

## Search and Call Tools for Congregations

Advancing the Spirit's guidance into God's future

# INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Who  
are  
we

Who  
is our  
neighbor

Who is  
God  
calling us  
to become

?

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

MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE,  
SUPPORT & AUTHORIZATION

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

SENIOR PASTOR FULL TIME

FLORIDA CONFERENCE

MAY 5, 2023

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

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

## INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

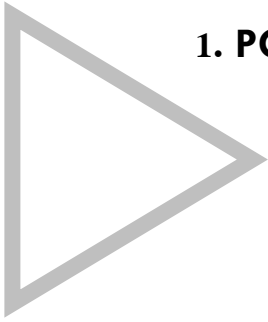
The interim season is not the only time in a church's life when it's valuable to give attention to explore a congregation's vocation. Three sections of the Local Church Profile – **WHO ARE WE NOW**, **WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR**, and **WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME** – are meant to be updated every 3-5 years.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

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

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

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

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



## 1. POSITION POSTING

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

### 1a. LISTING INFORMATION

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Church name: First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Inc. dba United Church of Christ Ft. Lauderdale

Street address: 2501 N.E. 30<sup>th</sup> Street; Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306

Web links: [uccftl.org](http://uccftl.org)

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

Conference: Florida

Association: None

UCC Conference: Rev. LaTrell Harrison, Associate Conference Minister

Email: [LHarrison@uccfla.org](mailto:LHarrison@uccfla.org)

Phone: 404-734-4986

#### Summary Ministry Description:

Our Church is a vibrant and growing community celebrating 67 years of sharing God's unconditional love to all people. We are a church of over 120 worshipers on Sunday, and over 30 worshipers at Thursday services. A majority of the active congregation comes from the LGBTQ+ community.

From the time people enter our amazing architecturally-celebrated Sanctuary they are enthusiastically greeted with love and a smile from one of our dedicated ushers. Our motto is "You are only a stranger once, and welcome home." The Worship, Arts and Music Ministry (WAMM) is made up of dedicated congregation members (around 12) who, along with our Director of Music, David Dunlap, and Pastor, meet weekly for several hours to plan worship weeks in advance; good planning results in a diverse mix of genres of music, vocalists, and instrumentalists. We pride ourselves on the participation of congregation members in many aspects of worship, from Call to Prayer, Worship Leader to Communion Servers and Reading of Scripture. The music director

coordinates our special soloists and musicians to keep our worship exciting and meaningful throughout the various liturgical seasons. For Christmas last year we presented “A Celebration of Christmas” with a 14-piece orchestra to accompany the choir.

We have an active Ruth Ministry feeding program on Thursdays that was started over 20 years ago and has a volunteer staff of about 15 to 25 each week. This ministry has a church service which is voluntary for anyone wishing to attend. The program now has an active medical mobile unit, equipped with a physician, nurse and social services. Showers and barber professionals along with clothing and personal everyday items are provided. All services provided, including the food is totally donated by businesses, and our amazing community.

Our active congregational care ministry offers support, health information, education, prayer and visitation on a regular basis to our congregation and community.

We have a newly formed women’s group facilitated by our interim pastor Emily Jazombek which meets weekly and open to our congregation and our community.

Our Church is in partnership with — and renting space to — Adrianna’s Center which offers support to transgendered individuals and offers HIV testing. Sound Healing, a meditation group utilizing various forms of sound, meets three times weekly. Epiphany Theatre rents office space and produces various theater productions in our Elliott Hall, open to the community.

Our public relations ministry is dedicated to keeping our community and congregation in the know with regular emails about what’s happening, and a recap of our previous worship service.

Our Audio-Visual team makes online worship available each Sunday and we have two local assisted living facilities with a number of residents who look forward to our weekly online streaming.

We have a strong ministry program led by laity. We are blessed to have many retired clergy in our church and lay individuals who give freely of their time and talents. We have over 90% of our congregation volunteer in one of the various ministries at our church. Our next pastor will help build the foundation for the next 20 years through worship and action.





What we value about living in our area:

Fort Lauderdale is the city you never want to leave. From the rich natural beauty of our world-famous beaches, waterways, and cultural offerings, to the array of entertainment and educational opportunities, there is something for everyone. We have millions of visitors every year, which is why tourism is our second largest industry. Our church is located less than a mile from the beach and we are nestled in a transitioning business and upper middle-class neighborhood. Our membership travels from the surrounding areas as far south as Miami (30 miles) and as far north as Boca Raton (25 miles).

<https://www.visitflorida.com/places-to-go/southeast/fort-lauderdale/>

Current size of membership: 124

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

Position Title: Senior Pastor

Position Duration: Settled

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

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? Yes

## 1b. SCOPE OF WORK

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We are a Church based in covenant and looking for faith formation and vitality through preaching, prayer, bible study, service to God and our community with love for all people.

We are searching for a senior minister who will:

Prepare and lead Sunday worship in collaboration with the Worship, Arts and Music Ministry (WAMM) to keep worship meaningful, and exciting.

Exhibit strong leadership with organizational skills in working with people in the church and community to create ministry and outreach programs.

Provide pastoral care in collaboration with our congregational care ministry.

Engage the community, leading the way for our church to be an ambassador of God's unconditional love.

Lead with a strategic vision and planning for current and new opportunities in ministry.

Demonstrates a faithful financial development and stewardship skills to partner with leadership for capital campaign and legacy funds.



Be an effective manager of time and resources to help maintain good energy and mental health boundaries.

Demonstrate experience in working with a strong lay leadership and someone who understands the concept of covenant and how it informs the nature, purpose and polity of the UCC.

Grow and add diversity to our current membership and has a strong passion for social issues.

#### Core Competencies:

The candidate should be a caring, compassionate, honest, and loving individual with a focus on social justice issues and who can share God 's unconditional love with the congregation and the community. He or she should have a passion for the oneness of the body of Christ, as expressed through commitment to ecumenism, justice, and the full embrace of all persons in the radical hospitality of God. This person should have a proven history of reaching out beyond the church into the community.

## 1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

**Salary Basis:** \$75,000 + Social Security and Medicare taxes:

**Benefits:** Up to \$1,500 per month for medical/dental insurance; \$1,000 per month housing allowance.

**What is the expected living situation for your next minister?** No parsonage; housing allowance is included in the package.

**Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister.** Be able to be active in the community and congregation. Live close to the church (within a 20-minute commute).

**State any incentives:** Pension, disability offered. Will discuss in the interview.

**Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference:** We are an active member of our Florida UCC Conference, and we have a strong interfaith support in Broward County.

**If applicable, describe how your church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment:** We are looking for a full-time pastor.

## 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.**

Our church is looking for a seasoned pastor who is a dynamic preacher and teacher, with a caring compassionate heart for the community, and who is able to expand and encompass more people in our community to become members of our incredible church family .

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

A pastor who supports a church family with various backgrounds who offers many different talents, and viewpoints.

A pastor who is passionate about our ministries that leads us into the community of faith.

A pastor is welcoming, accepting, open and affirming to all in our community and congregation.

A pastor who will help deliver our vision to grow our footprints and to be more confident in our ability to raise awareness in our surroundings through faith, and in others whose lives we touch.

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

Primary language is English. We are seeking a pastor who has the capabilities to work in a multi-cultural environment

**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.**

Our Pastor should be a dynamic preacher, teacher, role model, with effective communication and listening skills.





## 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?**

God is calling us to be the most genuine and authentic version of ourselves. We strive to be welcoming, ever evolving, accepting, and an open and affirming congregation. Our goal is to grow our footprints to be more confident in our ability to raise awareness in our world around us through faith, and in others whose lives we touch.

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

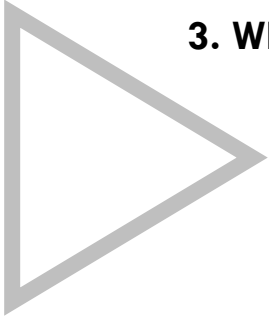
The Ruth Ministry feeding program on Thursday was started by member Ruth Earn who prepared a peanut butter sandwich for a hungry woman over 20 years ago. Over the last several years the program has expanded to include worship which was led by Jim Sargent (“Sarge”) and Rev. Patrick Rogers. Worship was launched with 10 people in the fellowship hall and later was moved to the James Chapel. Sarge continues to lead this amazing ministry, which has now moved to our main Sanctuary. Prior to Covid, attendance was about 75. Currently, attendance for the feeding program exceeds 125, and out of those about 45 attend the Thursday worship service, with the number growing. Sarge has developed a team for music, audio-visual and outreach. When this worship experience first started, it was a faith experience which exceeded all expectations. Some members from the Thursday program also regularly attend Sunday worship. One Sunday we had a special experience where members of the Thursday program did special music for us during worship.

Ruth Ministry program has expanded to make clothing available to the attendees, and healthcare managers and mobile showers are now available. We also have resources for housing, a doctor, and other health professionals to assist with health insurance and other needed services. This is truly an outreach where many of the volunteers do not attend our church. Those who attend the food program are not obligated to attend worship services. During COVID, the volunteers were so passionate to continue this program, that they initially prepared peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, which eventually led to “to go” meal containers being prepared and distributed. This ministry is almost completely funded from generous donors and some community partnerships.

Our second experiment was championed by a devoted member, George Brown, who had a vision for a memorial garden. George presented his vision to the leadership team. After discussion and prayer, the

leadership team approved his concept. He formed a committee which came up with a budget, design and marketing plan. Mr. Brown committed \$10,000 dollars and Barbara West committed an additional \$10,000 dollars; thus the garden is known as the Brown West Garden of Memories. Two donors who gave funds for a Gazebo as part of the garden design. The Gazebo was named Jones/Burkett to honor their donation. Individuals purchased benches and trees to help complete the design.

Many members have purchased plaques and requested their cremains to be interred in the ground. The Garden was envisioned to not only be a place to remember loved ones who have passed on, but a place where *new* memories are created; and so, in addition to funerals, the Garden is host to meditation, small gatherings, baptisms, weddings, and receptions. This was a labor of love that Mr. Brown had and that the congregation accepted. Today we have two individuals who maintain the garden. This will be a sacred place for many years to come. This is an example of thinking outside of the box, that with faith and determination, anything is possible.



### 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

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**Describe your congregation’s life of faith.**

We look to our Mission statement:

**Here at United Church of Christ of Fort Lauderdale Our Mission is:**

*to develop passionate followers of Christ through the  
Celebration of Worship,  
the Excitement of God’s Word the Blessing  
of God’s Healing, the Rewards of Service,  
the Honoring of God’s Creation, and the Joy of  
Fellowship –  
where all are welcome at God’s table.*

**We are:**

*a Welcoming, Open and Affirming church to all people of all races, genders, ages, sexual orientations,  
professions, previous religious affiliations, nationalities, or mental and physical conditions.*

God is described in Worship Liturgy as Our Creator, Lord, Holy One, Jehovah. We are moving to a more inclusive language in our services.

We would describe the Holy Spirit as a helper, the presence of God, and giving a feeling of peace.

The Holy Spirit encourages us to God’s work in helping to build God’s Church and our Congregation.

**Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.**

As soon as people walk in the door, they know they are home. Greeters are friendly, kind and welcoming. While there are always exceptions in different circumstances, the church's Mission Statement really says it all.

The following is a good description of who our congregation is:

The church is

- Welcoming to all
- Accepting to all
- Cooperative
- Compassionate in dealing with members, visitors, and the larger community
- Committed
- Loving
- Community-minded

Our strengths include a good leadership team, led by competent and caring Pastors and lay leaders; communication with denomination leadership while maintaining autonomy to make the church relevant to its members and community; a presence in the greater community as well as the LGBTQ+ community and beyond. Other strengths include Ruth Ministry, homeless outreach, and other ministries of the church that operate on the church property. We believe and practice what we say in our Mission Statement.

**Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.**

Worship services are held in the church sanctuary and follow traditional liturgy of scripture, prayer, preaching, music, and communion. Services are planned by the Worship Arts and Music Ministry (WAMM) committee, which meets every Tuesday morning for about 90 minutes. These meetings are open to anyone who wishes to have input into the planning of worship services. Services are usually planned up to four weeks in advance. They are typically based around the lectionary readings for the week, altered for inclusive language, although that can be adjusted as necessary to fit the theme of the Proclaimer's message for the week. Since the passing of our senior minister, Rev. Patrick Rogers, many of the messages have, out of necessity, been geared towards helping the congregation heal from the shock and magnitude of his loss. Congregants are frequently heard to say that the message was just what they needed to hear on that particular day. There is also a service held on Thursday mornings in conjunction with Ruth Ministry. Additional information on this is included elsewhere in this profile. In months with 5 Sundays, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is a rousing "Gospel Music Sunday."



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

When this church was built, almost seventy years ago, there was a strong sense for a vibrant Christian education component. This was especially true for a children and youth program. Fifteen+ years ago, that aspect of Christian education was fading rapidly. Only an adult education component remains today. We are a church family without children and youth. Since our denomination places a high priority on social justice, how we approach Christian education reflects that priority as well and influences how we view Scripture and the mission of our believing community.

Bible Study was held in the church administration building on Sunday morning and in a few cases, was also held in the evening. Attendance, in both instances, averaged from eight to ten people. The onset of the pandemic forced us to reconsider how we delivered our mission to the church family and the community at large, since the church doors were closed to the public.

It was at this point we decided to run a Christian education program using Zoom as the vehicle to reach our church family. Our original series was called "Conversations with Bob" and focused on current events. We found we could easily shift between topical conversation and Bible study, such as our series on racial issues with an emphasis on religious response.

Responses came, not only from our immediate church family, but from various parts of Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Illinois, and a few other areas. We also had three Jewish members attend. These people didn't necessarily attend every week but joined for several sessions.

Several months ago, there was a desire to go back to regular Bible study and that remains our current format, still on Zoom. Unfortunately, this format may not appeal to some members of our church family. This may be especially true of some of our older members. There also is the problem of conflicting schedules. These are issues we are trying to solve.

We have recently formed a second Bible study group which meets in-person at the church on a Sunday morning. This has a different format, and hopefully, appeals to a different group of people with a different teacher in charge.

We consider Christian education to be a vital part of our total ministry, even if it doesn't have the "showcase" appeal of some of our other missions. If, in the future, our church family attracts a following of families with children and youth, we will offer Christian education for all. We would welcome that day with great joy.

## **Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.**

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

We have a Leadership Team meeting once a month for about 2 hours. Each Ministry prepares a monthly and yearly report for the congregation and leadership team to review. We have a very active marketing and public relations ministry that sends out two weekly “what’s happening” updates and more as needed via email and Face Book. We have announcements during our worship service for upcoming special events.

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

During the COVID crisis, when the number of cases increased in our county, we followed guidelines of the CDC and local government agencies. The Leadership Board, based on the findings and safety of all concerned, decided to suspend in-person worship services and Ruth Ministry in-house services. We made a smooth transition to online worship and outdoor services to Ruth Ministry.

- ***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**

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The following is information related to the demographics and other characteristics of our congregation and the area where the church is located. Research was both formal and informal.

Using the Church directory as a guide, the majority of our listed church members and regular attendees reside in the area of Fort Lauderdale (62), Oakland Park (43) and Wilton Manors (38). There were others listed in 27 different cities in Florida including Pompano Beach (22), Coconut Creek (4), Boca Raton (4), and Plantation (5), with members listed as far away as Weston, Lake Worth, Miami, and West Palm Beach. Out of state members listed totaled 15 and included CA, IL, and NC residents. There were 3 people listed with no location. There is only 1 child listed. The majority of the congregation is male (the split is about 70% male and 30% female). From general observation, most of the congregation is Caucasian, non-Hispanic, and about 7% of minority races.

Information was also found on Missionsite.com and from the SOURCEBOOK of Greater Fort Lauderdale. Demographics including race, ethnicity, family structures and numbers, and single people, education, homes, and other information were considered. The areas reviewed were Broward County compared to the area surrounding the church – Fort Lauderdale, Oakland Park, and Wilton Manors (most of the congregation lives in these 3 cities, although as noted there are people from many areas).

Gender split in the three-city area is different than in Broward County. In this area, the male to female ratio is 52% male and 48% female, compared to county statistics which are the opposite, with female outnumbering male citizens by the same percentages. This is not expected to change over the next 10 years.

The racial/ethnic make-up of the three-city area closely mirrors that of Broward County. The majority of people are Caucasian non-Hispanic, then Hispanic, African American, and Other according to the sources consulted. About 40% of the population is Caucasian in both areas. Sources noted that over the next 10 years, the number of Hispanic people in the area is expected to increase and the Caucasian population is expected to decrease slightly while other races/ethnicities will remain fairly stable.

Over the last 10 years and continuing through the next 10, the age of people in the areas will increase according to Missionsite, using statistics from the Census Bureau. Death rates are higher than birth rates in the county and three-city area. Exact numbers for this were unavailable. In 2022, the age range with the most people in this area was 35-54, followed closely by 65+. Again, this is similar to the numbers of Broward County. It is forecast that the numbers of those over 65 will increase as time goes on. Ours is an aging population and an aging congregation. At this time, there are few children who attend the church on a regular basis. Within the three-city area and the county about 40% of people live in one-person households. There are families in these areas, with notes that family structure is undergoing changes as time goes on. Most single parent families have female heads, but there is an increase in single fathers. Anecdotally, in our congregation, most of those who are parents have adult children.

Education levels within the three-city area and the county are also similar with most people having at least a high school education. The three-city area shows a slightly higher income average than the county. Middle income for single person households makes up 39.5% and for two-person households 33.3%.

In the three-city area, 62% of citizens are employed with white collar/blue collar jobs (comparison 65/35 and Broward County at 64/36 percent). Incomes are slightly higher in this area than in the county proper.

In general, the three-city area is fairly comparable to Broward County in population, race/ethnicity, education and income. Information regarding differing gender identity, sexual preference and orientation, or other information from these sources was not available. For our church, this is important. The church has been active in the gay community as well as the community at large and

it is part of who we are. The website [www.roadsnacks.net](http://www.roadsnacks.net) reports that Wilton Manors has the highest percentage of gay households in Florida (17%) and Oakland Park is second (5.59%). From [www.lgbt-map.org](http://www.lgbt-map.org) comes the information that as of 2020 there were 886,000 gay citizens in Florida. From [www.miaminewtimes.com](http://www.miaminewtimes.com) comes the statistic that South Florida has the highest percentage of LGBTQ+ folk in the country – 4.6% of the population is LGBTQ+.

Our demographics generally mirror those of Broward County, but with small differences here and there. Our congregation lives in:

Wilton Manors  
Fort Lauderdale  
Oakland Park  
Davie  
Pompano Beach  
Margate  
Coconut Creek  
Plantation  
Sunrise  
Weston  
Tamarac  
Boca Raton  
Dunnellon  
Crawfordsville  
Stuart  
Lake Worth  
Delray  
Lauderdale-By-The-Sea  
St. Augustine  
Goulds  
Lauderhill  
West Palm Beach  
Cooper City  
Miami  
Sarasota  
Hollywood  
Boynton Beach



### 3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

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Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	85	Yes
Number of active non-members:	39	Yes
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	124	Yes

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	27%	Yes
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	32%	Yes
Less than 5 years:	41%	Yes

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
0	0	0	0	3	10	28	66	22	

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	1.6%	
Households with minors:	1.6%	
Single adults age 35-65:	17.6%	
Joint households with no minors:	38.4%	
Single adults over 65:	40.9%	

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	3%	
College:	61%	
Graduate School:	29%	
Specialty Training:	2%	
Other (please specify):	0%	

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	29%	
Adults who are retired:	67%	
Adults who are not fully employed:	4%	

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

The majority are retired professionals, and those who are employed are in professional level occupations.

**Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation, and the overall racial make-up. Most UCC congregations tend to describe themselves as “diverse.” Yet, the vast majority of UCC congregations are mono-cultural. What does diversity mean in your context?**

Our congregational racial/ethnic diversity at this time does not mirror the diversity in the surrounding community. However, we are striving to become more diverse in these areas.

**Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one on the near future (perhaps using, for example, the Welcoming Diversity Inventory)?**

**Please note the date. Comment after the exercise:**

We have looked at how we can become a more diverse community, and we look forward to our new pastor leading us in those efforts.

**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	10	
Baptisms ( <i>number last year</i> )	2	
Children's Groups or Classes		
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	121 Christmas Eve 250 Easter	
Church-wide Meals	After church fellowship and potlucks	
Choirs and Music Groups	18	
Church-based Bible Study	12	
Communion ( <i>served how often?</i> )	Weekly	
Community Meals	110-130 weekly	
Confirmation ( <i>number confirmed last year</i> )		
Drama or Dance Program	Yes	
Funerals ( <i>number last year</i> )	5	
Intergenerational Groups		
Outdoor Worship	Easter Sunrise	
Prayer or Meditation Groups	15	
Public Advocacy Work	10	
Retreats		
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community		



Weddings ( <i>number last year</i> )	2	
Worship (time slot: <u>Sunday</u> )	10:30 AM	
Worship (time slot: <u>Thursday</u> )	10:00 AM	
Young Adult Groups or Classes		
Youth Groups or Classes		
Other	Women's Circle	

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. Emily Jazombek	No	Interim Pastor	Interim pastor	N
Rev. Dr, Kenneth Orth	No		Guest preacher	N
Rev. Jeff Wheeler	No		Guest preacher	N
Rev. Marshall Snyder-Harris	No		Guest preacher	Y
Rev. Joel Slotnick	No		Communion	N
Rev. Ken South	No		Communion	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
Rev. Emily Jazombek	Yes	Full time	Leadership	Current 8 months
David Dunlap	Director of Music	Part time	Emily	9 years
Bonnie Nichols	Office administrator	Full time	Emily	8 years
Petit Prospere	Maintenance	Part time	Bonnie	6 months

## REFLECTION

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

We have a vibrant growing congregation who is open to change and willing to give of their time, talents and treasures.

## 3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$270,000
Endowment Proceeds ( <i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i> )	\$25,000
Endowment Draw ( <i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i> )	\$0
Fundraising Events	\$1,452
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$19,891
Grants	\$0

Rentals of Church Building	\$53,000
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$0
Support from Related Organizations (e.g. <i>Women's Group</i> )	\$0
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$0
Other (specify): Patrick Rogers Memorial Arts Fund	\$6,100
Other (specify): Music ministry	\$1,460
Other (specify): Estate of Roger Handevitd	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$385,443</b>

**Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$339,100**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT THRU DEC 31, 2022**  
**APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2023**

	<b>2023</b>
	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
6000 · General Offerings:6020 · General Fund Contributions	\$270,000
6000 · General Offerings:6099 · Endowment Income	
6200 · Rental Income:6290 · Tenants	\$43,000
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 313,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
8010 · Leadership Team:8011 · OCWM	\$7,500
8010 · Leadership Team:8019 · Miscellaneous Leader Team Exp	\$500
8012 - UCC Per Capita Dues	\$1,800
8030 · W.A.M.M.:8031 · Worship Supplies	\$2,500
8030 -W.A.M.M. 8034 - Music Program Licenses	\$500
8030 · W.A.M.M.:8039 · W.A.M.M. - Piano Tuning	\$400
- Invited Guest Worship Participants	\$1,200
8040 · Public Relations:8041 · Advertising	\$1,500
8040 · Public Relations:8155 · Public Relations - Other Congregational Care	\$200
8061 · Ordained Staff:8062 - new pastor's health insurance	\$9,000
8061 · Ordained Staff:8062 - interim pastor's health insurance	\$1,050
8060 · Ordained Staff:8069 · Mileage	\$500
Florida conference delegate travel, registration, and hotel	\$1,000
8070 · Office Expense:8071 · Database Management Expenses	\$3,500
8070 · Office Expense:8073 · Postage	\$400
8070 · Office Expense:8075 · Office Supplies:8075.1 · Office Supplies - General	\$2,250
8070 · Office Expense:8076 · Equipment Lease	\$6,000
8070 · Office Expense:8078 · Credfit Card, and Pay Pal Charges	\$1,000
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8081 · Utilities:8081.1 · Telephone/Internet Service	\$4,500
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8081 · Utilities:8081.2 · Electricity	\$22,000
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8081 · Utilities:8081.3 · Water	\$5,000
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8081 · Utilities:8081.4 · Trash & Waste Removal	\$3,000
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8081 · Utilities:8081.5 · Bottled Water	\$1,000
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8082 · Insurance/Liablity	\$27,750
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8083 · Security System	\$1,500
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8084 · Lawn	\$6,000
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8085 · Maintenance:8085.1 · Cleaning Supplies	\$2,000
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8085 · Maintenance:8085.2 · Maintenance & repairs	\$5,000
8080 · Buildings & Grounds:8085 · Maintenance:8085.4 · Extermination	\$500
9000 · Subcontractors: 8088 · Sound Technician	\$10,000
9000 · Subcontractors: 8088 - 2 security guards	\$10,000
9000 - Total Payroll including Taxes (4 Employees)	\$166,204
9000 · Employees:9010 · Admin Accounting Services	\$1,500
- Pastoral search committeeexpenses*	\$5,000
- Payments made on Roof Loan	\$21,120
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 332,874</b>
<b>Abundance (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (19,874)</b>

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

Approximately 25%

**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?**

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)

One Great Hour of Sharing

Strengthen the Church

Neighbors in Need

Christmas Fund

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

We follow the Conference's guidelines

**What is the church's current indebtedness?**

Total amount of loan debt: Approximately \$550K

Reason for debt: Roof replacements

Are capital and other payments current? Yes

**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.**

No building projects planned at this time.

**If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: NO**

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? Yes**

**What is the market value of the assets? \$406,000**

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

**What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)? 4%**

**Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years:** We took 4% of the endowment yearly, as allowed in our By-Laws.

**At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last?** Indefinitely assuming long-term projections of returns on fixed-income and equity investments remain in the current range.

**Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:** 4% is a reasonable draw rate based on long-term projections of returns on fixed-income (40%) and equity (60%) investments.

### Other Assets

**Reserves (savings):** \$\$10,700

**Investments (other than endowment):** \$144,500

**Does your church have a parsonage? No**

**Describe all buildings owned by the church:** Sanctuary, administration building and fellowship hall – 65-year-old structures with some repairs needed. The church is responsible for upkeep and maintenance.

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

**Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs?** Worship space, pulpit, and fellowship hall.

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

About 10 years ago we had a budget of almost \$400,000 and we were in the deficit of almost \$20,000 a month and were forced to take from our Endowment. Rev. Garth Thompson, a retired UCC pastor, was called to be our interim pastor and he did a great job of helping us to look at the budgetary process and our stewardship campaign. We reduced our budget by 50% and were very close to meeting our commitments. We did not take any additional monies from the endowment.

When Rev. Patrick Rogers was called, he was a C.P.A. with a strong accounting and budget background. He taught stewardship classes around the conference. He developed a stewardship team and a budget committee that strived to make stewardship a way of living year-round. We continued to meet or exceed our budget and the financial aspect continues to improve today. In 2022, we had an abundance of over \$40,000.

We have not funded a new church ministry. If any ministry leader needs funding, we always look for ways to support each and every ministry.

### **3f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

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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.

**Surviving COVID:**

We provided pre-recorded, online services for our congregation and two assisted living facilities. Our Worship, Music and Arts ministry arranged for members to participate in recording segments of the service. This led to live online streaming service when we reopened. The volunteers for Ruth Ministry provided bagged lunches each Thursday until we were able to switch back to hot meals in the fellowship hall.

**Managing the Finances:**

We had to make some critical decisions about replacing the roofs and air conditioning system.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma caused damage to the church buildings. The biggest damage was to the sanctuary's roof. Thankfully, the damage was covered by insurance. For several months, there was constant construction activity. Unfortunately, even though the church had insurance, there has been an ongoing dispute with the insurance company, which has yet to provide the full amount owed to the church. In order to pay construction costs, the church had to get a loan (with interest) from UCC's Cornerstone funds. The monthly payments on this loan have certainly impacted the church's finances.

### **Gun Violence:**

The mass shooting at the Marjory Stoneham Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, and other shootings around the world moved Rev. Patrick Rogers to become more involved in community outreach. He started a Gun-Lock safety program with a nonprofit working to stop gun violence. This was offered at no cost at our Church. This program was adopted by the Florida UCC conference, and we believe it will be a national campaign by our UCC denomination.

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

Rev. Patrick Rogers was our senior pastor for about six years. He became ill on Good Friday 2022. He was quickly diagnosed with an aggressive melanoma and started treatment soon after. This required him to travel out of state for treatment. The disease quickly progressed, and he was unable to preach or attend worship except online. Before his illness, Pastor Emily Jazombek was very close to Rev. Patrick, and they did some long-term planning. After Rev. Patrick's death, we called Pastor Emily to be our interim pastor to lead us through grief support during the transition period. She also has established a women's group, has partnered with the lay ministers to participate in worship and has been active in the community. Attendance has increased during this time.

### **Every church has conflict, some minor, some larger. "Where two or three are gathered, there will be disagreement...." Describe your congregation's values and practices when it comes to conflict.**

We believe in treating others with respect and dignity.

Our by-laws allow the Chair of the board to appoint a mediation committee as needed.

We believe in ownership of an issue. Either the person encountering a problem deals with it personally or passes it to the person who can best handle it.

In Orientation, Pastor Emily talks about conflict and how to resolve it in its infant stage.



## Ministerial History

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Rev. Emily Jazombek	Current interim	N
Rev. Patrick Rogers	6 1/2	Y
Rev. Garth Thompson	3	Y
Rev. Rebecca Stephenson	6	Y
Rev. Peg Dougherty	2	Y
Rev. Harold McSwain	5	Y
Rev. William Ring	17	Y

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

We love and support our pastors and listen to their recommendations and develop long term relationships.

**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? Yes**



## 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?

#### ***1. How do the relationships and activities of your congregation extend outward in service and advocacy?***

Ruth Ministry: This mission began with one peanut butter and jelly sandwich to a hungry woman and now provides wrap-around services to over 100 unhoused people with weekly meals, clothing, shower facilities and health care (through a partnership with Broward Healthpoint Mobile Service). This is a major effort driven by volunteers from the church and others from the community at large. The shower facility is provided by Showers of Love, a local non-profit which was pleased to join us on a weekly basis. The Imperial Sun Court of All Florida provides significant financial support, and once a month makes 150 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that are then distributed by church volunteers to the homeless population on the street. The Poverello Center provides food support. Broward Health had the mobile unit and needed a place where it could be located once a week thereby providing continuity of care. A local barber comes weekly and offers free services such as haircuts and shaves. There are also a number of cash and in-kind donations throughout the year. A core group of Ruth Ministry “regulars” also attends our Sunday services.

Gun Lock Safety Program started here and was adopted by the UCC Florida conference. This idea was driven by the incredible tragedy at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School where students were killed during the school day. The trauma and grief experienced by families throughout the area was the impetus to simply “do something!”

Home for music and arts performances by local arts organizations.

Meditation events and psychotherapy: Services are provided by professionals who rent space at the church.

Community groups rent church space (often for free or reduced rent). This is available on a continuous or occasional basis.

Adopt-a-Street: monthly clean-up of a street in Fort Lauderdale, as part of a community wide project.

Ecumenical services are held at the church for Thanksgiving and other community occasions.

Host to speakers, during church service, who are reaching out on social concerns such as gun violence, farm workers, etc.

Sunday service live stream. Accessible by anyone through church link. Host services provided to two local Assisted Living facilities. A church member is always in attendance – getting to know and interact with those who attend. The residents from one center provided a choral presentation, in person, at a church service.

Recordings of the services: These recordings are available through the internet.

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

We have two elected delegates to the UCC Florida Conference.

Linking the work of the church devoted to transforming lives using the language of other UCC congregations.

Much of our work falls in the wider community and is identified by the names we have chosen rather than UCC language. We do proudly proclaim our church as Open and Affirming.

**3 .*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 expect to continue to work on the needs of the unhoused, cessation of gun violence, ecumenical programs, etc. as noted under item 1. Our congregation and leadership have been moved to engage in work that will support the local community. What that will mean in the future will emerge as we continue with our outreach to the community.

**4. Describe your congregation's participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities.**

We initiated a Thanksgiving Interfaith Service prior to the pandemic. It was joyously held again on November 17, 2022, with wide representation and prayers in both English and Spanish.

We were one of the organizing churches/faiths involved in planning the Community Prayer after the Parkland shooting.

Community Prayer Breakfasts in Fort Lauderdale, Broward County and Wilton Manors.

Christmas toy drive with a local Episcopal church's AIDS ministry.

Wilton Manors Pride Parade Interfaith lighting event.

Choir participated in the Christmas on Las Olas events.

Annual "Ring and Sing" caroling at Long Term Care and Assisted Living facilities.

School supplies in conjunction with a local Kiwanis Club.

**5. 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.**

The activities, governance, time spent together and going out reflect the ideals outlined in the mission statement.

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

\_\_\_ Accessible to All (A2A)

\_\_\_ Economic Justice

\_\_\_ Creation Justice

\_\_\_ Faithful and Welcoming

God Is Still Speaking (GISS)

Border and Immigrant Justice

Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M)

Just Peace

Global Mission Church

Open and Affirming (ONA)

WISE Congregation for Mental Health

Other UCC designations:

Designations from other denominations

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?**

Once we have a settled pastor, we can have a visioning and goal-setting workshop with the congregation to determine interest and establish an action plan to help meet the goals.

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

See previous comments regarding interfaith 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.**

The Senior Pastor is in close communication with the leadership team to accomplish goals and objectives as stated in the Mission Statement and the bylaws.

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

We have a variety of active ministries in our congregation. We expect our pastor to engage in those ministries and be involved in our community outreach and social justice programs. We have an active congregational care ministry team, including a homeless advocate, and we expect our pastor to participate in home visits, hospital visits, funerals, and weddings as applicable.

## **4b. MISSION InSite**

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

We have a blended congregation that come from various parts of Broward and Miami counties

**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?**

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

We are working on expanding our outreach to the community. Since COVID, we have had a successful interfaith service, and we are working toward planning future events to work on our diversity and demographics of the community we serve.

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

Love, compassion, welcoming, feeding the homeless and community action.

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

Many people retired here, attended UCC previously, were referred by a member of the Church or found UCC by attending a function at the church. Pastoral outreach was also significant in people finding this church.



## 5. REFERENCES

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

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

### REFERENCE 1

Name: Dr. Stephen Evans

Position: CEO Outclique Magazine Telephone  
954-294-8560

Email [stephen@outclique.com/](mailto:stephen@outclique.com/)

Relationship to the Congregation: Guest Organist and featured us in his magazine. Rev. Rogers was a regular contributor to the magazine.

### REFERENCE 2

Name: Dean Trantalis

Position: Mayor, City of Ft. Lauderdale, and Principal Attorney, Trantalis & Associates  
Telephone: 954-828-5004 (Mayor’s office), 954-566-2226 (Trantalis & Associates)

Email: dean@trantalis.com

Relationship: Guest presenter, attends interfaith service, and delivered a proclamation for our 65th anniversary

### REFERENCE 3

Name: Jeanne Albright

Position: CEO Showering Love

Telephone 954-529-6098

Email [contact@showeringlove.org](mailto:contact@showeringlove.org)

Relationship to the Congregation: Works with Ruth Ministry





## 6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

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

### 6a. CLOSING PRAYER

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***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:***

#### **Prayer to Celebrate Our Differences as Uniqueness**

God has made all of us alike, yet different in many ways.  
People in our place of work, and in our school, come from different backgrounds.  
Many of us have different customs and speak different languages.  
Each and every one of us has a different way of reacting to any given situation.  
We should show respect for all those who have entered our lives  
And accept them for who they really are – Children of God.

- *Author Unknown*

#### **For Everyone Born (A Place at the Table)**

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
For everyone born, clean water and bread,  
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
For everyone born, a star overhead.

Chorus:

And God will delight when we are creators of justice  
And joy, compassion and peace;  
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,  
Justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,  
Revising the roles, deciding the share,  
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
For woman and man, a system that's fair.  
(Chorus)

For young and for old, a place at the table,

A voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
For young and for old, the right to belong.  
(Chorus)

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,  
A covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
A rainbow of race and gender and color,  
For gay and for straight, the chalice of grace.  
(Chorus)

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
To live without fear, and simply to be,  
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
For everyone born, the right to be free.  
(Chorus)

- *Shirley Erena Murray*

## 6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

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

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates. We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinions about our church. We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

- 1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile?** The Pastoral search committee, the congregation, Leadership team, and interim pastor
- 2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:** No

Signed: *Joseph Akin: Pastoral Chair*

February 23,2023

**6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION**

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**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: *LaTrell Harrison*

Name / Title: Associate Conference Minister

Email: LHarrison@uccfla.org

Phone: 404-734-4986

Date: 2/28/2023

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



This document is created  
Church's Wider Mission

through support to Our  
(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*