

Mini-Church Profile for Bridge Minister

There are times in the life of the church when we are in need of a pastoral leadership that can “bridge” a gap in time and help a congregation get from one point to another. This mini-profile helps possible candidates learn more about your church and if their skills match your needs. We encourage your church council to complete this mini-church profile for prospective candidates that covers these essential questions:

1. Why is the congregation seeking a Bridge Minister at this time? (a few sentences)
Our current pastor of 10 years made the difficult decision to resign and move to California to care for her mother. We have spent the last year doing discernment work to name our “why” — our purpose for existing. It came down to a simple statement: “We are changing the world for good.” We aim to move forward with our intention despite the setback of losing our minister.
2. What are the qualities of the pastor you are seeking?
We are seeking a progressive pastor who has a passion for working with those in the community who are underserved and may benefit from our love and support. Our focus is on serving the LGBTQ community, people experiencing homelessness, those living in poverty, and immigrants who are struggling to live in a mostly conservative community.

What are the main tasks/responsibilities you want the bridge minister to do?

Planning and leading our worship services.

Guiding the congregation towards appropriate next steps.

3. Are there priorities that you want the transitional/bridge pastor to focus on?
Assisting the Leadership Team in navigating the aftermath of our minister’s sudden departure and helping us develop future goals for our church.
4. Does the congregation have mission/purpose statement and or core values?
Our “Five Smooth Stones” have been our guiding principles since our inception in 2013. (See enclosed for details.)

How would you describe the church theologically, key issues that the congregation cares about.

We are an open and affirming church who strives to live into the declaration that “no matter who you are, or where you are in life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

We are indeed a 21st-century church that “does church differently.” We have never had a permanent building, choosing to share space with other faith communities or, most recently, renting space in the Ute Indian Museum for our Sunday services. We gather around tables and include special features in our services, such as “Spirit Sightings” (where did you see God this week?) and a closing circle where we hold hands for the benediction.

5. How many members are in the congregation?
We currently have 15 members and 18 pledging units. The large majority of our congregation is retired. We currently have no children or youth members.



6. What is the compensation you can offer and whether you seek full time or part time – if part time, how does church define that?

We have been paying our current pastor on a part-time basis of 20 hours per week. Depending on whether the bridge minister wants to commute to Montrose to provide pulpit supply and occasionally meet with the Leadership Team, or if they want to live here and work as a part-time minister, we are prepared to compensate them accordingly:

Commuting to Montrose	Part-Time Minister
\$200 stipend as guest preacher	Salary based on RMC compensation guidelines
Mileage or expense reimbursement	Benefits to be negotiated
Lodging to be negotiated	

We are not concerned about advanced degrees and are open to a lay leader or someone who isn't yet ordained.

7. Thumbprint of your community. What do you love about living in your community? What makes it a great place to live?

Montrose is a small conservative community with approximately 35,000 in Montrose County. At 5790' elevation, we enjoy four seasons of mild weather. Located in the Uncompahgre Valley between the Grand Mesa and the beautiful San Juan Mountains with our very own national park (Black Canyon of the Gunnison), there is ample opportunity to take in the outdoors by driving less than an hour in any direction. The Montrose community is also experiencing a growing cultural arts scene, with new galleries and museums emerging. We have a full-service municipal airport with daily flights to several cities, including Denver. For a relatively small community, there are plenty of opportunities to engage with people of all political and religious beliefs.

We invite any interested candidates to visit our website (communityspiritucc.org) and Facebook page (facebook.com/communityspiritucc.org) to learn more about us.



SIMPLY STATED.

These bold claims and commitments are what make us a distinctive and compelling faith community.

These are our guiding principles, our “five smooth stones”.

Love Wins.

Hate, fear, or injustice don't get the last word — God's love does. Always.

This World Matters.

The afterlife can wait — love and care for all creation pleases God now.

Bring Your Brain.

Keen, questioning minds are not a threat to faith — they enrich it.

Spiritual and Religious.

In our faith community, scripture and tradition come alive — as does our connection to God.

Free to Be.

Be fully yourself here. You are God's unique gift to us.

