

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 Port St Lucie
Port St Lucie, Florida

Settled Part-time/Quarter-time Pastor
United Church of Christ

02/21/23

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 Mission Insite 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: First Congregational Church of Port St Lucie
Street address: 2401 SE Sidonia Street, Port St Lucie, Florida 34952
Supplemental web links: firstcongregationaluccpsl

Additional ecumenical affiliations

Conference: 12

Association: 182

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person

LaTrell Harrison, Associate Conference Minister

Phone #1-404-734-4986 (cell)

LHarrison@uccfla.org

Summary Ministry Description:

We have a retired Minister, who had been a Priest at the Episcopal Church, who has been our interim for the past year and 4 months. Most of our members are retirees. Our goal is to create an environment in our church that will attract newly retired people & families who want a bible-based foundation on which they can build a strong relationship with God. Our hope is to eventually call a committed person of faith who has successfully led such a congregation.

Photographs:



What we value about living in our area:

What we value about living in our area ~ Port St Lucie is a safe city with affordable housing, excellent amenities, restaurants, stores, and proximity to beaches.

Current size of membership: 68

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

Position Title: Quarter Time or Part-time Minister

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):

¼ Time to ½ Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? no

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

(add here the Scope of Work developed by your church using the Call Agreement Workbook)

1. Preparation and leadership of Sunday worship including scripture study, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, sermon preparation, guiding and sometimes finding lay liturgists, planning of music in coordination with musical staff or volunteers, preaching, offering of prayers etc.
2. Faith formation and vitality through prayer, Bible Study, service, identifying helpful resources and opportunities and helping lay persons take advantage of them
3. Pastoral care in collaboration with lay people (at least to those who are sick, elderly, or grieving)
4. Participate in wider church activities such as conference and regional meetings as time permits
5. Study and pray to increase faith and to improve skills so as to lead, teach and preach better
6. Energizing and deepening spiritual connections and faith understandings of others in all that they do.
7. Represent the church in the wider community, provide counseling, make referrals as appropriate and attend board and committee meetings.

Core Competencies: A spiritual individual who is able to relate to people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, etc.

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis: to be discussed

Benefits:

No Benefits

What is the expected living situation for your next minister: We expect the minister to either live in the community within an reasonable commuting distance.

State any incentives: N/A

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference: There is a group of area UCC clergy that meet monthly. There is also support of the Associate Conference Minister

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?

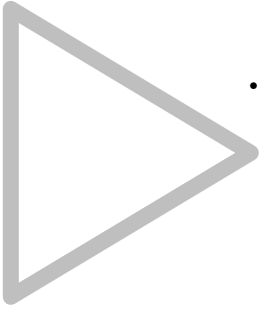
Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve. We would like to see our membership increase. We are an older congregation with a declining membership. We would like to develop strategies and ministries that help attract the 30-60 year old age group.

Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls. We believe that a minister who can help us most is someone whose preaching is engaging, theologically sound and who can help us strengthen our outreach ministries.

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.

1. Working Together for Justice and Mercy
2. Building Transformational Leadership Skills
3. Exhibiting a Spiritual Foundation and Ongoing Spiritual Practice
4. Caring for All Creation



. 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?

Our Vision Statement

We are called by God to be a Christian Church seeking to live and share Jesus’ vision of community and mission.

Our Mission Statement

Led by the Spirit of God, we provide for all people to feel welcome, included and valued through worship, education, music, small groups, missions and self governance.

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

Sarah’s Kitchen (feeding 600 homeless and elderly monthly)

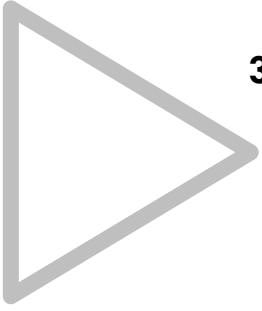
Pumpkin Festival and Strawberry Festival

Music Programs

Allowing NAA & AA Groups to use our Hall for meetings

Available for group rentals

We have a beautiful Memorial Garden



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.

God is often described in our worship liturgy as all powerful, caring, loving and jealous, Alpha & Omega.

“We experience the Holy Spirit through sermons, songs and in the company of each other”

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

Caring for our members, friendly, dedicated members, and we sure to like to eat.

In the past we have had a very good music ministry but have lost a lot of our Choir members and hope to build our choir back up.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

1. Where – Sanctuary: Based on - Scripture, Belief in God, Music Ministry
2. Baptism - Entire Congregation participates in baptisms
3. Good preaching - Inspiring, Motivating, Encouraging and Educational
4. Entire Congregation participates in welcoming new members.

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

For now we have a Bible Study group that meets once a week
Led by one of our Lay Members. We working on now trying
to get a Sunday School started in hopes of attracting some
families come to church.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

We have several committees that focus on our ministry and missions. Each committee meets monthly and also has representation on the church council.

All committees and members work together to achieve these goals. These committees are Mission Board, Memorial Committee, Board of Deacons, Trustees, Long Range Planning, Stewardship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Music.

When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month? 10 hours monthly

Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished? Communication between leaders on a daily basis and special committee meetings.

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:	57	
Number of active non-members:	11	
Total of church participates (sum of The numbers above	68	

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%	
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	61%	
Less than 5 years:	12%	

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
1	2	0	2	1	2	3	15	46	72

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	4%	
Households with minors:	2%	
Single adults age 35-65:	2%	
Joint households with no minors:	74%	
Single adults over 65:	18%	

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	50%	yes
College:	30%	yes
Graduate School:	10%	yes
Specialty Training:	10%	yes
Other (please specify):	0	yes

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	15%	
Adults who are retired:	83%	
Adults who are not fully employed:	2%	

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

Administration, Home Health care, Nursing, Construction, Travel, Teacher

Security, House Cleaners, CPA, Retail, Engineering, Social Work and Business

Owners.

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?

Diverse - The Congregation is predominantly White, but have members who are of African, Asian and Hispanic descent.

List the date your congregation has had or will have a conversation using a resource such as the Welcoming Diversity Inventory. Comment on the results. N/A

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	26	Bible Study, Art Class
Baptisms (<i>number last year</i>)	2	
Children’s Groups or Classes	0	
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	90/70	Pastor
Church-wide Meals	40	Evangelism, Missions, Deacons
Choirs and Music Groups	5	Organist/Music Director

Church-based Bible Study	13	Layperson
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	1	monthly
Community Meals	300.00	Sarah's Kitchen (Free Meals)
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	0	
Drama or Dance Program	0	
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	13	Pastor
Intergenerational Groups	0	
Outdoor Worship	0	
Prayer or Meditation Groups	15	Prayer Chain
Public Advocacy Work	0	
Retreats	0	
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	0	
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	0	
Worship (time slot 9:30 am)	50	Pastor
Young Adult Groups or Classes	0	
Youth Groups or Classes	0	
Small Group	9	Lay Person

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)
Bob Carey	no		Interim Minister	Yes

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
Pamela Winans	Administrator	Part-time	Trustees	26
Christopher Walsh	Sexton	Part-time	Trustees	12
Carla Case	Organist	Part-time	Trustees	9

REFLECTION

Reflection: After reviewing the congregational demographics and activities above, what does this information reflect about your congregation’s overall ministry? Considering the size of the Congregation and the ages of our members, we have very dedicated loving and loyal members. They love our traditional style of worship and we enjoy breaking bread together.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$63,132.00

Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$0.00
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	\$0.00
Fundraising Events	\$1,662.00
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose – Replace Alarm System	\$38,602.00
Grants	\$0.00
Rentals of Church Building	\$31,885.00
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$0.00
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women's Group</i>)	\$2,500.00
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$0
Other (specify): TD Bank Infinity Program	\$151.00
Other (specify):	\$0
TOTAL	\$137,932.00

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$131,211.36

Attached Church Budget

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? 18%

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church? NO

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year?
(*indicate those included during the most recent fiscal year*)

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

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

What is the church's current indebtedness?

Total amount of loan debt: \$0.00

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. We are in the process of having to Replace our entire alarm system to bring it up to State/County Code

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: NONE

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

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe:

none

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? 40,723.00

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances? Funds
Are drawn in emergency uses.

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

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent
year and the past five years: none

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

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates: N/A

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$0.00

Investments (other than endowment): \$0.00

Does your church have a parsonage? NO

Fair market rental value of the parsonage:

How is the parsonage used?

Street / City / State / Zip:

Finished square footage:

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms:

Assessed real estate value:

Available for minister residence: Y/N

Expected minister residence: Y/N

Condition of structure, systems and appliances

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs

Describe all buildings owned by the church: Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall
& Education wing valued at over 2,000,000.00.

We also have a beautiful Memorial Garden on the property.

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

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? Worship space, rails to pulpit.
Vandlen Hall, Bathrooms and Education Wing.

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

Even though our congregation is relatively small, people are committed to giving to help support the pastoral ministry and outreach ministry of the church. The congregation is also very good at recognizing needs and contributing to them.

3f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Name one to three significant happenings in the history of your church that have shaped the identity of your congregation. Add the most important event in the life of your church in the past 10 years.

1. 25th year Anniversary celebration
2. Hurricane recovery
3. Establishment of Sarah’s Kitchen

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

Entering into a call agreement that turned out to be a mismatch. We felt that this situation stifled growth and was disruptive to daily functions of the church. It was decided that termination of the call agreement and improved communication in the future would resolve the conflict in a manner that would be good for all parties. 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.

Our church members believe in open and honest communication, creating a safe environment where people can speak freely and know that they are heard. We try to resolve conflict by having people to the appropriate person/group and are willing to call in a third party mediator when appropriate.

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

Staff member’s name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Dr. Richard Diekmann	25 years	yes
Rev. Merlin Conrad (Interim)	2 years	yes
Rev. Ken Frey	2 years 2 months	yes

Rev. John Barnett	2 years	yes
Rev. Bruce Irwin	3 years	yes
Various Supply/Guest Pastors	1 year	yes
Rev. Bob Carey (Interim)	Oct. 2021 to present	No

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? Yes

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation? Yes

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?

Sarah’s Kitchen, Clothing drive, Blanket Sunday, Community Kid Activities, Annual Pumpkin Patch and Strawberry Festival, Blessing of the Pets, Art Group, Private Preschool and Hobe Sound Bible College Programs.

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

Attendance at Annual Conference Meetings

Conference Minister has preached here and joined us for our monthly breakfast

The former Regional Minister has also preached here, participated in our church development meetings, shared ideas and equipped us for the search-and-call process.

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

Accessible to All (A2A)

Creation Justice

Economic 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?

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 are not affiliated with any of these groups but we honor these groups. We do Hand out commas and God is Still Speaking info. If the new Pastor would want to be involved with any of these groups we would be happy to support and participate with him/her.

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

Four Chaplain's Service ~ in the past we have participated with The Four Chaplains, also sometimes referred to as the "Immortal Chaplains" or the "Dorchester Chaplains", were four United Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel as the troop ship SS Dorchester sank on February 3, 1943, during World War II. They helped other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out.[1] The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

Sarah's Kitchen/Mustard Seed Ministries ~ An interfaith organization that feeds the hungry. We serve a hot fresh meal, breads, desserts and fresh vegetables through a drive-thru method. We serve 250 – 280 meals every Wednesday.

Hobe Sound Bible College. - we maintain a great relationship with Hobe Sound Bible College and their music programs along with some of their other activities.

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 follow our mission statement constantly in all that we do.

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?

Our present Pastor, a Interim Minister, We understand that time commitments will be part of the negotiations with the new pastor.

4b. MISSION InSite

Comment on your congregation's Mission Insite report with data for your neighborhood(s) or area. What trends and opportunities are shown? Affordable housing, lots of new businesses moving to the area including lots of jobs in the medical fields. Lots of Festivals and activities on weekends for all age groups sponsored by churches, local clubs and the city. The Religiosity of the area is low and needs to be revived. There are many parks throughout the city and we are close to the waterways which provide opportunities for fishing, etc.

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?

Church age groups are 65-80, the neighborhood around the church is filled with homes of that age group. Families in the adjacent neighborhoods are either families in the 34-54 age group or Seniors with an average age of 65 and over.

All Ethnic groups and races are well represented throughout the city.

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

We attract the older age groups, new retirees and all income brackets (which we hope to strengthen).

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

Church's Stain Glass Windows

Friendliness

Located right next to the Funeral Parlor

Church Hall available for rentals

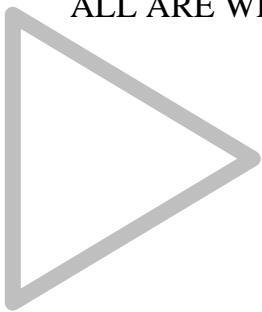
What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved?

The People

The Traditional Church Service

Music

ALL ARE WELCOME!



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.

REFERENCES

Name up to three people who have agreed to serve as phone and written references. 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

Rev. Richard D. Diekmann ~ Previous Pastor ~ 25 years of service

REFERENCE 2

Rev. Merlin Conrad ~ Former Interim Minister

REFERENCE 3

Paul Stetler ~ Organist/Choir Director ~ Human Resource Director

And Tour Director of Hobe Sound Bible College

Letters included.

My name is Richard Diekmann and I was the Senior Minister at First Church in Port St. Lucie spanning the years 1988-2009.

During that period I found the people of the Church to be an enthusiastic, Christ loving group of people. The leadership of the Church was well organized and a pleasure to work with for the greater good of God's Kingdom on Earth. The people were always kind to me and my wife; during my period of Ministry there, The Congregation was interested in Bible study (I conducted one for ten years), good sound Biblical Preaching, and uplifting Worship Services. Any Pastor considering First Church, Port St. Lucie for a call, would be well advised to jump at this opportunity.

Our greatest accomplishment during my tenure there would be how we reacted to the damage sustained by the Church when Hurricanes Pierre and Jeanie struck Port St. Lucie in 2003. These great storms tore the Steeple off our roof, exposing the interior of the Sanctuary to heavy rain water saturation. Total damages were in the \$400,000 range. Working with the Insurance Board of the UCC, we began repairs immediately--assisting not only ourselves, but the community as well. In less than 4 months time, the Church was up and running again--an example of how the people pulled together in a time of Crises.

Of course, First Church, like all Florida Churches, faced the difficulty of attracting younger couples with Children to the Worship Services. We attempted several approaches to remedy this situation--a casual Saturday Service, the building of a day care center, etc. but these met with limited success. Perhaps Ministers after me had greater success.

All in all, I would say that First Congregational Church is a great place to practice Ministry and would heartily recommend it to all dedicated Pastors. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call upon me: 615-306-0654 or rtdyds77@aol.com.

To Whom It May Concern.

When I first entered Port St Lucie Congregation, I felt comfortable in the simple but refined atmosphere of the entire facility. My first impression of the building paled the moment I met the people.

By the time I came to Port St Lucie I had served four congregations as a called Pastor and three interims. Remembering all of the previous churches with memberships ranging from 200 to 1,800 hundred, I knew church people.

The people of First Congregational were but a microcosm of all of the best of all the others. I found them generous, loving, and accepting, but above all, a commitment to Christ and His church. Their history is filled with ups and downs, struggles and successes. They are now coming out of one of the most challenging periods of their collective existence.

My prayer for them is that some Pastor who wants to love and be loved accepts the call to this amazing Body of Christ.

Blessings Be

The Reverend Dr. Merlin L. Conrad

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been privileged to serve as Music Director for First Congregational Church of Port St Lucie for nearly four years. It is a friendly church with many wonderful people.

The church has exceptional facilities which are utilized to maximum financial and ministry benefit. Rental income from a daycare and a local church group helps support the ministry of First Congregational. The use of these facilities by organizations such as Sarah's Kitchen and Alcoholics Anonymous demonstrate the sense of community and ministry fostered within the congregation.

First Congregational has many friendly, hardworking members who are committed to the church. Attendance and giving are stable and a spirit of volunteerism is evident. Visitors are made to feel welcome and there is an obvious family dynamic to the congregation. I have always felt affirmed in my music through the kind words from members.

As is the case with any church, there are areas that need improvement. It is my feeling that strong pastoral leadership can help this church overcome many of these areas. I am happy to discuss this further in a private setting if a candidate so desires.

The most meaningful moments in my ministry here have been when individuals have expressed their personal spiritual growth as a result of my ministry. Some have thanked me for the devotional thoughts and prayer time in choir rehearsals. Others have asked me to pray for their very personal, painful situations. Yes, we have had some great musical moments together. But these expressions of confidence have meant the most.

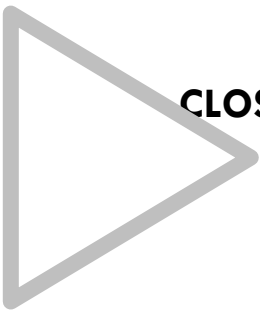
It has been an honor to serve as music director for First Congregational Church. I am thankful God led me here.

Sincerely,

Paul Stetler

Organist / Music Director

First Congregational Church



CLOSING THOUGHTS

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

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

CLOSING

In closing we as a committee chose some hymns and verses that are special to the members of the committee:

“You’ll Never Walk Alone” ~ no matter what is going on in your life or the life of the church we are all together for each other.

“Eagles Wings” ~ God watches over us and protects us and leads us to our decisions

“Standing on The Promises” ~ following God’s guidance and making the right decisions of how God has taught us as we promise to follow God’s Word.

Psalm 23

2 Corinthians 1:20

Matthew 18:20

GRACE IS NOT JUST A PRAYER, IT’S A WAY OF LIFE.

6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

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

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

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1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile? (for example, church council or consistory, transition team, etc.)

Charter Member, Church Clerk, Deacons, Bible Study Leader, Christian Ed, Church Secretary, Board of Trustees, , Moderator, Vice Moderator, Christian Ed, Small group planning leader, Sarah's Kitchen Site Leader, Lay members, Evangelism Committee and the Congregation.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Our committee was chosen as follows: A list of volunteers was given to the Church Council and names were selected by vote of a secret ballot. The members of the committee ranged from a Charter Member to a one year member. Ages of the committee range from 40 – 88.

Signed: _____

Mickey Wich and Pamela Winans

Co – Chairs Search Committee

_____ 2023

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment:

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

Staff Comment:

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

Staff Comment:

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:

Name / Title:

Email:

Phone:

Date:

**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