

Search and Call Tools for Congregations

Advancing the Spirit's guidance into God's future

INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE



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

MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE,
SUPPORT & AUTHORIZATION

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Evangelical United Church of Christ
Marysville, Kansas

Pastor

Kansas Oklahoma Conference

March 15, 2024

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

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

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

INSTRUCTIONS

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

For many congregations, the interim time between ministers is an intentional season that is guided in part by the preparation of a Local Church Profile. Using the Profile, the church can discover its data and express its story for the reliable discernment of a search committee and the beginning of a new pastorate. Searching ministers will want to see this document in its entirety.

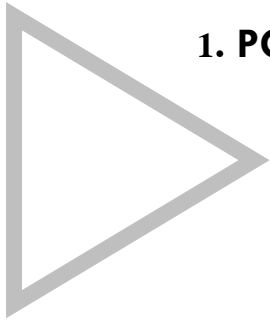
The interim season is not the only time in a church's life when it's valuable to give attention to explore a congregation's vocation. Three sections of the Local Church Profile – **WHO ARE WE NOW**, **WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR**, and **WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME** – are meant to be updated every 3-5 years.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

Some questions are easy to answer. Some are not so easy. Prompts are provided to stimulate narrative response if needed; these italicized prompts are merely examples from which to choose or to inspire your own. Efforts to answer the questions will prompt conversations and explorations and story-tellings and many prayers. As the Spirit moves throughout the process, congregations will shape a collective articulation of Christ's leading (**WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME**). This last question to be answered becomes the first section to be read by searching ministers in the Local Church Profile, and it is boldest and most actionable piece for faithful leadership into the future.

Your conference can provide materials referenced in the Local Church Profile, such as the 11-Year Report containing data as reported by your congregation annually to the UCC Data Hub, and MissionInsite reports containing demographic information on your community. More information on types of pastorate in the United Church of Christ can be found in the Call Agreement Workbook. Be sure to use the Call Agreement Workbook's Scope of Work to describe in this Local Church Profile the position being sought.

When it is time for ministerial search, the conference can counsel you on posting the Local Church Profile together with your public listing at UCC Ministry Opportunities (<http://oppsearch.ucc.org>).

The last page of the Local Church Profile contains a statement that parallels the consent statement signed by ministers in the UCC Ministerial Profile. In keeping with the covenantal relationship between a church and those it seeks to call, this statement encourages an open, honest exchange of information. On behalf of the United Church of Christ, and on the basis of the best knowledge available to them, your conference staff will validate your completed Local Church Profile when it is ready to be shared in relationship with prospective new leaders.



1. POSITION POSTING

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

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: Evangelical United Church of Christ
Street address: 205 South 10th Street Marysville, KS
Supplemental web links:

Additional ecumenical affiliations (*e.g. denominations, communions, fellowships*): None

Conference: Kansas Oklahoma Conference

Association: N/A

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person:
Rev. Lorraine Cenicerros
Conference Minister
316-686-4331
lcenicerros@kocucc.org

Summary Ministry Description:

The Evangelical United Church of Christ is calling the individual God has selected to join our church family as pastor to interpret the scriptures as they apply to our daily lives and to our church life. We know our church's mission is broader than our home at 10th and Elm Streets, and we look forward to being a church for everyone. With a tradition of extending an extravagant welcome to everyone, we open our doors and our hearts to all members of our community.

To accomplish this, we need a strong leader who knows how to bring people together as we embrace new opportunities to grow. While we're rooted in tradition, we're open to new ideas. We welcome the individual who will keep us growing, who will keep us giving and who will keep us doing. We welcome the individual who will help us put our faith into action.

At the same time, we're open to an individual who is fresh out of seminary! We believe our congregation, our location, our building, our sense of mission and our community are ideal for someone just entering the ministerial profession. To that extent, we are offering a \$5000 scholarship to someone just coming out of seminary. This scholarship is on top of our compensation package. **This is a full-time position.**

Photographs:





What we value about living in our area:

Although our community has many of the benefits of a larger city, it maintains the charm of a small town with quality schools that are recently updated, a vibrant arts scene, quaint shops and boutiques and low crime rates. Marysville is located on the northern edge of the Flint Hills and is within one hour of university towns like Lincoln, Nebraska and Manhattan, Kansas. The city has a great recreation program for youth and adults and boasts trails for hiking and biking.

We value knowing our neighbors, supporting our local businesses and organizations while our community grows.

Current size of membership: 189

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*): None

Position Title: Pastor

Position Duration:

Settled – a called position intended for longer-term ministry in which the minister moves church membership to the congregation and moves standing to related association.

Compensation Level:

Full Time - Our total compensation package is \$63,000.

Salary, housing, and utilities; additionally, we provide health insurance, social security, Medicare and pension.

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? Yes**Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister.**

EUCC owns a lovely parsonage two blocks from the church. Our minister will reside in an urban sanctuary where charm meets convenience in a delightful bungalow! The house is filled with warmth and comfort and features an open-concept living and dining room, perfect for creating lasting memories with loved ones. There is an abundance of natural light that dances through the generous windows and can be enjoyed on the enclosed front sun porch. Take pleasure in the amenities just a stone's throw away. Nestled in a vibrant community, this cozy abode is your gateway to a dynamic lifestyle.

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

Core Competencies:

We are seeking a pastor who is an effective teacher and communicator; someone who possesses strong leadership skills and uses those skills to impact change and growth. An effective administrator who can manage the church while using time wisely and efficiently is who we are seeking. It is important to us that our pastor includes pastoral care to those in care homes, hospitalized and homebound.

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis: Salary plus Benefits

Our total compensation package is \$63,000. The salary is \$36,528 (This is negotiable.); Insurance & pension are \$12,475; Housing & utilities are \$14,000. We are also offering a \$5000 scholarship to someone coming out of seminary. This scholarship is in addition to our compensation package.

What is the expected living situation for your next minister We own a two-story parsonage.

Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister. We expect our next minister to reside in the community.

State any incentives We provide health insurance, social security, Medicare and pension. Vacation is also available. We also support the minister's on-going professional development. We also offer a \$5000 scholarship to someone coming out of seminary.

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

The Evangelical United Church of Christ is one of seventeen churches in Marysville, with both males and females serving as ministers. We encourage our minister to take advantage of the training and support systems the conference sponsors.

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

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.

Although our worship service might be traditional, our thinking is not. EUCC's ministry includes weekly worship, missions, fellowship, music, and all levels of education. We look forward to our next minister helping us grow these ministries and explore new areas, too. Additionally, as we embrace being an open and affirming church, we seek guidance from our new minister to help us realize this belief.

Importantly, our next minister will help us grow and diversify our membership all the while encouraging active participation by current members.

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

We envision a minister who helps us put our faith into action for the betterment of our community. To that extent we seek someone who will help us learn and live God's word. We need someone who will inspire us and motivate us and challenge our thinking. We need someone who will champion us and urge us to do more.

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

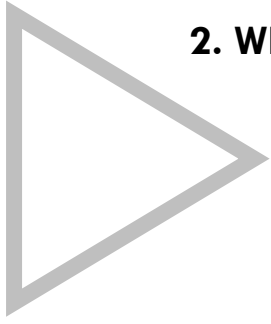
Based on what you have learned about who your church is, who your church's neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, describe four areas of excellence from *The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry* that your next minister will display to further equip the congregation's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

Exhibiting a spiritual foundation and ongoing spiritual practice

Building transformational leadership skills

Caring for all creation

Working together for justice and mercy



2. WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?

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

Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?

We want to strengthen our community-centered, caring congregation, and apply what we experience in church on Sundays and bring it into our week. We feel called to be relevant and to reach out to invite those in need of a church home to join us. At the same time, we want to prepare the way for our future.

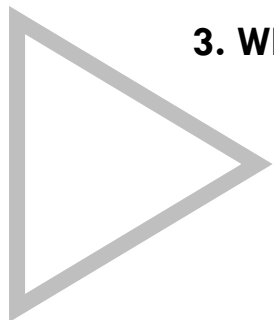
Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation.

Making sure we extend our mission beyond our church walls; we support the mission of the Pony Express Partnership for Children. PEPC focuses on the betterment of children and families' lives through a collaborative effort of multiple agencies. Through education, support, resource and referral, and health education, partnering agencies work together to best serve families' needs from birth throughout adulthood. To better learn about this important organization, leaders from PEPC spoke during church services in October 2021 to explain their vision and their needs. In response, EUCC contributes to their cause by providing needed paper products, toiletry items, food and the like.

To make sure our church is connected to our community, we hold a monthly gathering called First Fridays. Everyone in the community is invited to our parish hall for refreshments and home-baked treats. This is a chance for fellowship with those from other churches as well as those who don't have a church family. It's a time where we can build relationships in an informal setting.

One community minister, retired after a long tenure in Marysville, has reminded us to mention that our congregation is known for a quick response to any local mission need. This is not limited to agencies working with families in crisis. On a hot day last year when several hundred gravel bikers came through town, our parishioners were stationed along the route handing out ice water. Our mission committee recognized the need, ordered the crates of water marked with our church logo, and organized the troops. In any ecumenical activity, our congregation is likely

to be either an organizer or principal supporter, whether or not we have current pastoral leadership.



3. WHO ARE WE NOW?

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

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

3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith.

The Evangelical United Church of Christ is a faith-based community. We approach our ministry and management as a community rather than as an organization. We work together to shape the faith of our members and of those we reach in the community through ministry and mission.

Congregants of EUCC deepen and broaden their faith by being open-minded to the ideas, opinions, and concerns of all God’s people. All people are invited to join in our journey of faith.

We often talk about our mission beyond 10th and Elm Streets - that’s because we believe our mission is bigger than our church’s walls. It’s also because we know our church is not a building - it’s us, a group of people striving to be better, striving to grow in Christ and with one another.

Because of our life of faith, we support one another, strengthen one another, and challenge one another. Ultimately, we grow with one another. We’re looking for our next minister to be the church with us.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

Community is a word used to describe the Evangelical United Church of Christ. We are active in our community; plus, our church is a community. As such, we encourage spiritual growth; we are surrounded by people who can encourage us and walk beside us in our trials and joys. Our church community influences those outside our church, too.

Our congregation cares. We provide care and support for one another through the peaks and valleys of our lives. Naturally, church members help out. Church members provide support without being asked.

We are leaders and doers - we get things done. During our time without a minister, our congregation has grown. We've added new members and we've expanded our programs. Although we are excited to welcome our new minister to our church family, we make sure our work continues even in the absence of an "official" leader.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

Our service is traditional with a feeling of warmth. We use the UCC hymnal and follow a similar pattern to weekly worship: gathering, readings, sermon, offering, prayers and closing. Hymns are sung throughout the service. Special music is also involved, too - whether that's from the church's bell choir or from local musicians.

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

We strive to guide our children, youth, and adults to a spiritually rewarding life of Christian faith, instilling in them the values that will enable them to have a loving relationship with God. We teach them God's word and its relevance to their daily lives. We encourage, support, and lead them into service for others and for the betterment of our community, as they act out their faith.

Sunday School is offered every Sunday for students, preschool through high school. Adult education is an important component of our educational program. Additionally, we collaborate with other churches - like the First Christian Church or the Memorial Presbyterian Church - to hold joint Bible studies. Conversations that arise from these studies allow for new perspectives, deeper understanding, and community building.

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?** The church council is the decision-making body for the church. The council meets once per month for approximately sixty minutes. Decisions are communicated through the weekly church bulletin, monthly newsletter and via email to members. Other committees meet throughout the month, too, like the worship committee, buildings & grounds and fellowship - there are many ways for members to be involved.
- **Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished?** Since we're a small church, we can

communicate with members quickly - whether that's through an email to members or through a meeting after church, we are able to notify members in a timely manner. For example, when the pandemic hit, it didn't take us long to put a plan in place for weekly church services and to make sure the church stayed in contact with our members. We get things done, and we get them done quickly.

- **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

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

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	75	X
Number of active non-members:	75	X
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	150	x

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	60%	X
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	30%	X
Less than 5 years:	10%	X

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</i>

									<i>estimate? (check if yes)</i>
1	6	6	10	10	10	20	10	10	X

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	15%	X
Households with minors:	10%	X
Single adults age 35-65:	15%	X
Joint households with no minors:	70%	X
Single adults over 65:	20%	X

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	98%	X
College:	60%	X
Graduate School:	15%	X
Specialty Training:	40%	X
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	50%	X
Adults who are retired:	50%	X
Adults who are not fully employed:	0	X

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation: There are a variety of occupations in our congregation: insurance agents, county employees, teachers, librarians, bakers, farmers, truck drivers, real estate agents, clerical workers and those in advertising and marketing.

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? The vast majority of the congregation are white from a German background.

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: Yes! We just went through the process of becoming an Open and Affirming Church. This took us several years to complete and the process was positive, full of reflection - in the end, it brought the church even closer together.

3d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

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

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings? (<i>list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff</i>)
Adult Groups or Classes	8	Either the minister or lay leaders or both
Baptisms (<i>number last year</i>)	2	Minister
Children’s Groups or Classes	6	Minister and lay leaders
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	80	Minister, musicians, lay leaders
Church-wide Meals	20	Church members
Choirs and Music Groups	12	Church volunteers
Church-based Bible Study	8	Minister

Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	40	Monthly; minister and members of the church council
Community Meals	200	Church members
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	6	Minister and lay leaders
Drama or Dance Program	0	
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	8	Minister and musicians
Intergenerational Groups	0	
Outdoor Worship	20	Minister, musicians, lay leaders
Prayer or Meditation Groups	0	
Public Advocacy Work	40	Church Members
Retreats	0	
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	8	Minister
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	2	Minister
Worship (time slot: 10:00 am)	55	Minister, musicians, lay leaders
Worship (time slot: _____)		
Young Adult Groups or Classes	0	
Youth Groups or Classes	6	Minister and lay leaders
Other		

Additional comments:

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

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
Jack Ulmer	No		Exempt Standing	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 staffperson serves as head of staff.

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

REFLECTION

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

While our worship might be traditional, our thinking is not. We welcome a leader who will help us celebrate who we are, grow in Christ and help us find new ways to minister and grow our congregation.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$118,000
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$0
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	\$0
Fundraising Events	\$0
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$0
Grants	\$0
Rentals of Church Building	\$0
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$0
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women's Group</i>)	\$0
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$0
Other (specify):	\$0
Other (specify):	\$0
TOTAL	\$118,000

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

Attach most recent church budget, spending plan, operating statement, or annual treasurer's report as shared publicly with the congregation, or – if your church does not pass an annual budget – list current budgeted expenses here.

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

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? Yes

- X__ Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)
- X__ One Great Hour of Sharing
- X__ Strengthen the Church
- X__ Neighbors in Need
- X__ Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage? (recommended 10%) 10%

What is the church's current indebtedness?

- Total amount of loan debt: \$0
- Reason for debt: N/A
- Are capital and other payments current? N/A

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.

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

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

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe:

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

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

Does your church have an endowment? No

What is the market value of the assets?

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

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

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

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

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$231,000

Investments (other than endowment): \$58,000

Does your church have a parsonage? Yes

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: \$800

How is the parsonage used? Minister lives there.

Street / City / State / Zip: 1140 Walnut Street, Marysville, KS 66508

Finished square footage:

Number of Bedrooms 4, Number of Bathrooms: 1

Assessed real estate value:

Available for minister residence: Y

Expected minister residence: Y

Condition of structure, systems and appliances: Excellent

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs: Upkeep and grounds committee.

Describe all buildings owned by the church: Church and parsonage.

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church: None.

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

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

Financially, we are a stable church; there haven't been any major changes to our budget or to our budgeting process. Yearly, the church's treasurer meets with the finance committee and the church council to monitor the budget and to plan for the future. Although we are stable, we are always open to new ideas. We look forward to the leadership our new minister can provide in this arena.

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.

The present congregation traces its roots to 1868 when worship was held in various members' homes. One year later the property was acquired and a small, wooden building erected.

In 1870, a constitution was adopted, naming the group the German Evangelical Society of Marysville, Kansas. The same year a charter was granted.

In 1874, with much volunteer labor, a new stone church was completed. In 1876, the congregation affiliated with the Evangelical Synod of North America. The following year saw the formation of a Sunday School.

The year 1927 brought the removal of the old stone church and the laying of our present cornerstone. The new sanctuary was dedicated in early 1928.

Several mergers and affiliations saw us as Evangelical and Reformed Church, but in 1961, we became our present Evangelical United Church of Christ.

We celebrated our 125th anniversary in September 1992 and our 150th in 2018. The most important event in the life of our church in the past ten years is our 150th celebration. We celebrated yearlong and invited the community to join us for several of the events.

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

A specific change our church has managed in the past has to do with becoming an open and affirming church. Although some members left the congregation because of this, new members came, too. Throughout, we have remained committed to inclusive practices, listening to others, and remaining open-minded.

Another change our church has experienced is COVID-19. We are still reeling from its effects and working to bring back the level of activity and engagement we had before the pandemic.

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.

When there is conflict, we get stronger. Strength doesn’t always equate to a full-house on Sunday mornings; strength equates to a group of people who care about one another, continue to learn from one another and work together. Strength can be found in the faith of the members.

When there is conflict, the church council handles it, usually through the democratic process. If a vote is taken to make a decision, the church adheres to the council’s decision.

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

Staff member’s name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Pastor Julie Shields	2016 - 2022	Y
Rev. Dr. Judith Scott	2007-2015	Y
Rev. David Marcham	1999-2004	Y
Rev. Jerome Ulmer	1951-1998	Y

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

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

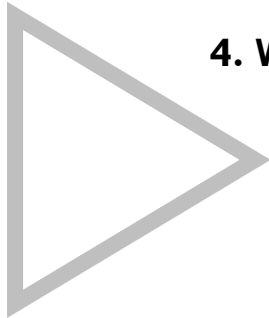
No

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

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

Our members are active in our community. For many years, our church was responsible for Marysville’s recycling program. Monthly, we find volunteers to work the recycling program on a Saturday morning so area residents can bring their items to one location to be recycled.

We operated a program called Power Up Saturdays. Realizing some students in junior high and high school don’t have access to meals on the weekend, we partner with a local convenience store that serves pizza, chicken and other convenience foods to provide gift certificates for these students to use to assure they have food.

Some of our members are involved in the city’s Food Pantry. Church members collect food for the pantry and some volunteer at the site. Similarly, we take a “noisy offering” monthly - congregants put their change in the offering plate and we use those funds to help youngsters in need. The children determine how the money is spent.

We also host an annual Soup Day where community members come to our church to enjoy our home-cooked soups. Yearly, we host an ice cream social for the community, too.

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

One of our active members serves on the Kansas Oklahoma Conference Board of Directors. Members have attended the annual meeting for the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference.

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

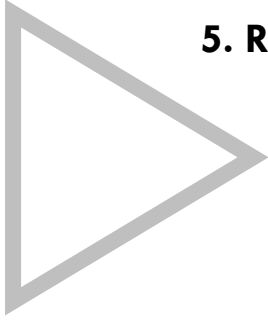
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible to All (A2A) | <input type="checkbox"/> Just Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creation Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global Mission Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> WISE Congregation for Mental Health |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> God Is Still Speaking (GISS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other UCC designations: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Border and Immigrant Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designations from other denominations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M) | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 love to learn, and we love to grow. We know these are areas where we need direction and guidance; we are anxious for our next pastor to help us widen our mission.

Describe your congregation's participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities (with other denominations and religious groups, local and regional). Our church hosts an ecumenical Bible Study that is open to the public. One of our members is the director for the Marshall County Community Choir, and several of our church members sing in the choir, too.

If your congregation has a mission statement, how does that mission statement compare to the actual time spent engaging in different activities? Think of the range of activities from time spent gathering, to governance, to time spent going out. We are up for the challenge! We will need to update this with our new pastor. We are looking forward to working with someone who is skilled at long-range planning, goal setting and aligning our mission and priorities. Our church is filled with good thinkers - we're also doers. We know we can accomplish this with our new pastor - it will be a great way for us to begin our collaboration.

Reflect on the scope of work assigned to your pastor(s). How is their community ministry and their ministry in and on behalf of the wider church accounted for in the congregation's expectations on their time?



5. REFERENCES

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

Make sure they are not members of your church but are persons who know your church well enough to be helpful to candidates seeking more information. Request a letter from each reference in answer to the four prompts below. Attach the letters (up to three) as desired.

REFERENCE 1

Sarah Kessinger
Publisher and Editor, the Marysville Advocate
785-562-2317
skessinger@marysvilleonline.net

REFERENCE 2

Lynn Mayer
CEO, Citizens State Bank 785-562-2186
lmayer@csbmarysville.com

REFERENCE 3

Cleve Walstrom
Owner, Kinsley Mortuary 785-562-3021
clevewalstrom@hotmail.com

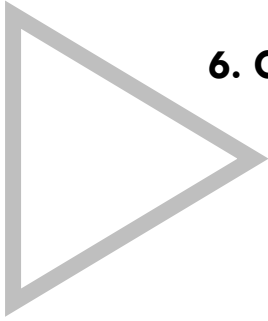
PROMPTS FOR REFERENCES

Describe some areas of strength in this church’s ministry.

Describe some areas for improvement in this church’s ministry.

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

Anything else you wish to share.



6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

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

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers of gratitude this day. We are thankful for being called to be your people, for being a part of this community of faith. We have been blessed in so many different ways. But today, we find ourselves looking into an unknown future as we begin our search for a new pastor to lead this flock. We are blessed with many skilled members who will step up and fill the roles that will allow us to continue on the path you have chosen for us. Be with them as they assume new and different roles. Guide us to the one you have chosen to lead us. Instill in that special person the ability to evaluate this congregation's culture and mold a clear vision of what this church should become. May they have the skills to promote that vision and lead us toward it. We are always a little fearful of the unknowns of the future, but we know you are with us and are looking forward to new and exciting changes that are coming to this community of faith. Hear this our humble prayer, Amen.

6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates.

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending a 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

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed: Wayne A. Kruse, chairperson of the search committee, 3/15/24

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment: Yes

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

Staff Comment: Yes

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

Staff Comment: Yes

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:

Name / Title: Rev. Lorraine Cenicerros, Conference Minister

Email: lcenicerros@kocucc.org

Phone: 316-686-4331

Date: March 15, 2024

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



This document is created through support to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and is only possible through the covenantal relationships of all settings of the United Church of Christ.

“Jesus answered them, ‘Have faith in God!’” – Mark 11:22