

## Search and Call Tools for Congregations

Advancing the Spirit's guidance into God's future

# INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Who  
are  
we

Who  
is our  
neighbor

Who is  
God  
calling us  
to become

?

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

MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE,  
SUPPORT & AUTHORIZATION

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

First Congregational Church of Whitman  
Whitman, MA

Settled Minister

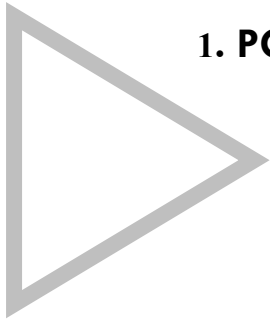
Southern New England Conference UCC – Massachusetts, Pilgrim Association

Revised April 16, 2024

### LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

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- Who Is God Calling Us To Become?
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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)*



## 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

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Church name: First Congregational Church of Whitman  
Street address: 519 Washington Street, Whitman, MA 02382  
Supplemental web links: <http://www.uccwhitman.org>

Additional ecumenical affiliations (*e.g. denominations, communions, fellowships*):

Conference: Southern New England Conference UCC - Massachusetts  
Association: Pilgrim Association  
UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person (Rev. Dr. Patty Kogut, Area Conference Minister, Southeast Region, [kogutp@sneucc.org](mailto:kogutp@sneucc.org) (508-244-4416))

#### Summary Ministry Description:

Being the oldest established church in Whitman since 1807, we would like to see our church continue to be an integral and spiritual force in the community and be around for our 300-year anniversary. We are searching for a vibrant leader who helps this church move forward in creating a body of faithful Christians. Like many churches in these times, membership and financial constraints have necessitated a transition to a ¾ time ministry. Our church has a small membership that is dedicated and determined to be God's presence in the world.

#### Photographs:



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

Whitman is home to the beautiful Olmstead Park, a vibrant town center, and the commuter rail to Boston. It is close to two hospitals and many medical facilities. Whitman has two elementary schools and a regional high school and many programs for youth.

Current size of membership: 59

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*):

Position Title: Settled Minister

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*):

$\frac{3}{4}$  Time – 32 hours

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? Yes

## 1b. SCOPE OF WORK

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The scope of work would include, but not be limited to, preparation and leadership of Sunday worship, provide pastoral care and guidance for those in need, officiate the sacraments and rites, faith formation, community engagement, strategic planning, and faithful financial development and stewardship.

Core Competencies:

Effective speaker and preacher

Help people develop their spiritual life

Helpful counselor

Comfortable making pastoral calls

Effective in working with children

## 1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

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The overall compensation package is estimated to be worth approximately \$89,000, which includes a cash salary of \$30,300 along with an 8-room parsonage that includes an attached 2-car garage, building maintenance, and utilities. In addition, competitive benefits include annuity, Minister's half of Social Security (7.65%), auto allowance, life insurance, and 72 hours paid time off. Support toward health insurance can be determined if the minister needs it.

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?

Parsonage plus up to \$8,900 toward utilities.

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

Parsonage is 8/10 mile from the church in a beautiful rural setting. Living close to the church will create bonds with residents and church residents.

State any incentives - to be determined.

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference:

Pastoral Relations Committee, Southern New England Conference

If applicable, describe how your church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment:

## 1d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

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Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

We are looking for a vibrant leader, one who increases our community outreach and service, thus expanding membership in the congregation, and provide pastoral care and comfort through visitation and outreach.

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

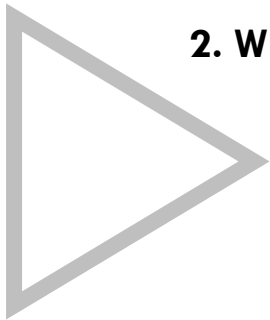
Accomplishment of these goals will be characterized by positive response from the congregation and an increase in membership and visibility in the community.

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

N/A

Based on what you have learned about who your church is, who your church's neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, describe four areas of excellence from *The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry* that your next minister will display to further equip the congregation's ministry in these areas.

- Preaching and worship
- Pastoral care
- Christian Education
- Administration



## **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?

At First Congregational Church of Whitman UCC, we love God, Jesus, and each other. We welcome all of God's children by embracing our diversities and providing a community of love and spiritual fulfillment. Through faith, we see the light of God and share that light with the entire world. We do covenant one with another to give ourselves unreservedly to His service and to take this to be our church. Ever mindful of the welfare of our fellow members, we promise to walk with them in faithfulness and Christian love. We promise, so far as able, to attend the services of this church, observe its sacraments; share in its work; support, and mission; and endeavor to make it a fruitful body of Christians.

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

- Monthly - Bag lunches for Mainspring House
- “The Chosen” Bible Study
- Deacons send out cards to the sick or injured; outreach to lapsed members
- A room at Conway House in Middleboro (Father Bill’s & Mainspring)
- Christian book club
- Strategic Planning, Spring 2023

### 3. WHO ARE WE NOW?

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

- CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS
- CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
- STAFFING (Not on
- CHURCH FINANCES
- HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### 3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

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Describe your congregation’s life of faith.

We love God, Jesus, and each other. We welcome all of God’s children by embracing our diversities and providing a community of love and spiritual fulfillment. Through faith, we see the light of God and share that light with the entire world. Together we will: 1) worship God with a joyful blend of Scripture, music, and prayer, 2) actively seek to know and love one another, 3) respond to God’s love in a spirit of generosity, and 4) strive to be the hands and heart of Christ in our world. We will do all these things while remembering that no matter who you are or where you are or where you are in life’s journey, you are welcome here.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

We work collectively for missions and fundraising.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

Worship takes place in the sanctuary. We have an amazing Music Director who leads the congregation in song. Members gather downstairs after the service in Fellowship Hall for coffee

and snacks. Child care can be provided in the nursery for ages 4 and under. We provide services on Facebook Live.

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

Classes are organized as follows: Pre-K and K class, grades 1-3, grades 4-6, grades 7 and up. A Biblical curriculum is provided.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

Positions on committees are voluntary. Active committees are:

- Governing Board
- Deacons
- Trustees
- Stewardship & Finance
- Christian Education
- Missions
- Pastoral Relations
- Fundraising/publicity

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 – Besides the By-Laws and Annual Report, we have a formal organizational chart.

### **3b. 11-YEAR REPORT**

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*(add here the 11-Year Report developed with the help of your conference staff, UCC Data Hub, and MissionInsite)*

We do not have one.

### **3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS**

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Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	58	Yes



Number of active non-members:	1	No
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	59	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:	73%	Yes
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	17%	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>
1	4	0	0	8	8	12	18	8	Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	0%	Yes
Households with minors:	6%	Yes
Single adults age 35-65:	10%	Yes
Joint households with no minors:	11%	Yes
Single adults over 65:	15%	Yes

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	44%	Yes
College:	27%	Yes
Graduate School:	5%	Yes
Specialty Training:	5%	Yes

Other (please specify):		
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Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	41%	Yes
Adults who are retired:	46%	Yes
Adults who are not fully employed:	5%	Yes

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

Retired minister, Chief Financial Officer, manager, electrician, nurses, teachers, IT, and even a clown (really!)

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?

Diversity is racial, age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic.

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

Not yet.

### **3d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING**

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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	14	Adult Bible Study, Thursday Night

		Alive, The Chosen, Christian Book Club
Baptisms ( <i>number last year</i> )	1	Pastor and Deacons
Children's Groups or Classes	4-5	Christian Education
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	50	
Church-wide Meals	1 or 2	Deacons, Christian Education
Choirs and Music Groups	3	
Church-based Bible Study	7-10	
Communion ( <i>served how often?</i> )	First Sunday/mo	
Community Meals	0	Under consideration
Confirmation ( <i>number confirmed last year</i> )	5	
Drama or Dance Program	N/A	
Funerals ( <i>number last year</i> )	5	
Intergenerational Groups	0	
Outdoor Worship	0	
Prayer or Meditation Groups	1	
Public Advocacy Work	0	
Retreats	0	
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	0	We did not offer Vacation Bible School last year.
Weddings ( <i>number last year</i> )	0	
Worship (time slot: 10:00 a.m. Sunday)	25	
Worship (time slot: 10:00-11:00)		
Young Adult Groups or Classes	0	
Youth Groups or Classes	0	

Other		
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Additional comments:

List all members or regular participants in your congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers. Indicate those with current United Church of Christ Three-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a congregation) or Four-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a ministry beyond a congregation).

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
Kathy Talbot	Unknown		Church Member occasionally leads service	Yes

If one or more previous pastors or retired ministers currently hold membership in the church, describe their role(s) in the life of the congregation:

Occasionally leads service, sings in choir, attends some meetings

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	No	PT - \$17,500	Pastor or Board Pres.	No current pastor, Board Pres. 6 years
Music Director	No	PT - \$11,000	Pastor	1 year
Outside Cleaning Service	No	\$14,300	Trustees	Outside contract

## REFLECTION

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

We need more members to volunteer. A Strategic Plan has been devised with plans to involve a marketing firm and event planner.

### 3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$ 82,067.97 Contrib, Loose, Initial, Easter, Tkvg, Christmas
Endowment Proceeds ( <i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i> )	\$ 20,000 in FY23
Endowment Draw ( <i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, “drawing down the principal”</i> )	\$ See above
Fundraising Events	\$ 6,574.70 Vendor Fair, Pumpkin Patch
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$ 12,645 (Mem’l.)
Grants	\$ N/A
Rentals of Church Building	\$5,000 (Dance, Weddings, etc.)
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$ N/A
Support from Related Organizations ( <i>e.g. Women’s Group</i> )	\$
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$3,933.33
Other (specify):	\$

Other (specify):	\$
TOTAL	\$130,221.00

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year):

\$141,911

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

\$40,160+ \$8,900 utilities = \$49,060 - 35% of total FY23 budget (\$141,900)

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church?

No

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

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)

One Great Hour of Sharing

Strengthen the Church

Neighbors in Need

Christmas Fund

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

By members' wishes and included with pledges/contributions.

What is the church's current indebtedness?

Total amount of loan debt: None

Reason for debt: N/A

Are capital and other payments current? N/A

If a building program is projected or underway, describe it, including the projected start/end date of the building project and the total project budget. N/A

Parsonage is being updated (maintenance work).

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

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
2022-23	Mechanical Equipment for church & parsonage	\$7-10,000	\$ 8,126	Needed upgrades to church and parsonage
		\$	\$	

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.

Purchase needed equipment for the church (new music system and professional vacuum cleaner) and for the parsonage (gas generator and 2 air conditioners).

Does your church have an endowment? Yes

What is the market value of the assets? \$850,885.83

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

As needed. We are currently drawing down \$5,000/quarter to supplement revenue that supports the operating budget (\$20,000 annually).

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

We did not have an endowment 5 years ago, rather CD's. We did not withdraw money from these CDs.

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years:

See above - \$5,000/quarter, \$20,000/annual.

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

This is impossible to answer because only *some* of the endowed funds can be drawn. Several funds within the endowment are limited as to their use (e.g., elevator, music, etc.), and some funds are set up to draw earnings only.

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

#### Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$ 0

Investments (other than endowment): \$ N/A

Does your church have a parsonage? Yes

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: \$39,600 (\$3,300/month in Whitman)

How is the parsonage used? Minister's home

Street / City / State / Zip: 357 Harvard Street, Whitman, MA

Finished square footage 2,340 sq. ft.

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms: 4 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths

Attached Garage 2-car

Assessed real estate value: \$600,000

Available for minister residence: Y/N Yes

Expected minister residence: Y/N Yes

Condition of structure, systems and appliances Well maintained

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs Trustees

Describe all buildings owned by the church:

Church and 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.*)



Sanctuary for worship, Fellowship Hall, restrooms, elevator

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

First Congregational Church of Whitman has an investment firm to manage our endowment funds.

### 3f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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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.

- We celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sunday School in 2019.
- In 2018, the church has transitioned to part-time ministry – currently  $\frac{3}{4}$  time at 32 hours
- Church attendance was negatively impacted by COVID although services are now streamed online.

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

See above – change to  $\frac{3}{4}$  time ministry.

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 value open communication.

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

Staff member’s name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
W. Scott Wasdin (2020-2023)	2.5	No
Joshua Gray (2012-2018)	6	Yes
Gary Hauze	9	Yes
Jordan Dickinson	12	Yes

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

Adapting to personal growth of the pastor.

Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination?

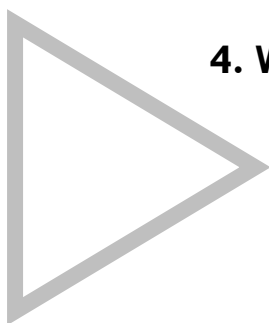
No

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

Yes - to assist with transition to part-time ministry.

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**

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

- Whitman Food Pantry
- Mainspring House Meal Support
- Conway House
- Operation Christmas Box
- Scout Sunday
- Our Great Hour of Sharing
- Heifer Project
- Pumpkin Patch
- Veterans Day Service
- Adult Bible Study
- Adult Book Club

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

One Ecumenical service a year

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](http://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 type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming            | <input type="checkbox"/> WISE Congregation for Mental Health   |
| <input 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?

No

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

None

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

We engage in Fellowship each Sunday following worship and invite the wider community to attend Adult Bible Study, book club, Thursday Night Alive. Communion is served on the first Sunday of the month. The Board and our committees each devote a good deal of time carrying out their mission from administration, fiscal health, building care, preparing and carrying out worship services, and providing a well-thought-out Christian education. Men have a monthly breakfast at a local restaurant, and women participate in a similar activity that meets a few times a year.

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?

Not specifically quantified/accounted for – minister is part-time.

#### **4b. MISSION InSite**

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

We don't have one.

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?

Very similar

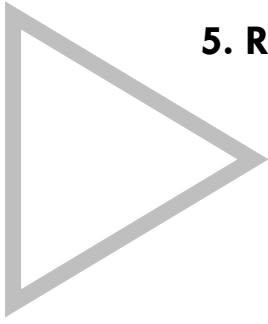
How are the demographics of the community currently shaping ministry, or not? Not

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

Outdoor events in our church yard.

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

Members are welcoming to newcomers.



## 5. REFERENCES

Name up to three people who have agreed to serve as phone and written references. Advise the three references: “The contact information you provide may be shared publicly. Please use contact information that you feel comfortable giving to candidates so they can reach you with their questions.”

Make sure they are not members of your church but are persons who know your church well enough to be helpful to candidates seeking more information. Request a letter from each reference in answer to the four prompts below. Attach the letters (up to three) as desired.

### REFERENCE 1

Rev. Richard Giragosian, Pulpit Supply Minister  
598-320-8228

I have had the opportunity and privilege of serving First Congregational Church, UCC in Whitman off and on as Supply Minister for the past few years. Sharing and leading in worship has provided me with some insight into who they are and the shape of ministry they seek. They have been a true pleasure to work with in shaping worship and helping in leading the service. As a congregation they embody a deep sense of gratitude for the time-tested theological principles as well as new ideas that stretch their thinking. I appreciate the insights and other comments shared during coffee hour and at impromptu moments. And I know they hunger for more opportunities to support and share their lives with each other and the community.

As a congregation, they desire to be led in mission. The new settled pastor must help provide a vision of ministry and mission, because to a person, they seek to make a difference and that is the reason this interim period has been somewhat difficult. Opportunities for service have been fewer, though on their own, and especially through COVID, they have made a substantial effort to serve the church and community.

They are ready and eagerly seek the renewal a pastor who spends time with them in one-to-one encounters and committee life will offer. They are unfailingly kind and are ready to roll up their sleeves and strengthen not only First Congregational Church but the United Church of Christ. Should you wish any other information, do not hesitate to contact me.

## REFERENCE 2

James Davidson, Treasurer, Whitman Food Pantry  
781-447-8560 - Church collects/donates food for pantry

I am pleased to be able to inform you of our excellent working relationship with the First Congregational Church of Whitman. Since 1990 when we decided to open a town-wide food pantry, the church has been there to support our efforts.

Five members of the church joined us to serve families on a monthly basis as needed. They would contact those that needed help, meet them at the pantry, and fill their food needs for a ten-day period. They would also talk with the families to make sure they have applied for all government programs for which they were qualified. In addition, the five would help with the monthly food orders received from the Greater Boston Food Bank.

The five members would also work with their church to arrange periodic food collections and toys and gift cards for the families at Christmas. The church also supports the pantry with cash donations that help with the monthly expenses.

As time passed, the Boy Scouts and the Post Office started annual food drives which brought in an assortment of food the pantry needed, and the five would assist with the collection and sorting.

## REFERENCE 3

Maureen Haley, Owner, Haley School of Irish Dance  
781-447-3081 - Tenant, Fellowship Hall

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the First Congregational Church of Whitman as they seek to fill the ministerial position. Having been a long-standing tenant of their facilities for the past six years, I can attest first-hand to the remarkable qualities of their church community.

Renting the hall from the First Congregational Church has been an absolute pleasure. The process has always been straightforward and hassle-free, thanks to the efficiency and professionalism of the staff. Their dedication to maintaining the facilities in excellent condition has created a welcoming and accommodating environment for various events and gatherings.

In terms of ease of collaboration, the First Congregational Church has been incredibly pleasant to do business with. The members of the congregation exhibit warmth, kindness, and a genuine desire to assist whenever needed. Whether it's addressing minor issues with keys or offering

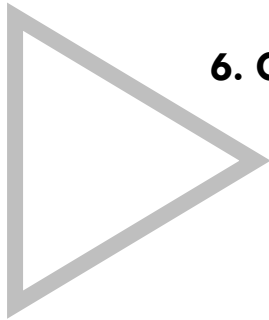
support during challenging times, I have consistently experienced a level of care and consideration that is truly commendable.

Over the years, there have been numerous memorable moments where the First Congregational Church has extended a helping hand beyond the scope of a typical landlord-tenant relationship. Whenever there were challenges or uncertainties, members of the congregation would readily offer assistance, giving above and beyond to ensure that everything ran smoothly. I distinctly remember instances where individuals from the church community stopped what they were doing to lend a hand or provide words of encouragement during times of need. Additionally, during a difficult period when my family faced sickness, the outpouring of concerns and prayers from the congregation was deeply touching and greatly appreciated.

In reflecting on my experiences with the First Congregational Church, I am struck by the genuine sense of community and compassion that permeates every interaction. The church embodies the principles of love, service, and fellowship, making it a truly special place to be a part of.

As they compile the church profile to seek prospective ministers, I wholeheartedly endorse the First Congregational Church as an exceptional place of worship and service. I believe that any minister would be fortunate to join this community and contribute to the impactful work they are doing.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information or if I can be of assistance in any way. Thank you for considering my input as the church embarks on this important endeavor.



## 6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

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

### 6a. CLOSING PRAYER

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*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:*

### 6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

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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.)*

Search Committee and church members via survey/questionnaire.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed: Elaine MacAskill – Chair, Search Committee – March 8, 2024



## 6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment: Yes

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

Staff Comment: Yes

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

Staff Comment: Yes

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:	<b>Rev. Dr. Patricia Kogut</b>
Title:	Rev. Patty Kogut, Area Conference Minister, SE Region
Email:	<a href="mailto:kogutp@sneucc.org">kogutp@sneucc.org</a>
Phone:	508-244-4416
Date:	April 16, 2024

**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***