



## Brief Church Profile

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**Grace UCC of Loyal Oak**  
3285 Cleveland Massillon Road, Norton, Ohio 44203  
Phone: (330)825-3259

### 1. WHO ARE WE TODAY – *description of who you are as a church, and your vision and mission statement*

We are a church with a mission - to follow Jesus, loving our God and Neighbors. Although struggling, like many other congregations, to continue to do ministry in our current setting, we are committed to our basic vision of helping all people in the community to lead a mentally, physically and spiritually healthy lifestyle.

Our congregation was one of the first 15 churches in the UCC to be certified as an Open and Affirming Congregation in 1987. Since then we have also been certified as a Just Peace congregation and as an Eco-Justice Congregation.

### 2. WE LIVE OUT OUR VISION AND MISSION THROUGH THE FOLLOWING – *worship, faith formation, care and fellowship, mission and outreach opportunities:*

Worship, Sunday School, supporting Recovery groups such as AA, Al Anon, and NA, supporting local food banks, assisting immigrant families, providing working space for a childcare service (Latch Key) and PreSchool services (All About Kids). We also house a Mennonite church which lost their building. We support families in need at Thanksgiving, Christmas and other special times.

### 3. STATISTICAL DATA

- Active Membership:   57
  - Total Reported Membership:   42
  - Sunday Worship average attendance:   30
  - Average Church School Attendance   6
  - Members serving on Boards and Committees (DO NOT include small groups):   9
  - Mission outreach giving, annual:   6   % of the budget
  - Our church's annual plan for resourcing the ministry (budget):   110,000
  - Number of staff persons serving the church:   2
- List staff positions:            Pastor and Janitor

### 4. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME TRENDS IN THE CHURCH FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS?

We have experienced financial difficulties, loss of membership and an aging congregation. Approximately 50% of members are older than 55.

**5. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME TRENDS in the larger community/town in which the church is located?**

Norton is a small city, southwest of Akron, and it boasts close proximity to Metro Parks, lake campgrounds, and good public schools. The population of Norton was 11,523 at the 2000 census. The area has experienced the growth of Mega Churches which attract young people with families.

**6. THE SPECIFIC MINISTRIES/ISSUES YOU EXPECT YOUR NEXT PASTOR to address during their tenure -including the gifts, talents, and skills and leadership style you are looking for in your next pastor**

We would welcome a pastor with a high energy level and a deep sense of call. We are willing to try new approaches and expect our pastor to do so as well, working with our consistory team. We expect our pastor to remain actively in touch with our members (telephone call, emails, & face to face), deliver uplifting sermons, and be technologically savvy

**7. PROVIDE AN ESTIMATED COMPENSATION RANGE you are offering in dollar amounts. If less than full-time, specify the hours of work.**

Compensation range: 50,000 to 55,000

Do you follow Conference Compensation guidelines?  We regret that we cannot

Rhonda McGuire  
Consistory President

March 25, 2024  
Date

**8. COMMENTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION**

  
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Signature of Association Staff

March 28, 2024  
Date

Association Staff member assisting:

Rev. Nayiri Karjian, General Minister

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