


INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE



Who is
God calling
us to
become?

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

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Church of Peace
Rock Island, Illinois

Pastor

Illinois Conference, Western Illinois

April 17, 2023
Updated 13 November 2023

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Consent and Validation

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

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

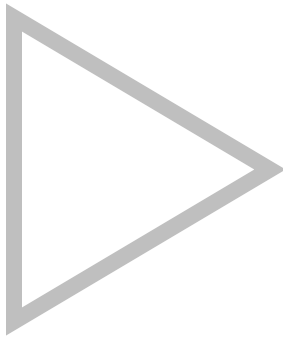
The interim season is not the only time in a church's life when it's valuable to give attention to explore a congregation's vocation. Three sections of the Local Church Profile – WHO ARE WE NOW, WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR, and WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME – are meant to be updated every 3-5 years. Known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

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

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

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

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



1. POSITION POSTING

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

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: Church of Peace

Street address: 1114 12th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

Supplemental web links:

- Church Website: <https://churchofpeaceucc.org>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/churchofpeaceucc>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@churchofpeaceucc3996>

Additional ecumenical affiliations:

- Quad Cities Interfaith
- Churches United
- Church Women United
- Breaking Bread Together
(Ecumenical Ministers Group)
- World Relief
- Community Caring Conference

Conference: Illinois Conference

Association: Western Illinois

UCC Conference or Association Staff

Contact Person: Rev. Shernell Edney
Stilley, Associate Conference Minister, 708-
701-4933, shernelledneystilley@ilucc.org



Summary Ministry Description:

Are you looking for a turn-key, move-in-ready church, one which needs no major renovations, just updated features and quality maintenance? Church of Peace may be your new home! In 1975, God called us to remain in our diverse, low-income neighborhood, and over the years we have created and hosted programs which serve many needs of our neighbors. Our outreach efforts, though well established, are a work in progress as the neighborhood and its needs change. We are seeking a pastor who will nourish, inspire, teach, and provide us spiritual

strength to continue serving our neighborhood. Inreach is important for us to sustain our outreach! Church of Peace is dedicated to caring for those who are in need, with the Saturday morning food pantry; Peace Pals, an elementary school reading program with the local school



district; English Language Learner (ELL) classes and job search programs sponsored by World Relief; and the Community Caring Conference. This commitment requires volunteers to come and serve others through God's direction and requires leadership from within the membership and ongoing partnerships outside of it. We are seeking a pastor who can faithfully lead us on a path to strengthen our programs and who can attract and nurture membership in a spiritual and meaningful way. As a church that welcomes everyone and serves others, we seek a pastor who can help us be an impactful faith presence in our community. Our call includes a competitive and healthy compensation package for our area.

What we value about living in our area:

We value our physical proximity to serve and collaborate within the local neighborhood and also within the broader Quad Cities' vicinity. Our church's physical location is in Rock Island, IL, one of the Quad Cities along the Mississippi River, adjoining Davenport and Bettendorf, IA. We are surrounded by a diversely populated neighborhood. The Quad Cities boasts the amenities of a metro area with the comforts and low cost of living of smaller communities. Besides the cultural and educational opportunities of our own area, we are regionally positioned within a few hours' drive to Chicago, IL, Des Moines, IA, and St. Louis, MO.

Current size of membership:

114 adults who have been confirmed or received by transfer who contribute financially and/or participate in congregational activities.

There are also 16 children under the confirmation age of 13, six active non-members who are spouses of members, and 46 active non-member participants.

Position Title: Pastor

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

Compensation Level: Full time salary + benefits and retirement

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? No

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

Full time Pastoral Position (40-50 hours weekly)

- ☐ 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 music staff or volunteers, preaching, offering of prayers, etc.
- ☐ faith formation and vitality through prayer, Bible study, service, identifying helpful resources and opportunities and helping lay persons take advantage of them
- ☐ leadership development by working with people in the church to create ministry and programs
- ☐ pastoral care in collaboration with lay people
- ☐ community engagement and leading the way for the church to be an ambassador of God's love
- ☐ weddings and funerals for participants in the worshiping community
- ☐ strategic planning for current and new directions in ministry
- ☐ attend meetings and give leadership as needed to church programs, in collaboration with lay leadership
- ☐ participate in wider church activities such as conference and association meetings
- ☐ consultation with communications coordinator in regards to administrative tasks
- ☐ faithful financial development and stewardship in collaboration with lay people
- ☐ responsibility for supervision of staff, in collaboration with staff parish committee
- ☐ availability to wider community for funerals, weddings, special worship programs, and as a representative of the church to local organizations
- ☐ counseling, listening, and referral
- ☐ study and prayer to increase faith and to improve skills so as to lead, teach, preach better
- ☐ energizing and deepening spiritual connections and faith understandings of others in all they do

Even full-time pastors cannot do it all! What tasks and ministries of the church are led by the congregation (or co-led with the pastor)? How might we make space within our usual expectations and in the pastor's schedule for imagining new ministries?

There are several tasks and ministries of the church that are led by the congregation, or lay leaders. Our church operation includes a church council, parish nurses, music directors, deacons, staff parish and other committees and groups, and a part-time communications coordinator who share the leadership roles of the church. Most of the administrative tasks, like email, answering phone calls, ordering supplies, website maintenance, and communications are completed by the communications coordinator on staff.

Lay positions and groups are long-standing, committed to maintaining and improving the church from the inside out. If the incoming pastor would like to guide the congregation in a restructuring of the lay leaders to increase outreach, to capitalize on the time and talents of all participants of the church, and to involve fewer or more hands, there would be the possibility of imagining new ministries.



Core Competencies:

Committed
Personable
Flexible

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis:

\$57,000 per year (\$45,000 base + \$12,000 housing allowance)

- compensation for years of experience will be calculated

Benefits:

\$26,195.50 per year (estimate computed using beginning salary)

- benefits package aligns with Illinois UCC guidelines for the call and support of ministry leadership, including retirement annuity, life & disability insurance, social security offset, and health & dental insurance.

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?

A housing allowance will be provided; a parsonage is part of the church's property.

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

We expect our minister to live within and be able to commute around the Quad Cities metro area (Rock Island and Moline, IL, and Davenport and Bettendorf, IA) on a regular basis to meet the needs of our members and community.

State any incentives: A three-month sabbatical after five years of service will be available.

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your

association/conference: The Western Association UCC is a strong source of support for clergy through its cluster groups, Church and Ministry committee, spring and fall meetings, and various events. The Illinois Conference UCC offers periodic retreats, continuing education events, and its annual celebration held each November.

If applicable, describe how your church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment: At present time, we are seeking a minister to fill our full-time position, but our church may be open to adjustments in the future.

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 envision a minister who collaborates with the congregation on all of our ministry goals, like being a cornerstone of faith and outreach in the community while also valuing our membership. Our ministry goals include a lively Sunday worship with thriving attendance and participation, meeting with members and creating ways to increase membership and participation, suggesting reorganization of the church's structure to capitalize on members' available time and talents, and working within our established programs while being open to considering others.



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

Our vision of the minister we are now seeking is a leader who will be visible and active in our church's programs and committees as well as the community's groups and programs that align with our congregation's goals for impact. The minister will represent the church in the community and media opportunities as presented, as well as guide and assist members as needed in committee and program work, like our weekly food pantry and Peace Pals, and outside programs using our space, like ELL and World Relief.

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

English is the language of members; however, the food pantry has volunteers and clients, and the ELL and World Relief program has participants, from various cultural backgrounds. Our next leader should welcome and accept the various cultures and languages which are included in our outreach programs.

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 four areas of excellence from *The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry* that we'd like our minister to display include:

- exhibiting a spiritual foundation and ongoing spiritual practice
- building transformational leadership skills
- engaging sacred stories and traditions
- caring for all creation

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 become a congregation who welcomes everyone in a non-judgmental and accepting way, who cares to help one another and serves the community. We aspire to be a good resource for people in need, to reach out to others, and to inspire others to be servants of God. We want to share friendship, work hard, have the best music, and make a difference, as a beacon of light in our community.

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



One of the challenges in our community is food insecurity, and our weekly Saturday morning food pantry works to mitigate that issue. After COVID-19 forced lockdowns in March of 2020, and later, when people were still encouraged to stay home and social distance while avoiding indoor crowds to mitigate the spread of the virus, our food pantry had to adapt to find a way to still serve the clients who needed us. To protect both the volunteers and the patrons, the food pantry changed their layout, moving to a drive-thru format rather than a walk in the building format. Working together to adapt to a new way of operating so we could still provide for our neighbors in need shows our resilience, creativity, and

commitment. The number of guests served at our food pantry has been on a steady rise in recent years, up to at least 100 families per week, and our dedication to serving our neighbors in need

has never faltered. Additionally, the cost of groceries and the increased number of families served required Church of Peace to seize the opportunity of local and national grants to help offset these costs. The drive-thru format of the food pantry was more than a temporary change to survive the pandemic, as the results have improved the accessibility of the entire operation, for both volunteers and patrons. Surely, the loyalty shown by our church members and outside volunteers, as well as our partnerships with local food banks, businesses, and organizations who support us, reflects multiple areas in our vision statement. We're doing God's will by serving those around us who are in need, attracting young people as participants, and embracing people warmly wherever they are on life's journey.

In an effort to be more visible outside of our church walls, and invite our neighborhood to participate in festive fellowship, a member of our congregation worked with a few others on the education committee to initiate a trunk-or-treat event in our church parking lot around Halloween. This event inspires camaraderie among members and participants in our church, who collaborate to plan interesting themed trunks. The event is publicized to our neighborhood and has been well attended in its last three years, with children and families in costumes enjoying the fun atmosphere in the spirit of Halloween; candy, music, games, and small gifts entertain our guests and encourage a spirit of giving back to one another, part of the ongoing and long-standing vision of our church.



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 described in worship liturgy as a loving God, and an effort is made to broaden how the congregation can imagine their God. We believe God is relatable to our members, and we are committed to a nurturing and caring vision of faith. The Holy Spirit is shown through our mission activities, like serving those in need and helping others, no matter where they are on life’s journey. The Holy Spirit in our midst is moving us to be God’s people, to prayerfully seek God’s will for our individual and community lives.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

Our congregation has a can-do spirit, with loyal and committed members. We are tolerant and accepting, thoughtful and compassionate. Our congregation has the ability to adapt and evolve while also valuing our history and traditions. Members share their time and talents with others widely: the performances of our musicians, the ministry of our deacons and parish nurses, the programs that focus on education and literacy, the cooking and preparing of meals for fellowship and those in need, the organization and work ethic with the weekly food pantry, and more demonstrate God’s love within and beyond our church.



Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

Our congregation gathers for Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. We meet in a traditional sanctuary and expect that to continue; the sanctuary's space for gathering and focusing on God and the Word of the Lord provides the sense of a Holy place and time. We use a bulletin each week that outlines the service, and each service has a connected and unified flow in relation to the current church season. There is time for member announcements, joys and concerns, and greetings, special music, Bible passages, hymns, preaching, glory & praise, prayer, monthly communion. We have a strong musical program and



appreciate singing hymns with piano and pipe organ. In a preacher, we value relatable storytelling and anecdotes that make God's word relevant to today's world.

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


We have a variety of educational programs that foster faith over a lifetime. These include book studies during Lent and Advent, prayer groups twice a week, and adult Sunday school taking place before Sunday services. An all-age children's Sunday school, during part of the worship service, engages youth. Also, Confirmation is offered at a certain age under the guidance of church leadership and parents. During each church service, there's a children's time with a message for young ears (and adult ears, too!), and children volunteers are acolytes for the sanctuary.



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?
 - There are a variety of meetings each month for various committees that help keep the church functioning. An approximate number of hours would be about 30 a month, though the minister doesn't attend all of these.
 - There is a church council of elected members that meets for two hours monthly, with a member of council serving as a liaison to each committee, such as building & grounds, finance, staff parish, Christian education, men's and women's groups, and more.
 - A variety of methods allow members of the church to hear decisions from these groups, like a monthly Visitor newsletter, printed announcements in the bulletin, oral announcements during worship, emails, and flyers around the church.
- ☐ Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished?
 - A small group of leadership from the church council (officers) would be involved in a crisis situation and making a decision. The council president and minister would consult immediately, and if further action were needed, the situation would go before a larger group. These types of situations range from a building and grounds issue to deciding if a virtual worship program would suffice.
- ☐ 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, these will be provided upon request. We have a constitution and bylaws, stored by the communications director. Along with these files, we have church policies, safe church policies, and a relational covenant.

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ELEVEN YEAR CHURCH PROFILE BASED ON DATA REPORTED IN UCC YEARBOOKS										
<div> <i>God is still speaking.</i> UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  </div>										
Church#:	163670									
Assoc:	210	Schedule:	0	Church of Peace United Church of Christ			Rock Island		IL	61201
YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION	CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR REAFFIRM	DEATHS OR TRANS OUT	OTHER LOSSES	NET MEMBS ADDS-REMOVED	
2011	335	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2012	335	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2013	250	85	37	0	0	0	7	78	-85	
2014	250	85	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2015	250	85	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2016	250	85	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2017	200	85	37	0	0	0	5	0	-5	
2018	195	80	30	0	1	1	7	0	-5	
2019	129	70	25	3	0	4	2	0	5	
2020	128	50	25	0	0	0	5	0	-5	
2021	123	39	0	0	0	0	5	0	-5	
YEAR	CURRENT EXPENSES	CAPITAL PAYMENTS	BASIC SUPPORT	TOT OTHER UCC GIVING	TOTAL OCWM	OTHER GIFTS WIDER MISSION	BASIC SUPP% CURR LOCAL	TOTAL EXPEND	PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS	
2011	\$149,768	\$0	\$11,500	\$533	\$12,033	\$0	\$12,033	7.68	\$161,801	
2012	\$149,768	\$0	\$11,500	\$550	\$12,050	\$0	\$12,050	7.68	\$161,818	
2013	\$143,906	\$30,000	\$11,500	\$256	\$11,756	\$850	\$12,606	7.99	\$186,512	
2014	\$143,906	\$0	\$11,500	\$237	\$11,737	\$0	\$11,737	7.99	\$155,643	
2015	\$143,906	\$0	\$8,000	\$444	\$8,444	\$0	\$8,444	5.56	\$152,350	
2016	\$143,906	\$0	\$4,000	\$177	\$4,177	\$0	\$4,177	2.78	\$148,083	
2017	\$201,498	\$40,318	\$4,000	\$1,075	\$5,075	\$1,800	\$6,875	1.99	\$208,373	
2018	\$201,498	\$0	\$4,000	\$155	\$4,155	\$0	\$4,155	1.99	\$205,653	
2019	\$354,405	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,999	\$5,499	\$12,928	\$18,427	0.71	\$372,832	
2020	\$162,371	\$0	\$0	\$2,710	\$2,710	\$1,200	\$3,910	0.00	\$166,281	
2021	\$162,371	\$0	\$2,500	\$1,776	\$4,276	\$0	\$4,276	1.54	\$166,647	
% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		
2016-2021	-50.80	-54.12	-100.00	0.00	0.00	12.83	2.37	12.54		
2011-2021	-63.28	0.00	-100.00	0.00	0.00	8.42	-64.46	3.00		

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

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	114	
Number of active non-members:	68	X
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	182	X

Active members are adults who have been confirmed or admitted via transfer. Unconfirmed children are considered active non-members.

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate?</i>
More than 10 years:	54%	x
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	41%	x
Less than 5 years:	5%	x

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate?</i>
18	7	11	20	16	17	12	38	43	x

Percentage of adults in various household types:

98 households		<i>Is this number an estimate?</i>
Single adults under 35:	4%	x
Households with minors:	12%	x
Single adults age 35-65:	5%	x
Joint households with no minors:	49%	x
Single adults over 65:	25%	x

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate?</i>
High school:	48%	x
College:	34%	x
Graduate School:	12%	x
Specialty Training:	5%	x
Other (please specify):less than H.S.	1%	x

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate?</i>
Adults who are employed:	29%	x
Adults who are retired:	71%	x
Adults who are not fully employed:	0%	

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

While a large portion of our membership is retired, the range of occupations is, and was, very wide. These occupations vary from semi-skilled through professionals, like teachers, nurses, musicians, and engineers.

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 racial makeup is 98% Caucasian and our ethnicity is Euro-American. This racial and ethnic breakdown of Church of Peace members does not accurately reflect its overall diversity. Our food pantry serves patrons of the African American and Caucasian local communities, as well as African, Asian, Afghan, and Myanmar refugees. Among our food pantry nonmember volunteers are Thai, Myanmar immigrants, and Hindus. Church of Peace houses an ELL program and day care for its students, who this year are predominantly Afghan and Myanmar refugees. In previous years, several other African countries were represented by the ELL students. Classes for young mothers and classes to prepare for job applications and interviews have recently been added, staffed by World Relief. Additionally, Church of Peace houses and supports the Community Caring Conference, which we founded in 1975 to serve our neighborhood, which is low income and predominantly African American. Several years ago, Church of Peace provided space for a fledgling congregation of immigrants from Africa. In three and a half years, they grew from 20 to over 200 and were able to purchase their own building, in no small part due to our covenantal relationship. In short, the color of the skin and the ethnicity of the members in our pews does not tell the diverse nature of the Church of Peace UCC, walking in Christ’s footsteps, being a beacon in our community.





Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one in the near future? Please note the date.

Comment after the exercise:

The church went through the discernment process for becoming an official Open and Affirming congregation in 2018, and in a congregational meeting in 2019 voted to do so. While there are no formal conversations currently about welcoming diversity, Church of Peace has shown they welcome diversity through action.

3d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

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

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings?
Adult Groups or Classes	15	Pastor and lay leaders
Baptisms	1	Pastor and parents
Children's Groups or Classes	4	Christian education committee
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	60	Music, altar guild, pastor, and worship team
Church-wide Meals	40	Various lay leaders and committees
Choirs and Music Groups	20	Music staff and volunteers
Church-based Bible Study	6	Retired pastor

Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	50	Monthly and special church holidays, planned by altar guild and pastor
Community Meals	0	n/a
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	1	Pastor
Drama or Dance Program	1	Christian education committee
Funerals	5	Pastor and family
Intergenerational Groups	0	n/a
Outdoor Worship	30	Pastor, music and worship committee
Prayer or Meditation Groups	6	Retired pastor
Public Advocacy Work	0	n/a
Retreats	15-30	Pastor and lay leaders
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	0	n/a
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	1	Pastor and family
Worship (time slot: 10:30 a.m.)	50	Pastor, music, and worship staff
Worship (time slot: 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service)	60	Pastor, music, and worship staff
Worship (time slot: 7 p.m. Lenten services)	15	Pastor, music, and worship staff
Young Adult Groups or Classes	0	n/a
Youth Groups or Classes	0	n/a
Other: Men's and Women's groups luncheons and breakfasts; grief support group	10-15	Lay leaders

Additional comments: none.

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?	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
Michael Swartz	Three-way	Church	Pastor	Y
Katherine Mulhern	Three-way	Church	Pastor	Y
Sheila Fitts	Three-way	Church	Pastor	Y
Kevin Carney	No	Church	Pastor	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: They attend services regularly and serve on various committees, even participating in the worship in particular ways and serving as pulpit supply.

List all current staff, including ministers. Exclude the position you are seeking to fill. Indicate which staff person serves as head of staff.

Staff Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation (full time, part time, volunteer)	Supervised by	Length of Tenure for current person in this position
Communications Coordinator	No	part time	Staff parish	4 years
Organist	No	part time	Staff parish	4 years
Bell Choir director	No	part time	Staff parish	25 years
Choir Director	No	part time	Staff parish	30 years
Parish Nurses	No	volunteer	Staff parish	20+ years
Intentional Interim Minister	Yes	part time	Staff parish	12 months ongoing

REFLECTION

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

This information is a reflection of our congregation's loyalty and commitment. We are blessed with a stable congregation with an array of time and talents, members and participants who are willing to share their enduring positive qualities to impact not only our church, but the community around us. Our history of only six settled pastors since 1908 demonstrates our relatability among members and the broader community.

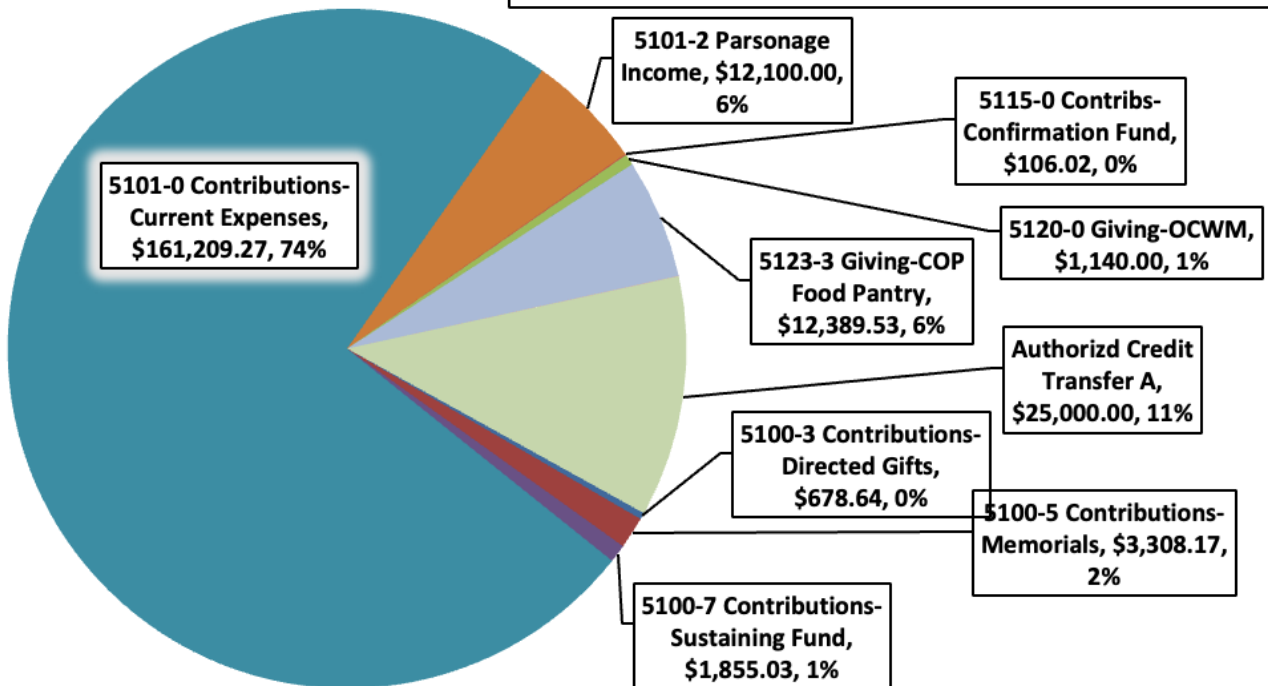
3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

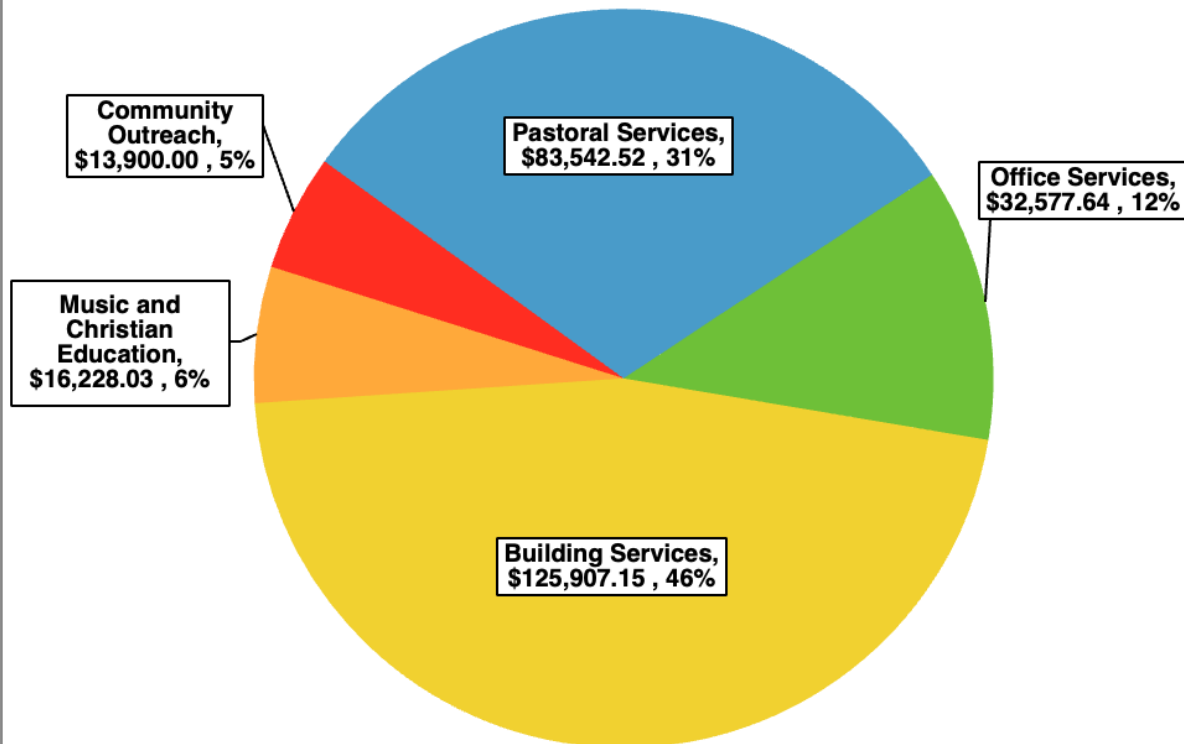
Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$169,818
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$0
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	\$0
Fundraising Events	\$0
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose (food pantry program)	\$10,639
Grants	\$9,000
Rentals of Church Building	\$0
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$8,100
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women's Group</i>)	\$2,000
Transfers from Special Accounts (sustaining fund)	\$25,000
Other (specify): Interest income	\$40
Other (specify):	\$0
TOTAL	\$224,597

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$277,000

Where Our Money Came from in 2022



Proposed Spending 2023--Budget Categories



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

In 2022, with a settled pastor and interim, it was 30.9%. In 2021, with a settled pastor, the whole year it was 31.2%.

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 the operating budget, what is that percentage? (recommended 10%)

OCWM is gathered by a budgeted amount determined by council/congregation, or the total amount given by members, whichever is larger.

What is the church's current indebtedness?

Total amount of loan debt: \$0

Reason for debt: n/a

Are capital and other payments current? yes

Church of Peace is financially stable. Our giving has remained steady, even during the COVID-19 pandemic and forced at-home worship services. Our annual giving, combined with our lack of debt, our substantial Sustaining Fund, and prudent stewardship of our resources, provides us with a positive financial future.

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.

There are conversations, but there are no projected building programs underway.

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

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

Does your church have an endowment? No.

Other Assets:

Reserves: n/a

Investments:

- \$6,000 with United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund
- We have an account that we call our sustaining fund, to which both substantial estate gifts and smaller donations have contributed. This portfolio is utilized to cover any expenses that exceed the income of the church or cause gaps in the operating budget. It's also drawn from to do capital improvements to the property. The market value of the assets is \$374,000.

Parsonage:

- The parsonage is attached to the church, built in 1922. It is a Tudor style dwelling with two stories, a walk-in attic, and a full unfinished basement. It has 10 rooms: 4 bedrooms, 1 full bath, and 2 half baths. It is not handicapped accessible.
- Fair market rental value of the parsonage: It has recently been rented for \$900 per month.
- How is the parsonage used? It could be available for the minister's residence, but the minister is not expected to live there.
- Street / City / State / Zip: same location as church
- Finished square footage: 2300
- Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms: 4 bedrooms, 1 full bath, 2 half baths.
- Assessed real estate value: unknown
- Available for minister residence: Yes.
- Expected minister residence: No.
- Condition of structure, systems and appliances: need to be updated.
- Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs: building and grounds committee, with approval of church council for larger expenditures.

Describe all buildings owned by the church:

The main building is 111 years old. An addition was added in 1926 and an educational building in 1956. The church complex includes a sanctuary and two lofts, with a total seating of 250; a chapel, seating 46; a pipe organ; fellowship hall and kitchen; classrooms; food storage areas and a food pantry; two paved lots for parking; a courtyard and landscaped grounds. We also own the parsonage, which is attached to the church.

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church: n/a.

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs?

- An elevette provides accessibility to the sanctuary, fellowship hall, office, and lower two floors of the educational building. The pulpit is not handicapped accessible. Two bathrooms are accessible to wheelchairs.

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

The fact that the church is financially stable reflects our members' commitment to not only the church, but also their commitment and ability to support other area groups in their ministry as well. Our finances support not only our in-reach but also our outreach to the community. Each year, the treasurer puts the budget together based on the previous year's budget, the finance committee and council review it, and it is presented in front of the congregation at the congregational meeting, who vote to approve it. As part of that process, Staff Parish meets to review salaries, and they give a recommendation to the treasurer; other committees and staff members review their financial needs annually and inform the treasurer of any budgetary needs. There have not been any major changes to the budget in recent years.

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.

One of our most significant happenings in the history of our church was the decision in 1975 to remain at the corner of 12th St. and 12th Ave. in Rock Island, IL. This was a substantial event because we could focus our identity and mission intentionally on being a good neighbor.

Another significant happening in our church history was the decision to officially become an Open and Affirming church. This was a substantial event because it formalized a value that we already upheld.

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

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when the building was closed, worship services were crafted together from participants' homes and placed on a YouTube channel playlist. This online worship was discontinued once in person worship resumed, in favor of gathering in our sanctuary to worship together. The way we distribute food to our food pantry clients also changed when the pandemic forced us to distribute our food pantry outside of the building. We relocated the storage areas and developed an efficient drive-up delivery system. These changes exemplify how adaptability was utilized so we could still prioritize our mission and values.

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.

There has been little churchwide conflict of consequence. If individuals do not agree with something which the majority approves, they generally do not cause any conflict but rather abstain from the undesired activity. Some people prefer to not pass the peace by milling around the sanctuary and instead wave from the pew. If there is a concern, we find a way to work around the problem, like printing music to



sing during worship to elevate the service in a way our hymnal does not offer. If conflict among staff would arise, the Staff/Parish Committee would deal with it. The congregation values working together to achieve an impact, and working through conflict with an open mind can prioritize our mission.

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

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Jane Courtright, Intentional Interim	2022-present	Y
Mariah Marlin-Warfield, Settled Pastor	2013-2022	Y
Tammy Ebensberger, Interim	2012	Y
Michael Swartz, Associate, Settled Pastor	1991-2012	Y
Kenneth Kuenning, Settled Pastor	1969-1995	Y

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

Our history of only six settled pastors since 1908 illustrates that we relate and adapt well to our ministers and they to us. While they have been long term, we have not become stagnant but rather dynamic, flexible, and even progressive during these ministries.

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

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

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



4. WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

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

- a. COMMUNITY VISION
- b. MISSION InSite

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

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

As mentioned previously, we have participated in various service/mission activities: the food pantry; Peace Pals; ELL classes and day care program; and hosting the Community Caring Conference. While we do not send anyone abroad to serve, our global connections are evident within our local community through these service programs. We have also collected money for UNICEF and Heifer Project, and our new association with World Relief is transformational as well. Classes for young mothers and job training are offered in our church building through that organization.



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

We have attended and hosted Western Association meetings. Past ministers have been association or conference committee members, and we support our minister's involvement in these groups. Rev. Kathy Lawes has been a helpful conference connection for many years.

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

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

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

We are proud to be a church that is ONA and GISS, and while there are no conversations about working toward any of the above statements, we are open to further discernment.

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



We participate in Quad Cities Interfaith, Churches United, Church Women United, Breaking Bread Together, and World Relief. We also share some Lenten services with Two Rivers United Methodist Church in Rock Island, IL. Choirs from both churches do exchanges in worship services. We also provide the Good Friday service for Friendship Manor, an interdenominational retirement complex.

Additionally, members of the

Sathya Sai Organization (SAI) volunteer regularly at our food pantry as part of their mission work.

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 Church of Peace United Church of Christ gathers at the corner of 12th and 12th where we value our history and envision our future. We give glory to God by our commitment to: sharing worship and fellowship that stirs our souls and inspires our thinking; serving those around us who are in need; growing spiritually; prayerfully seeking God's will for our individual and community lives; offering an ever-widening invitation and welcome; embracing you warmly wherever you are on life's journey; and attracting and sustaining young people. Church of



Peace has earned a reputation as a church dedicated to caring for those who are in need. This commitment is both our legacy and our call into the future. While some of the ways we give glory to God get more time and energy than others, our focus on valuing our history and envisioning our future, with God at the center, is at the forefront. Time spent gathering, time spent in governance, and time spent going out average a similar number of hours each week.

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 support a minister's involvement in other groups and ministries that align with their areas of emphasis. If they are comfortable in these community groups or other mission activities, we will support them, as it could lead the church to be an ambassador of God's love. Of course, our minister will be expected to meet our congregation's needs, which will include visiting shut-ins, ministering beyond the walls for certain events, and assisting with our own ongoing outreach programs as well.

4b. MISSION InSite

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



According to the MinistryInsite Report 2021, in conjunction with The American Beliefs Study, about a quarter of our area's population surveyed couldn't find the right faith community in the area (as a reason for non-participation in a religious congregation). We would love for Church of Peace, United Church of Christ, to be that faith community, and see that statistic as an opportunity. Some aspects of the church that were highly cited as reasons for non-participation include religion too focused on money, religious people too judgmental, and a distrust in organized religion and religious leaders. We've been recognized as a warm, friendly, and non-judgmental church, in addition to being ONA. Our church is financially stable and thus doesn't make excessive demands on our members for financial support. If we can make our neighborhood

more aware of what we offer and our value systems, Church of Peace believes that our programs will appeal to our community. The survey results showed a preference for opportunities for family-oriented activities, for crisis support groups, for adult social activities, for volunteering in the community, and to develop personal relationships, all of which Church of Peace provides. Quality sermons, warm and friendly encounters, opportunities for volunteerism, and traditional worship experiences were highly ranked as important features of religious and spiritual programs, which Church of Peace upholds and will continue to provide as we seek our new minister.

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?

In racial and ethnic diversity, our internal demographics are not very similar to our neighborhood's demographics. The neighborhood surrounding Church of Peace, according to the data presented in the ExecutiveInsight Report, is only 66% white, while our church congregation is 98% white. Over 10% are Hispanic or Latino, over 16% are black/African American, and Asian plus Pacific Islander/Am Ind/Other are each around 3%. How the households are formed in our neighborhood are also unlike our congregation. The neighborhood

has fewer married couple households than the rest of Illinois, and more single mother households than the rest of Illinois, on average. However, over 60% of our membership lives in a joint household. Additionally, the average household income trends reveal more families below the poverty line in our area than in the state of Illinois, and the average household income is substantially lower than that of the state of Illinois.

This positions Church of Peace, whose members do not fit the income data for our neighborhood, for serving others through our programs and ministry. The average age is projected to rise in our neighborhood, which is also occurring within our church; the community is aging as children are raised and leave but the parents remain. This happens within our



congregation as well, although there are many generational members of Church of Peace who attend, give, and participate regularly just like their previous family members did, and they bring their kids with them to do the same.

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

The demographics of the community are our ministry. They are influencing the demands on the food pantry and the ELL program, with a significant immigrant and refugee population. Single-parent households of non-white ethnicity, with a lower average income and without a college education, are in need of assistance in our neighborhood. We fulfill our mission of meeting others where they are on life's journey, in a warm and welcoming way, and serving those in need partly because of the surrounding demographics.

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

Our church is known for the food pantry; working with the elementary school down the street; Community Caring Conference; the ELL program and corresponding day care; our green-domed steeple, which is the landmark of our neighborhood; and friendliness. Church of Peace was named Citizen of the Year for the City of Rock Island for our presence and outreach efforts in our neighborhood. Our church's mission is presented to a broad audience through our

participation in the city of Rock Island Labor Day parade. We can't be missed, with our bold, red shirts and a float carrying signs of our mission and values, with congregation members and participants smiling and passing out candy.

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

A variety of features and qualities of our worship, ministry, and congregation influence new people in the church. The level of the activity in the congregation (not just showing up to Sunday services), the uplifting and talented music program for a church of this size, as well as the ministry and involvement in the community through our outreach programs, are all appealing. New people respect the sense of history in our location, combined with our open and informal environment and a congregation of welcoming and nonjudgmental members.





5. REFERENCES

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

REFERENCE 1

Rev. Santina Poor, Pastor, Hope United Church of Christ
309-762-1419; pastor.hopeuccqc@gmail.com; volunteer and participant

REFERENCE 2

Katherine Lewis, Retired
309-737-0791; lewiskatherine25@gmail.com; volunteer and participant

REFERENCE 3

Thomas Bengtson, Retired
309-912-6494; bengtson1953@outlook.com; volunteer and participant

Reference letters follow.



HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Santina Poor, Pastor

April 11, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

What a great honor to offer a reference for Church of Peace UCC as they enter into their search for their new pastor. Church of Peace is the sibling congregation to my church, Hope UCC in Moline, where I serve as pastor. Moline is Rock Island's neighbor city to the east. Our two congregations have a long history of collaboration. Since arriving to serve as pastor at Hope UCC in January of 2018, I have had the great blessing of seeing first-hand the impact Church of Peace UCC continues to make in our community. Their boundless compassion, energy, and faithful stewardship of their resources is an example for faith communities to learn about mission as well as what 'church vitality' means.

The strengths of Church of Peace flow from their members and friends. Their rich history in their neighborhood has grounded generations of members to remain faithful to their mission. Decades ago, when other churches in their neighborhood left to rebuild in other locations, Church of Peace made the decision, as a congregation, to remain and build their mission focused on how to serve their new neighbors in their evolving community. To this day they continue to offer a weekly food pantry, meeting and classroom space to local nonprofits that serve the growing refugee population in the area, as well as providing afterschool tutoring and homework programs for neighborhood children. One of my favorite places to be on Saturday mornings is helping George and Mary at their weekly food pantry. I am thankful for their loving care of their neighbors which is evident in all their interactions with their guests. They have created a culture of care that all the volunteers embody. This is not always typical in church food pantry ministries – especially in these post-Covid times when resources are tight and constant adjustments are the norm. Church of Peace listens to the needs of their neighbors and guests of the food pantry and do their best to meet those needs.

Within the congregation, there is a great emphasis on pastoral care. I admit that my experience with the Parish Nurse ministry is limited, but I have never seen such a strong Parish Nurse/Visitation Ministry as I have seen at Church of Peace. During Covid for example, their Visitation Ministry was active in corresponding with members and making sure people had rides to vaccinations and other appointments. They continue to ensure and fulfill regular visits of hospitalized and homebound members and friends.

Members of Church of Peace, long-time members who are the grandchildren of founding members as well as new members, are all committed to keeping the historical sanctuary and campus alive and well. There is great pride in their building and its history. This is definitely a strength of this faith community but can easily become a challenge. The historic building and grounds, like many churches, faces infrastructure challenges. Sustainability of the whole building will continue to test this congregation and its leadership. Another challenge for the pastor and congregation of Church of Peace is developing deeper and meaningful relationships with their neighbors in this ever-changing community of west Rock Island focused on social justice issues and advocacy. These challenges will lead to the greater challenge that many congregations face – conversations about the future and what that looks like for this faith community.

3324 41st Street Moline, IL 61265
(309)762-1419

www.hopeuccqc.org
office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com

My experiences with this congregation are all positive. As I mentioned earlier in this reference, Church of Peace's weekly food pantry is a special program. Our congregation at Hope UCC offers support to this program in a variety of ways. Our members and friends are there on different days of the week helping with preparations for the Saturday distributions as well as helping during the distribution. We have also had special collections of the most needed items for the pantry such as protein, diapers, and cash donations for their pantry. One summer Hope UCC's Youth Group spent the day at Church of Peace as part of our Service/Learning Week. Church of Peace was very accommodating as they offered their kitchen for half of our youth to prepare a meal to take to a Habitat for Humanity building site while the other half of our youth helped at the food pantry on the other end of the building. Our youth group loved working with George and Mary. The youth appreciated the responsibilities they were given and learned by example the importance of Christ-centered welcome and hospitality to others. As they witnessed the Church of Peace volunteers greeting the pantry guests by name and remembering their needs (how many children in the household so they would need extra boxes of cereal, for example) our youth group witnessed and lived the gospel message of love.

Additionally, Hope UCC and Church of Peace are currently offering a grief group together. Under the leadership of Church of Peace's Parish Nurse, Mary Oelschlaeger, our group is navigating the rocky road of grief together in a loving, supportive, and faithful way. Mary has a wealth of experience leading these groups and I am grateful to have the opportunity to learn from her and strengthen my own pastoral care abilities in this area.

I would be happy to share any additional thoughts and experiences regarding my involvement with Church of Peace. Please feel free to contact me at the phone number listed or via email at pastor.hopeuccqc@gmail.com.

With peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Santana Poor". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Santana" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Poor".

Rev. Santana Poor

My name is Katherine Lewis. I am retired. My Email address is lewiskatherine25@gmail.com

My phone number is 309-737-0791

I started attending Church of Peace in 2017 with my husband, Rev. Parker Lewis, after he retired from Hope UCC in 2016 after 19 years there. We attended until 2019 at which time we returned to Hope. I/we also volunteered at their food pantry from 2018-2022. We felt immediately welcomed and at home at Church of Peace, and had we not returned to Hope, it would be our home church

Church of Peace's great strength is being a neighborhood presence with their programs that truly serve immediate needs. They are steadfast in their service to those in need of food, education and spiritual guidance. An example of serving the community's needs was when the food pantry received a grant, it asked its patrons what was needed, and didn't make decisions for them. It turned out personal shopping carts were needed and purchased. A small but telling action.

On a personal level, I love working at the food pantry. During the pandemic, it was a tangible way to help the community. There were so many in critical need and Church of Peace found a way to serve that need in a difficult time. As my husband's Alzheimer's progressed, his help was always welcomed at the pantry, no matter his skill level. It meant so much for him to be needed. We have stayed in touch with the good people there and they continue to support us, no matter our church affiliation.

I'm honestly unsure about recommending areas for improvement in Church of Peace's ministry. I think since I'm not intimately involved, it would be presumptuous to suggest anything.

Thomas Bengtson
1337 21st Avenue, Unit 11A
Rock Island, IL 61201
309-912-6494
bengtson1953@outlook.com

3 April 2023

To whom it may concern,

I have attended Church of Peace since about 2010. I became a member of the church choir about 2016. I have been a volunteer with the food pantry regularly, but infrequently. I am not an official member of the congregation.

One of the strength's of the ministry of Church of Peace is reflected in the diversity of its members. There are members of many political persuasions, for example. The church is welcoming to gay and other sexual minorities.

The church strives to direct it's ministry outwards to the community. The church is proud of the services it provides to the neighborhood in which it is located. The food pantry, which started quite modestly a couple of decades ago, now typically serves fifty to seventy-five families each week, even though it is only open for two hours on Saturday. Volunteers from outside the church are an important part of the food pantry effort. It is great to see that Church of Peace can be the place where those of other institutions can find themselves in service to our community.

Another outward directed effort, which I have volunteered for only for the first time this year, is Peace Pals. This program aims to supply weekly supplemental instruction for nearby second grade students in reading and writing. Not many students use this program, but those that do certainly need it. I have a new-found respect for second grade teachers who have to manage a full class of students, when the two or three who show up for this program are so rambunctious!

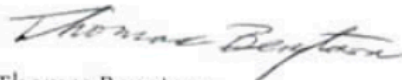
Another mark on the plus side for Church of Peace is the number of retired pastors have chosen Church of Peace as their home congregation in their later years.

Any church has areas where improvement could be noted. Most significantly for Church of Peace is, I think, the age imbalance in the congregation. The congregation tilts to the older side, and although we have a few families with young children, they are not enough to sustain the sort of active youth programs larger congregations typically provide. Furthermore, because of this demographic reality, the long-term prospects of Church of Peace are imperiled.

I was diagnosed with cancer in early 2021. The response of caring ministry from the congregation and pastor were so meaningful! I didn't really expect that such a caring response would mean so much to me, but it did—and does. The cards, the home-baked banana bread, the calls from the pastor—it was all so touching. I am grateful.

I am glad to be a part of Church of Peace.

Sincerely,



Thomas Bengtson

6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

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

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God,

Bless, O Lord, this congregation for their faithful ministry. Formed in 1895 with those of German ancestry, the long history of our church remains steady at the corner of 12th and 12th in Rock Island because of the need on every side. Through the years, we have served with grace and compassion in this community. Forward now with strength and courage, with the banner of hope unfurled, help us bring Christ's message, peace, and love to all who hear it. Please bless this new beginning for our church, as we search for a settled pastor who will strengthen and guide our congregation while valuing our history. Look upon us with grace and fill us with new understanding. May we heed our mission statement: honoring fellowship and unity, providing Christian worship for our members, welcoming everybody, and serving our community.

Choose sidebar display

On This Day Of Celebration
commemorated by and dedicated to:
The Church Of Peace United Church Of Christ
 1895-1995

written by:
 Harriet Ilse Ziegenhals

1. On this day of cel - e - bra - tion join - ing heart and
 2. May we heed our mis - sion state - ment: fel - low ship and
 3. Formed in Eigh - teen - Nine - ty Five with those of Ger - man
 4. Bless, O Lord, this con - gre - ga - tion for their faith - ful

voice in song, link - ing hands a - cross the cit - y
 u - ni - ty; Chris - tian wor - ship for our mem - bers,
 an - ces - try, grow - ing strong - er through the dec - ades,
 min - is - try, through the years with and vi - sion

7 reach - ing out to right the wrong, Break the bar - riers
 giv - ing youth i - den - ti - ty; Neigh - bor - hoods with
 served by lead - ers faith - ful - ly. When in Nine - teen
 serv - ing this com - mu - ni - ty. For - ward now with

10 which di - vide us, Look up - on us with thy grace.
 sa - fer hous - ing, hold - ing the sa - cred this good earth,
 Sev'n - ty Five we saw the need on ev' - ry side,
 strength and cour - age, with the ban - ner of hope un - furled.

13 Fill us with new un - der - stand - ing
 and to pray and re - main - ing
 Church of Peace re - main - ing
 Help us bring Christ's un - der - stand - ing
 to us bring Christ's un - der - stand - ing
 Help us bring Christ's un - der - stand - ing

15 to for sta - ble and fold world each creed and race,
 peace and love neigh - bor hood to true to re - birth,
 and love neigh - bor hood to all the pro - vide.

6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

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

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

1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile?

The search committee and treasurer contributed to the contents of this profile. The search committee consists of: Bob Steeber, George Oelschlaeger, Karen Young, Judy Patsch, Tracy Waytenick, and Marissa Elliott. Treasurer is Aaron Waytenick.

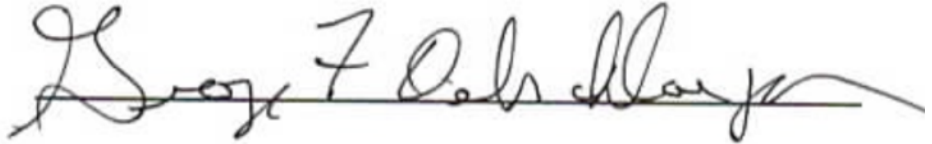
2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

This profile was carefully created by a diverse and loyal group of members, who collaborated to prepare both a historical and visionary profile of what Church of Peace means to our members. Decisions for what to say and how to say it were deliberated and fine-tuned democratically, and congregational surveys, and both formal and informal discussions amongst members, influenced how our profile appears to you today. We are proud of our church and hopeful our new pastor is as excited as we are about what we do, and why and how we do it. While we realize that our base salary offer is lower than the Illinois Conference guidelines, our cost of living is significantly lower than other parts of Illinois. The Quad Cities' area is a diverse region, offering a variety of educational, cultural, and natural attractions that would appeal to any number of potential candidates. Most importantly, Church of Peace is dedicated to caring for those who are in need and is a cornerstone of support for the neighborhood and the community. Our members are loyal and committed, and we are happy to answer any questions that might aid a minister in their discernment process.

Bob Steeber



George Oelschlaeger



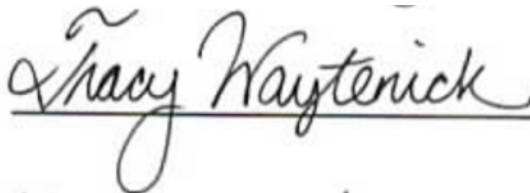
Judy Patsch



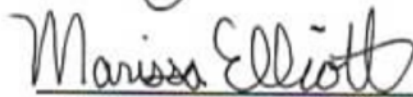
Karen Young



Tracy Waytenick



Marissa Elliott



Signed: search committee members

April 3, 2023

Revised and approved by the search committee November 13, 2023

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment:

True

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

Staff Comment:

True

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

Staff Comment:

True

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:



Name / Title: Rev. Stephanie Perdew, PhD

Email: stephanieperdew@ilucc.org

Phone: 708-701-4933

Date: April 17, 2023



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