregation, our outreach activities were highlighted as an important way that people felt connected to the church. Although the leadership of our church spends a lot of time in meetings, our membership is also engaged in hands-on work. Our outreach activities are well-supported with funding (sometimes from the church budget, sometimes from individual donations or grants) and with volunteers that make these events happen.

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?

SecondFirst Church believes that there needs to be a balance between a Senior Pastor's time spent out in the community and in with the congregation. Being out in the community can feel like the exciting part of ministry, making the church known. However, in the past years we have had a good amount of publicity for our programs and still managed to lose members every year. We believe that the programs of the church need the support and attention of the Senior Pastor and the individuals of the congregation needs to feel seen and loved. The church members are the backbone of evangelism and help to support the connections that the staff make in the community. On a practical note, annual reviews that include addressing this balance can be a valuable tool, keeping in mind that this balance might not be a 50/50 split, and the balance may not look the same each day.

#### 4b. MISSION InSite

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

We have not previously used MissionInsite, but after looking at the UCC information on the program, we would like to connect with the Illinois Conference to see how this tool can help us in our outreach work. However, SecondFirst Church focuses a majority of its mission work in the 61101 zip code in which it is located. Within this zip code, 25.6% of individuals live in poverty and the yearly median household income is \$30,103. While 27% of people in the zip code work full time, 28% work part time and 45% are classified as having no earnings. In addition, it is also home to the city's bus station, low-income housing, and a community of unhoused individuals. The area also has a nationally recognized museum campus, a performing arts center, and the city's main library. There has been a recent period of rejuvenation in which new stores have moved into the area and new luxury apartments have been built. This juxtaposition of needs helps challenge us as we respond to Christ's call in the area. We try to actively listen to the needs and the wants of the people living in the area before offering ways in which we can assist.

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?

Although we are largely an aging white congregation, our membership also includes younger people and families and people of other racial backgrounds. However, most of our members do not live in the immediate neighborhood around the church. For the most part, our membership's demographics contrast sharply with those who live around the church in factors such as social economic status, racial and cultural background, and age. However, our members ARE committed to our downtown presence and local ministry, and they find meaningful ways to connect with the surrounding community.

How are the demographics of the community currently shaping ministry, or not? What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for?

The downtown area of Rockford currently shapes our ministry and outreach projects. As seen in our reference section, Rockford's mayor writes about SecondFirst Church, "The church and its members have done significant work around the idea of belonging, and it's helping to change the entire culture of our community. In addition, the church hosts an Overnight Café in the winter to care for homeless on the coldest of nights. It is a true asset and helps keeps our most vulnerable residents safe." Our Overnight Café mission is often referenced by other community leaders, the media, and even other residents of Rockford.

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

From our most recent survey, members indicate that they became involved because of the chance to serve others, the welcoming and friendly nature of the church and its members, and the opportunity to be involved in small groups for Bible study or fellowship.



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.

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE – 201 PAGE 3

#### REFERENCE 1

Name / Position / Setting

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

Thomas P. McNamara Office of the Mayor of Rockford IL.



Thomas P. McNamara Mayor Office of the Mayor

May 18, 2023

#### To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my gratitude to Second Congregational First Presbyterian Church for all they do for the Rockford community. Historically, the church has had strong leadership from the pastor and the board, which has resulted in extensive engagement in the City and its activities.

In Rockford, we're constantly working toward creating an environment where everyone feels they are valued and that they belong. The church and its members have done significant work around the idea of belonging, and it's helping to change the entire culture of our community. In addition, the church hosts an Overnight Café in the winter to care for homeless on the coldest of nights. It is a true asset and helps keeps our most vulnerable residents safe.

As the church searches for a new senior pastor, I appreciate the thoughtful and thorough process they are going through to ensure they can continue to grow and impact the congregation and the entire community. Sincerely,

Thomas P. McNamara Mayor, City of Rockford, IL

war P. Mc Daman

City of Rockford, Illinois USA

425 East State Street Rockford, Illinois 61104-1068 USA (779) 348-7150 phone (815) 967-6952 fax www.rockfordil.gov

#### **REFERENCE 2**

#### Name / Position / Setting

#### Kathleen Ferrero/ Former Moderator / SecondFirst

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation in strong support of the Second/First Church in Rockford, Illinois, for their United Church of Christ (UCC) church profile. Having had the privilege of being a member of this congregation and also serving in a variety of leadership roles, I am confident in their commitment to spreading the message of love, compassion, and inclusivity in their community.

As a former member of the Second/First Church congregation, I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and enthusiasm that this congregation brings to their mission. The church's commitment to fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance for all individuals, regardless of their background, is truly inspiring. The congregation demonstrates this throughout their worship service as they invite attendees all attendees to the communion reminding everyone that all are welcome. The members have always accepted whoever came in through the door and provided help and assistance as needed.

One of the standout qualities of Second/First Church is its strong emphasis on community outreach and engagement. Their numerous programs and initiatives aimed at addressing social issues, supporting the vulnerable, and promoting interfaith dialogue have positively impacted the lives of many in Rockford and beyond. Whether this is working with other downtown churches to help launch Jeremiah Development or providing shelter for the unhoused on sub-zero nights through the Rockford Overnight Café; the leadership and congregation actively seek ways to be a driving force for positive change, working hand in hand with local organizations and agencies to make a tangible difference.

Furthermore, I have been impressed by the church's efforts in promoting spiritual growth and education among its members. Second/First Church invests in providing meaningful worship experiences, insightful sermons, and thoughtful discussions that encourage personal reflection and a deeper understanding of faith. It is evident that the leadership is genuinely invested in nurturing the spiritual well-being of their congregation. They have also never shied away from investigating how the word of God can be found in books, movies, and out in nature.

In conclusion, if you are looking for a church that cares deeply about the members within the four walls as well as neighbors throughout Rockford, please consider serving with those who worship and work at Second/First Church. Their unwavering commitment to social justice, community outreach, and spiritual growth makes them a beacon of hope and compassion in the region. I have no doubt that they will continue to thrive and positively impact the lives of those they serve.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ferrero

Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation 630-452-5234 / kferrero55@hotmail.com / Former Moderator

#### REFERENCE 3

Name / Position / Setting

Norm Shirk/ Director, Pastoral Care & Volunteer Services/ UW Health Swedish American Hospital



Second First Church 318 N Church St Rockford IL 61101

Dear Prospective Pastoral Candidate,

It has been my privilege during the 28 years I have served as the head of Pastoral Care at SwedishAmerican Health System, (now UWHealth Northern IL), to preach throughout the greater Rockford community, supplying Sunday sermons to a wide range of churches and denominations. None have I found more welcoming, appreciative, or positive than the congregation called Second First. This unique church family has embraced a balance of truths rare to find in a single congregation: that the least are to be as honored as the greatest; that God's word still speaks; and that diversity respected in each one, leads to unity enjoyed by all.

Now please take my recommendation with this grain of salt: As one who gets to visit, speak, and leave, I am more like the grandparent getting a small dose of his favorite grandchildren each time I show up. Were I in the much harder, less glamorous role of called pastor, appointed to partner daily with this family through councils, committees, staff and member relations, and annual meetings, I'm sure our flaws would be much more apparent, and thus our mutual admiration a little less fervent! Nevertheless, my connection over the years with this loving community has been close enough to know that the minister who is lucky enough to be called here will enjoy tenfold the blessing for every challenge.

Well, reading this through, you would think I was getting a dollar for every word I've written. Nope. This is a sincere tribute, easy to send. Please feel free to reach out, if I can encourage you further through a face to face conversation. Just know I will be checking you out for them as well!

Respectfully,

Rev. Norm Shirk, ThM., M.S.Ed., LCPC Director Pastoral Care and Volunteer

Services

1401 E State Street Rockford, IL 61104

779-696-4246

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation) 779-696-4246/ NShirk@uwhealth.org/ Pulpit Supply

#### 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:

God, we don't know the identity of our next pastor, but You do.

We pray that You give them the strength to follow a calling to our congregation.

We ask that over time, You bless them with a deep love for SecondFirst Church and the Rockford community.

We pray that You give them a strong desire to teach and preach Your Word, and to fulfill the many roles of a shepherd to this congregation.

We ask that You help the next pastor to understand the needs of this church and its community and that in that process, life-sustaining friendships develop.

#### **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.)* Executive Committee, Search Committee, Governing Council, Ministry Teams, Nancy Yoeckel, and Debbie Wise.
- 2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed:

Name / Title / Date:

Margaret Maynard/ Vice-Moderator /June 16, 2023

Updated March 3, 2024 by Sarah Reinold, Senior Pastor Search Committee Co-Secretary

# 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: Rev. Shernell J. Edney Stilley

Name / Title: Rev. Shernell J. Edney Stilley / ACM for Pastoral Transitions

Email: <u>shernelledneystilley@ilucc.org</u>

Phone: 708-701-4933 Date: April 22, 2024

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