

INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Who is
God
calling us
to become

?

The new Local Church Profile is not just for congregation. faithfulness of a pastor. All congregation 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 help advance the calling of the congregation. Not just to be completed by a search committee - the more participation the better!

Rachel Hackenberg

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

English Congregational United Church of Christ
Big Rock, IL

Part Time or Full Time Pastor

Illinois Conference, Prairie Association

May, 2023 - Updated October, 2024

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

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

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

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

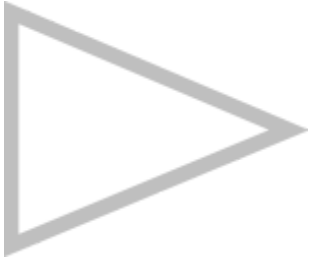
Your conference can provide materials referenced in the Local Church Profile, such as the 11-Year Report containing data as reported by your congregation annually to the UCC Data Hub, and MissionInsite reports containing demographic information on your community. More information on types of pastorates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

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

The last page of the Local Church Profile contains a statement that parallels the consent statement signed by ministers in the UCC Ministerial Profile. In keeping with the covenantal relationship between a church and those it seeks to call, this statement encourages an open, honest exchange of information. On behalf of the United Church of Christ, and on the basis of

the best knowledge available to them, your conference staff will validate your completed Local Church Profile when it is ready to be shared in relationship with prospective new leaders.

1. POSITION POSTING



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

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: [English Congregational United Church of Christ](#)

Street address: [301 Rhodes Avenue, Big Rock, IL 60511](#)

Supplemental web links: www.ecucc.org

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

Conference: [Illinois Conference](#)

Association: [Prairie Association](#)

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

[Rev. Shernell J. Edney Stilley, Associate Conference Minister for Pastoral Transitions](#)

[Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ](#)

[708-344-4470](#)

shernelledneystilley@ilucc.org

Summary Ministry Description: [Our church needs more active membership of all ages to continue to exist. We need a pastor who will help us accomplish this goal.](#)

Photographs:

[Insert 1 – 3 images of your church, its people, its parsonage or building or gathering space, etc.](#)

[See Attached Photos](#)

What we value about living in our area (*2 – 3 sentences*):

- [We are a small country town just 12 miles from the edge of a large metropolitan area just off I-88 and 50 miles west of Chicago.](#)
- [We enjoy easy access to hospitals, colleges, shopping & entertainment.](#)
- [We pride ourselves on being a quiet, safe, rural community.](#)

Current size of membership: [approximately 189](#)

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*): **English is the only language spoken.**

Position Title: **Our church is open to discussion with candidates for the pastor position.**

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

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 (*choose one, delete the other options listed*): **½ Time or Full Time**
Compensation commensurate to the agreed upon full or part time position.

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? **Yes**

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

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

- Preparation and leadership of an **Inspirational** 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.
- **Diligent & Influential** faith formation and vitality through prayer, Bible study, service, identifying helpful resources and opportunities and helping lay persons take advantage of them and become invested
- Leadership development by working with people in the church to create **Committed Volunteers** for ministry and programs
- **Genuine Compassionate** pastoral care in collaboration with lay people
- **Innovative** study and prayer to increase faith and to improve skills so as to lead, teach, preach better
- **Consistent** strategic planning for current and new directions in ministry that is **Captivating**
- 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
- Weddings and funerals for participants in the worshiping community and availability to wider community of funerals, weddings, special worship programs, and as a representative of the church to local organizations

- Responsibility of supervision of staff
- Being **Committed** in community engagement and leading the way for the church to be an ambassador of God's love showing others that you are **Invested** in the church

Core Competencies:

(List three core competencies that you imagine could be foundational in your next minister's relationship with the church. For example, a church seeking a pastoral care minister might hope to call someone who is caring, sensitive and sociable, while a church seeking an executive minister might want an organized, detail-oriented and time-conscious person.)

We are seeking a pastor who is inspirational in their sermons and worship, invested in the ECUC and its people, and genuine in their care and concern for our members and attendees.

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis (*from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/Housing Allowance*): \$ **Per Conference Guidelines**

Benefits (*choose one*): **Salary Plus Benefits**

What is the expected living situation for your next minister (*e.g. parsonage, living nearby with a housing allowance, living elsewhere to commute as needed*)? **Parsonage or living nearby with a housing allowance.**

Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister. **It would be important for our pastor to drive to hospital and home visits. It is a short walk from the parsonage to the church, if walking is desired.**

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

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference: **Groups available through the Prairie Association and Illinois Conference**

If applicable, describe how your church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment: **Our church council is open to discussion to ensure that the needs of our church, as well as those of the candidate's bi-vocational employment are met.**

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 our next minister to be

- an effective preacher/speaker
- someone who helps people develop their spiritual life
- effective in planning & leading worship
- one who ministers effectively to people in crisis situations
- one who makes pastoral calls on people in the hospitals, nursing homes & those confined to their homes
- effective in working with children/youth
- someone who will reach out to inactive members
- accepting of people with divergent views
- a person who can maintain confidentiality
- a compassionate & caring person
- effective in drawing in new families (being an effective/inspirational Pastor so word of mouth will draw more people to our church)

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

We would like our new minister to assist us in the following ways:

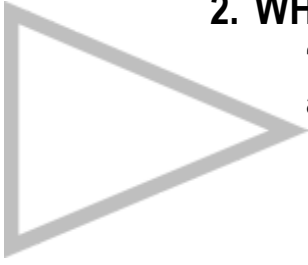
- work to keep community events such as the “Plowing Match”
- help us develop community involvement
- support Life Spring and/or other Ministries such as St. Jude's Ranch, Ronald McDonald House, the Food Pantry, and the Nick Ashby Memorial Fund
- bring new ideas to the congregation

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 - we have no other languages spoken during worship

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.

- Loving God, following Jesus Christ, and being guided by the Holy Spirit; living a life of discipleship
- Participating in the various settings of the United Church of Christ, including Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, General Synod and global ministries
- Leading faith formation effectively across generations
- Providing hope and healing to a hurting world
- Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching and ecclesial and community leadership
- Engaging in mission and outreach
- Exhibiting strong moral character and personal integrity



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 growing congregation of caring members who appreciate similarities and respect the differences of its members and attendees.

We are being disciples of Christ by responding with faith and gratitude, praising and serving God. We share our faith by gathering together in worship, at church activities and in service to each other and our community. We support each other in our Christian paths. As Christians we share the same basic faith - we are one in the body of Christ.

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

God is calling us to reach out (word-of-mouth) to those who are seeking a good worship place to find faith and be welcomed.

Due to the pandemic and general shutdown, we have a much smaller congregation and have engaged in parking lot car services and Zoom services. Attendance was small but it kept the faithful involved in God's work. We have had no strategic plan except to stay vital to our church and our congregation. This is a “new beginning” for us.

For example, describe two experiments your congregation has initiated or engaged in the past year, what were the results and where do you see your next steps? Has your church had a multi-year strategic plan or vision statement; if so, where do you see that plan/vision taking you?

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. *For example, what beliefs and commitments are stated in your congregation's purpose statement or membership vows? How is God most often described in worship liturgy? In what ways would you describe the Holy Spirit in your midst?*

Suggestions:

- **Our mission statement:**

*Our mission is to offer to others a caring Christian community,
as God leads us in our ministry of sharing in worship,
in fellowship, in Christian growth,
and in service to others*

- **Our Beliefs:**

At English Congregational United Church of Christ, we believe that Jesus Christ, the son of God and Savior of all who believe in him, is the sole head of this church and the Church universal. It acknowledges as brothers and sisters in Christ all who share this conviction. It looks for the Word of God in the holy Scripture, commonly known as the Bible. It seeks the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to prosper its redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Christian Church, as expressed in the ancient creeds, such as the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, and in the modern Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ, and in the basic insights of the Protestant reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the congregation in each generation to make this faith its own and to engage itself in making this faith known among those who are not committed to Christ. It recognizes and celebrates two sacraments: Holy Baptism, in which God imparts the gift of new life to human beings, receives them in fellowship as his children, and admits them to membership in the Church universal; and Holy Communion, wherein people receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ as the nourishment for the new life, are strengthened in fellowship with Christ and all believers, and confess that he has died for them. – *excerpt from the Constitution of the English Congregational United Church of Christ, Article III - Faith and Sacraments*

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation:

- We are very warm & inviting.
- Pass the Peace displays our welcoming nature.
- We have members that are dedicated to the church.
- We see ourselves as generously giving to other charities other than just the 5 to 5 Ex. the Nick Ashby Memorial, Lifespring, Hinckley Area Food Pantry, St. Jude's Ranch for abused & neglected children and Ronald McDonald House.
- We encourage our youth to be part of our worship experience.
- The pace in which we recite The Lord's Prayer is thoughtful and intentional.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers. *For example, where does worship take place and what is it based around? What was a recent baptism like? What are some words used to describe good preaching?*

- We are like a family.
- We worship in our sanctuary that was built in 1900 with beautiful stained-glass window art.
- Many enjoy a lengthy fellowship time together after worship at Coffee Hour.

Describe the educational program faith formation vision of your church. For example, how are young people in leadership? How do people continue to form their faith over a lifetime? Name a topic studied or curriculum used recently; what was the impact of this study on those who attended?

- We would like to see topics studied that would be short term. An example would be the NOOMA Sunday school DVD series by bestselling author Rob Bell that explores our world from a perspective of Jesus. We would also like to see studies of the Books of the Bible.
- We would also like to see curriculum studies that would be for the long term.

What are our Visions or Hopes for our church?

Below are the Vision Statements created and voted on each year at our Annual Meeting, one is picked and it's printed in every bulletin and that year's letterhead. The following are the Vision Statements that show where our visions and hopes were of each year:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1999: "Putting Christ First" | 2011: "Been There, Done That, Gonna Do It Again" |
| 2000: "Following God's Lead" | 2012: "Moving Forward with God's Hand" |
| 2001: "Living for Christ...Today!" | 2013: "For God's Sake, DO Something!" |
| 2002: "Celebrating God's Love" | 2014: "Reflecting God's Light" |

2003: "Sharing God's Gifts"	2015: "Our Doors are Always Open!"
2004: "Faith Lights the Way"	2016: "God Is Always With Us"
2005: "Led by the Spirit"	2017: "Sharing God's Love"
2006: "Let Go and Let God"	2018: "In Christian Love"
2007: "Faith is the Answer"	2019: "Praising God, Serving Others"
2008: "Answering God's Call"	2020: "Growing a Family of Faith"
2009: "Celebrating 150 Years of Discipleship"	2021: "Worshiping, Learning, Caring Together"
2010: "God's Leading the Way"	2022: "Renewing Our Family of Faith and Love"
	2023: "Sharing God's Love and Peace"

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

We have Ministry Groups of volunteers from the active members of the church, they are: Teaching & Learning Ministry, Worship Ministry, Nurture Ministry, Outreach Ministry, Church Operations Ministry.

For example, how are decisions communicated in your church?

Each ministry group meets monthly and the liaison for that ministry group reports back to the Executive Council when they meet monthly.

How are teams or committees organized?

Committees are organized on a volunteer basis.

Where does your church struggle for vision?

Getting other members to volunteer and attend meetings is often a struggle.

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

Usually 10-12 hours unless more hours are required.

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

Pastor led and Executive Council

Can you provide the minister with a copy of an organization structure, by-laws and/or annual report to further explain the patterns of the church's activity and governance? Yes

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT - [See Attached](#)

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	35-40	Yes
Number of active non-members:	10	Yes
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	70	Yes

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	80	Yes
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	10	Yes
Less than 5 years:	10	Yes

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
5	3	3	4	5	5	20	10	20	Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	10%	Yes
Households with minors:	5%	Yes
Single adults age 35-65:	5%	Yes
Joint households with no minors:	60%	Yes
Single adults over 65:	20%	Yes

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	99%	Yes
College:	25%	Yes
Graduate School:	15%	Yes
Specialty Training:		
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	35%	Yes
Adults who are retired:	60%	Yes
Adults who are not fully employed:	5%	Yes

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

Most working adults in the congregation are employed in blue & white collar occupations.

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

While our congregation is mostly caucasian, there are a few members/attendees from other ethnic heritages. Because of this, we would say we are diverse.

Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one in the near future (perhaps using, for example, the Welcoming Diversity Inventory)? Please note the date. Comment after the exercise:

Nothing is planned at this time.

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	5	Pastor
Baptisms <i>(number last year)</i>	4	Pastor & Moderator
Children's Groups or Classes	4 to 6	
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	77	Pastor
Church-wide Meals	2	Melissa Peters
Choirs and Music Groups	9	Choir Director
Church-based Bible Study	6	Pastor
Communion <i>(served how often?)</i>	One time/month	Pastor & Worship Ministry
Community Meals	1	Executive Council
Confirmation <i>(number confirmed last year)</i>	3	Pastor
Drama or Dance Program	6	Teaching & Learning Ministry
Funerals <i>(number last year)</i>	3	Pastor
Intergenerational Groups	0	
Outdoor Worship	2	Pastor from ECUCC & Baptist Church
Prayer or Meditation Groups	0	
Public Advocacy Work	3 to 5	Outreach Ministry
Retreats	0	
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	Nothing in Community	
Weddings <i>(number last year)</i>	0	Pastor

Worship (time slot: 10:15 am)	20 to 30	Pastor
Worship (time slot: _____)		
Young Adult Groups or Classes	None Now	Pastor
Youth Groups or Classes		
Other		

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).

We have no members or participants in our congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers.

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)

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: There are none

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
Secretary	Executive Council	Part Time	Pastor	Long Tenured
Custodian	Executive Council	Part Time	Executive Council	Long Tenured
Organist	Executive Council	Part Time	Pastor	Long Tenured
Choir Director	Executive Council	Part Time	Pastor	Long Tenured

REFLECTION

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

After reviewing the congregational demographics and activities above, the information reflects that our congregation has remained stable through the challenging times of the pandemic and the loss of inactive members of our congregation due to death or inactivity.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving We Don't Pledge	\$ 74,715.04
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$ 20,000
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	\$ NONE
Fundraising Events	\$ 470.17
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose - towards our General Fund to cover shortfall of Offerings	\$ 59,028.22

Grants	\$ 0.00
Rentals of Church Building	\$ 0.00
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$ 0.00
Support from Related Organizations (e.g. Women's Group)	\$ 0.00
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$ Jim
Other (specify):	\$ 0.00
Other (specify):	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$162,720.29

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$164,121.66

We do not make a budget at this time.

Attach the most recent church budget, spending plan, operating statement, or annual treasurer's report as shared publicly with the congregation, or – if your church does not pass an annual budget – list current budgeted expenses here. - See attached Profit & Loss Statement from the 2022 Annual Report

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? 51%

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

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year? Yes (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%) We give \$1,500.00 plus 10% of Endowment earnings

What is the church's current indebtedness?

Total amount of loan debt: \$0.00

Reason for debt:

Are capital and other payments current? Yes

If a building program is projected or underway, describe it, including the projected start/end date of the building project and the total project budget. None projected

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: The church has not had any capital campaigns in the last 10 years.

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

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe:

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

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

Does your church have an endowment? Yes

What is the market value of the assets? \$612,662.53 as of 12-19-22

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

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

Endowment withdrawals to General Fund since 2019 when established with Edward Jones:

2019, 2020 & 2021 = \$20,000 TO \$25,000

2022 = \$20,000 TO \$25,000 (same draw)

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years: [If available, we take \\$20,000 - \\$25,000 of the earnings.](#)

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last? [Indefinitely](#)

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates: [No comment](#)

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): [\\$65,008.49 as of 12-19-22 managed by Edward Jones](#)

Investments (other than endowment): [\\$ Davis Reserve \(above\) is available if needed for emergencies, however no draw has been taken in well over ten years.](#)

Does your church have a parsonage? [Yes](#)

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: [We will not be renting-Fair Market Rental Value will be decided by the Executive Council when applicable.](#)

How is the parsonage used? [residence for Pastor and family](#)

Street / City / State / Zip: [7s509 Rhodes Ave., Big Rock IL 60511](#)

Finished square footage: [2,350 estimate](#)

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms: [3 Bedrooms & 2.5 Bathrooms](#)

Assessed real estate value: [\\$301,466 \(Market Value\)](#)

Available for minister residence: [Yes](#)

Expected minister residence: [Yes](#)

Condition of structure, systems and appliances: [Good](#)

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs: [Operations](#)

[Ministry](#)

Describe all buildings owned by the church: [Church & Parsonage](#)

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church: [None](#)

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? (*worship space, pulpit, fellowship space, facilities, etc.*) [The worship space, fellowship hall, offices, and restrooms are all wheelchair accessible. Not wheelchair accessible is the front of the church entrance, the pulpit & the parsonage.](#)

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

We are financially secure & look forward to doing God's work in the community and beyond.

For example, when was a time the church made a major budget change? How is the budgeting process done? What new ministry initiative has your church financed?

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.

Three significant happenings in the history of our church are:

- Losing a Pastor to retirement after a 10 year term
- Embarking on a Capital Campaign w/Professional Fund Raisers for the Fellowship Hall
- COVID-19 – the pandemic and shutdown halted the growth we were experiencing. We did not recover all the church attendees we lost, especially the young families. To highlight the loss, our Sunday school lost about half of our students. We are rebuilding the church attendance, but are struggling to attract young families. Our social and mission groups are also struggling to recover.

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

Our work with Lifespring in Aurora, IL has been very rewarding.

Every church has conflict, some minor, some larger. "Where two or three are gathered, there will be disagreement...." Describe your congregation's values and practices when it comes to conflict. We have a Human Relations Committee that deals with the above questions.

For example, what is an example of a recent conflict and something your congregation learned from it? Describe an occasion when your church experienced conflict without being able to resolve it well. Does your church have policies, protocols or structures for dealing with conflict?)

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

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Rev. William Reigle	10	Yes
Rev. Ken Kramer, Interim	2	Deceased
Rev. Dr. Byron Henn	10	Yes
Rev. Art Zilligitt, Interim	1	Yes
Rev. Kurt Simon	28	Deceased

Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership: [We like to learn about our faith and how it relates to our everyday lives.](#)

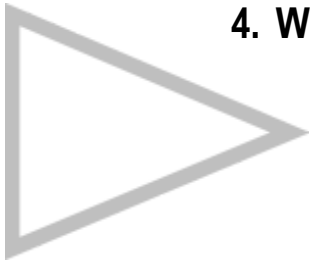
Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination? [No](#)

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

Y/N/Ask us [No](#)

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

Y/N/Ask us [No](#)



4. WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

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

- a. COMMUNITY VISION
- b. MISSION InSite

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

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

Our church family likes to be involved in the community; we do that through participating in the Community Thanksgiving Food Pantry Drive, our local Hinckley Area Food Pantry, monthly visits bringing supper to the battered women & their children being housed at LifeSpring and we also take a collection on the first Sunday of every month called Change-Up Sundae to send kids to church camp.

*For example, which service activities has your church participated in this past year?
Where has the church participated in global connections of care and justice? What is currently transformational in your church's engagement with neighbors near or far?*

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

Various members, along with our Pastor, have attended and hosted association, conference and national meetings over the 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.

- ☐ 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?

Our congregation participates in food pantry drives, LifeSpring Ministry, Nick Ashby Fund for seminary student counseling, Crop Walk, 5 for 5 donations, a Turkey Drive at Thanksgiving. We knit prayer shawls and prayer pockets for a local hospital. We sponsor church camp attendees. We also host monthly Boy Scout meetings. We have never been approached by our Conference or Association as to opportunities for relating the above statements to our community work.

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

Our congregation is very faithful & active when we are invited to attend & participate with surrounding churches Vacation Bible School, Community Worship Services such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the local Plowing Match and instrumental in a Christmas Musical show. We also participate with local churches for the Crop Walk.

If your congregation has a mission statement, how does that mission statement compare to the actual time spent engaging in different activities? Think of the range of activities from time spent gathering, to governance, to time spent going out.

Our Mission Statement: "Our mission is to offer to others a caring Christian community, as God leads us in our ministry of sharing in worship, in fellowship, in Christian growth and in service to others."

The mission statement is reflective of time spent engaging in different activities as is evidenced by the church's involvement in service to those at Lifespring (a battered woman & children facility)

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 priority is for our pastor to minister to our immediate church needs: worship services, committee meetings, visits with our members, etc. We encourage outward involvement as time allows, and hope to have our pastor recognized by the folks in our community.

4b. MISSION InSite

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

Our congregation's MissionInsite report, dated 12/19/22, included a study area of 10 miles around the ECUCC in Big Rock, IL. Nearby towns included in the MissionInsite Report are Hinckley, Sugar Grove, Sandwich, Plano, Yorkville, and parts of Aurora, IL.

Noteworthy information in the ReligiousInsite Priorities Report showed in the Beliefs about God section that there remains a "Very Strong Agreement" that "God is love and invites the world into a loving relationship." In that same section, the report also shows there remains "Strong Agreement" that "I have a relationship with one living God." This information could show that the opportunity exists to reach people, and that the opportunity exists to draw new people into worship at the ECUCC.

The QuickInsite portion of the MissionInsite Report gave demographic data. Information from 2022 showed that 73% of the households in our study area were Married Couples. The QuickInsite report also said that the average population age from the surveyed area was 34 years in 2022. A last piece of noteworthy information from this same report shows the following percentages by population in 2022: Singles and Young Families (ages 25-34) - 11%, Families and Empty Nesters (ages 35-54) = 26%, Enrichment Years Singles/Couples (ages 55-64) = 12%, and Retirement Opportunities (age 65 and over) = 14%. This demographic information indicates that there is the opportunity to draw in individuals from our surrounding communities that may help achieve one of our ministry goals.

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?

Our church's demographic is much older than its surrounding neighborhoods, other churches and the town of Big Rock. The church is made up of mostly retirees, while the neighborhoods are composed of younger families.

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

The community is currently not shaping our ministry, although it is our goal to draw in new and younger attendees and families from the community and surrounding areas.

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

While the Search Committee did reach out to community leaders to ask about what our church was known for, we received little information. Those asked either couldn't say what we were known for, or stated that they did not hear people talking about our church. This lack of information caused us to wonder as to why there is so little "out there" about the ECUCC.

One possibility was there are many people who are new to our community. Therefore, they wouldn't have knowledge of our church. Another thought is that in this day and age, topics like politics and religion are just not discussed in public. A last speculation has to do with the fact that many of our community members are related. Therefore, things like religion are not discussed in public, as maybe those topics are (or are not) discussed at home. Whatever the reason, we found it difficult to find information from community leaders about ECUCC.

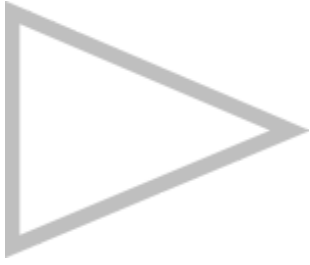
What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved?

When the Search Committee surveyed the congregation about why they got involved with the church, we received several positive responses. A couple responses that stood out included that our members are friendly and that our worship family is nice! We were happy to see those positive responses repeated. Other reasons people got involved in our church included having a desire to learn the Bible, the Sunday School program, the location of our church, and having been a member of another UCC.

Included in our survey was a question asking the congregation what they would say about our ECUCC. Again, we received many positive responses. People repeatedly stated to give us a try,

and if you come to worship one time, you will return to worship again. The “friendly” theme stood out again. One person stated that the ECUCC is the “friendliest and most welcoming church.” Another invited others to “Join our family of friends and fellowship.” Another person accurately stated that we are “experiencing a new beginning. Come experience with us.”

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.”

REFERENCE 1

[John Omerod / Retired / Clergy](#)

[\(815-761-3910 / jckburbnk@yahoo.com / Bridge Pastor\)](#)

REFERENCE 2

[Bob Drawz / Retired / Maintenance](#)

[\(630-337-3866 / drawz4@msn.com / Intermittent Non-Member Attender\)](#)

REFERENCE 3

[Pam Kula / Church Secretary / Corporate - *see attached Reference Letter*](#)

[\(Telephone / Email / Non-Member\)](#)

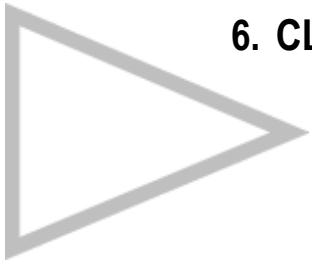
PROMPTS FOR REFERENCES

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

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

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

Anything else you wish to share.



6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

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

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

Include here any prayer or dream for the minister you imagine journeying toward you... a poem, for example, or a Scripture passage or a piece of music that is meaningful to your Search Committee:

We pray that the new pastor has a God-given vision for how to minister to the church family of English Congregational United Church of Christ and minister to the surrounding community to bring many into the walls of our beautiful 1900-built church/sanctuary that want to learn about Jesus; becoming a member of our church family.

6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

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

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

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

[Executive Council & Search Committee](#)

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

[None](#)

Signed: [Mik Pete](#)

[Mike Peters](#) / [Executive Council Moderator](#) / Date: [May 5, 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