

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

Lake Fork United Church of Christ
Atwood, Illinois

Pastor

Illinois Conference, Eastern Association

[March 11, 2024]

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

- Position Posting
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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

Church name: Lake Fork United Church of Christ

Street address: 345 N. 1475 East Road. PO BPOx863. Atwood, Il 61913

Supplemental web links: [Facebook.com/LakeForkUCC](https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkUCC)

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

Conference: Illinois Conference

Association: Eastern Association

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

Shirnell Edney

Summary Ministry Description:

In a short paragraph, reflect on where your church is going and what it might look like when you get there. What do you need to get there? Who are you seeking to join you on this part of your church's faith journey?

We are a small church of faith seeking to do God's work in our community. Our focus is outside the walls of our church providing services to our local community of Atwood, Hammond and Arthur. We seek someone to encourage us to reach further into our community. We are actively searching for a candidate with ideas, energy, and a willingness to work with us. We believe that God is still speaking to us.

Photographs:

Insert 1 – 3 images of your church, its people, its parsonage or building or gathering space, etc.



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

We value our small rural community where we know and help each other. Our Grade school provides a great educational start to our youth with a High School in a neighboring town. While rural, we have many local shops, businesses and activities to meet our daily needs and we are within driving distance (30-40 miles) to cities with employment opportunities and extended shopping availability.

Current size of membership: 34

Languages used in ministry (other than English) :

Position Title: **Pastor**

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) :

48% Time \$38,000 negotiable

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? **Yes for 45% time.**

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

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

Lead Worship each Sunday, attending Council and deacon meetings, other meetings as needed. Hospital calls and visits to shut-ins. Participate in AHAAC. Attend church wide events. Be involved with the conference as time permits. Attend Community events as able. The church is a member of the local chamber of commerce and we would like them to attend those meetings if time permits. Help us as a congregation in new member outreach.

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.)

The three Core Competencies we have selected are:

Transformational Leadership: Even though we are a small, rural congregation, our ministry is not in the building but out in the wider community. The issues of rural poverty, food stress, addictions and abuse are real concerns. The church is taking baby steps to understand and expand its ministry to address these issues. We need leadership that empowers us to transform and organize our skills and abilities to continue this ever present ministry.

Understanding of issues and concerns of rural settings: As a rural church we are very in tune with the cycle of planting and harvest, school activities, and other community events. When tragedies happen in this community we all are impacted. Additionally we are thankful when the s is completed and no one is hurt. This is a different culture from that of an urban/suburban church.

Organized, caring and sensitive: With a part time minister, we need someone who is organized when working with the Church Council and committees, planning Sunday and special services, and engaging with the conference and community. At the same time this person will need to have compassion and sensitivity when dealing with members in a crisis.

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis *(from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/Housing Allowance)* : \$38,000 Benefits Negotiable

Benefits *(choose one)* :

Salary plus Benefits

Salary includes Optional Benefits

No 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)* ?

We have a recently remodeled parsonage across the cemetery from the church. This is optional.

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

There are several houses available for rent or purchase in the area and in the cities of Champaign, Urbana and Decatur (30-45 minutes away) for easy commuting.

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

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

The Sun Rise Cluster is for ministers in the region meeting once a month. A community of practice available through the Association.

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

We have had part time clergy for the past 8 years. We are flexible and fairly self-sufficient. Our meeting times for Church Council and committees can be arranged around the schedule of the minister if needed. Pulpit supply is available when Sundays off are needed.

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.

To provide meaningful worship services based on scripture but also relating those scriptures to the present day. Conduct bible studies to strengthen the congregation's understanding of the bible. Visits to shut-ins on an as needed or wanted basis.

Encourage our efforts to reach beyond our walls and foster new projects within our abilities. Working with the congregation in new member outreach.

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

The minister we seek will be visible in the community, active in our local association of churches, and have the ability to seek and find other opportunities for our church to do God's work.

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 predominant, however more Hispanic people are moving to the area so some Spanish language ability would be helpful.

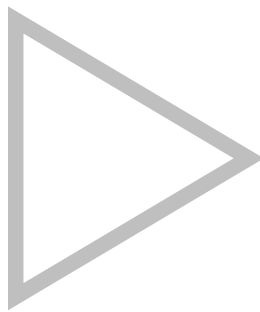
Based on what you have learned about who your church is, who your church's neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, describe four areas of excellence from *The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry* that your next minister will display to further equip the congregation's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

Based on the "Marks", the foremost one is the first. "Exhibiting a Spiritual Foundation and Ongoing Spiritual Practice." Specifically the Loving God, Following Jesus Christ, and being guided by the Holy Spirit; Praying actively and nurturing spiritual practices; understanding the power of the Holy Spirit are the most important to our congregation.

Caring for All Creation is the second "Mark" we identified. Wellness and self-care of our minister and ourselves is important. As a farming community we understand the need to care for the earth and its animals. We also feel that stewarding the resources of the church is important and focus our budgeting process on this.

Engaging in Sacred Stories and Traditions is the next "Mark" that spoke to us. We want sermons based on scripture, the stories of those our faith was built on. We have a story to tell about our own congregation founded 180 years ago till today. Story has a greater impact than a list of rules.

The final "Mark" is Strengthening Inter- and Intra- Personal Assets. All of the points listed under this "Mark" we easily relate to. From babies to our 98 year old members all are important and due respect and dignity.



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?

We are not being called to be a destination church. While we have a beautiful building that we have maintained, it is just a place where we worship in the middle of a cemetery and corn fields. We, the members of the congregation, are called to service. Our annual Pork Chop BBQ has sponsored local High School and College Scholarships for over 40 years. The local food pantry and Christmas needy fund

have also been supported. The Sunday School Children have raised funds in support of the Heifer Project. We are a servant congregation reaching out locally to help others.

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

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?

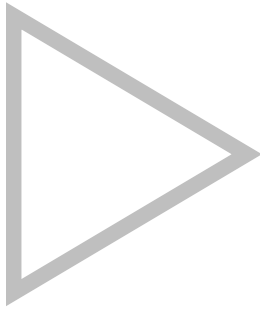
The first experiment was two years ago when we held our first Cemetery Walk. Lake Fork is the oldest Church in Piatt County. Samuel and Daniel Harshbarger, two of our founding members, are buried in our cemetery (actually owned by the County). Six grave sites are selected for the walk which takes about 20-25 minutes. People learn a little history about the person, how they are related to the church and their place in history. We do not have a charge for the program and even serve cookies. Many conversations are held before, during, and after the walks.

Our Micro Panty is our second experiment. The pantry was built by a local Amish company and put into service in August 2022. A Micro Pantry is not intended to feed a family for a week but to provide emergency items such as food, diapers, hygiene items, even a little cat and dog food, etc. before the next paycheck. A flier went out to all households in the community and use has been growing. We are happy to meet the needs of people without a loss of dignity. Our church is 3 miles out of town and the pantry is to the side of the church. It is anonymous you come and take what you need.

We do not have a strategic plan. We plan each year and our activities ebb and flow based on the seasons. We do have a Vision Statement. It was written about 6-7 years ago and we feel it still is our focus of where and what we are to be as the last words say.

Vision Statement for Lake Fork UCC

Lake Fork UCC is a Christian Community giving God the credit for all the blessings we receive. We listen for the way God calls us to serve. We lean on God's promises as we share God's love and grace with all people. We actively pray, searching for ways to benefit other's lives. God asks us to: listen – embrace – serve.



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? **We welcome all to our church, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We embrace people who come and bring something to the game. Those people that participate, take part in our activities and help us to serve others.***

God is the head of the church but equal to the son and Holy Spirit. God creates, the Son saves and the Holy Spirit guides. The Holy Spirit is the guiding influence in our activities.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

We may not be in worship every Sunday but when there is a job to be done we show up to do it. We give regular offerings and when an emergency arises we dig deeper to meet the need. We support each other and ask about our extended families. When a family has a prayer need we have a text Prayer chain that notifies us. We Welcome All.

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 worship in our church building following the common lectionary as our guide. The service includes hymns, prayers, scripture reading, offering, a message (sermon) and a blessing. Different members act as liturgist each week reading scriptures and other parts of the service. One of the most meaningful times is when

we can name joys and concerns from the past or next week. Prayers are said for each one.

Our last baptism was in a wading pool in our cemetery. The 2nd grader wanted an immersion baptism not sprinkled, so that is what we did. It was important to honor the wants of this girl and we all were moved by the service.

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 have a small Sunday school of about 6-8 children. Our Sunday school meets during the church service. They are dismissed to Sunday School about half way through the church services.

We offer confirmation with formal membership into the church at 7-8th grade. Our young serve as acolytes. Often an older child helps a younger one with this honor of lighting the candles.

Continuing forming our faith is aided by occasional bible studies and we provide a daily devotion book for the members.

Several years ago we did a bible study using the book “The Story”. We met after church and discussed each chapter. We learned a great deal about parts of the bible not studied before and also a great deal about each other. We freely asked questions and were heard in the spirit of love. We enjoyed it so much that in a few months we repeated the study.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

For example, how are decisions communicated in your church? How are teams or committees organized? Where does your church struggle for vision?

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

On average about 4 hours a month are spent in meetings. The Council meets monthly and other committees as needed. This varies with the activities of the church year.

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

When there is a decision to be made quickly we use text messaging. The Moderator sends a text and we respond.

- 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**

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

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

See separate file

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? Yes</i>
Number of active members:	34	
Number of active non-members:	1	
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	35	

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? Yes</i>
More than 10 years:	29	
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	7	
Less than 5 years:	0	

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-1	18-2	25-3	35-4	45-5	55-6	65-7	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? Yes</i>
7	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
6	2	3	3	5	2	10	7	4	

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? Yes</i>
Single adults under 35:	4	
Households with minors:	3	
Single adults age 35-65:	2	
Joint households with no minors:	8	
Single adults over 65:	6	

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? Yes</i>
High school:	13	
College:	9	
Graduate School:	5	
Specialty Training:		
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? Yes</i>
Adults who are employed:	13	
Adults who are retired:	16	
Adults who are not fully employed:		

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

We have the usual range, farmers, office workers, librarians, veterinarians, factory workers, a firefighter, trades persons (Construction) etc.

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?

Most of the members are from a Germanic heritage as were our founders. Diversity to us in the range of ages in the congregation from infants to 98 years of age.

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:

We have not.

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	5-8	Lay leaders
Baptisms <i>(number last year)</i>	2	Pastor
Children's Groups or Classes	6	Christian Education Committee
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	25	Pastor and Pianist
Church-wide Meals	20-25	varies
Choirs and Music Groups	0	
Church-based Bible Study		
Communion <i>(served how often?)</i>	10-20	Monthly and special days, Deacons
Community Meals	Up to 100	Various Lay leaders and members
Confirmation <i>(number confirmed last year)</i>	0	
Drama or Dance Program	0	
Funerals <i>(number last year)</i>	4	
Intergenerational Groups		Everything we do seem s to be intergenerational
Outdoor Worship	20	Out-door baptism
Prayer or Meditation Groups	0	

Public Advocacy Work	0	
Retreats	0	
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	0	
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	0	
Worship (time slot: <u> 9:30 am </u>)	10-20	Pastor, pianist and lay readers
Worship (time slot: _____)		
Young Adult Groups or Classes	0	
Youth Groups or Classes	0	
Other Cemetery Walk	30	

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)

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:

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
Interim Minister		Part Time	Deacons	2 year
Field Education Internship		Part Time	minister	1 year
Pianist		Volunteer		20 years

REFLECTION

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

We are a homogenous group who work together to help others

Lake Fork UCC Profile (Part 2)

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$20,000
Endowment Proceeds <i>(as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)</i>	\$
Endowment Draw <i>(beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal")</i>	\$
Fundraising Events	\$2,500
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$2,500
Grants	\$
Rentals of Church Building	\$
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$12,000
Support from Related Organizations <i>(e.g. Women's Group)</i>	\$2,000

Transfers from Special Accounts(Farm Account)	\$15,000
Other (specify):	\$
Other (specify):Income from Investments	\$4,000
TOTAL	\$ 58,000

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$53,000 *Attach 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.*

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? **91%**

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%*)

Each member makes contributions to OCWM above the amount given for local expenses.

What is the church's current indebtedness? **NONE**

Total amount of loan debt:

Reason for debt:

Are capital and other payments current?

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.

Recently remodeled the parsonage, new flooring, bathroom, walls painted etc. Came in under budget.

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: **NO**

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 do not take money

Does your church have an endowment? **NO The congregation owns 80 acres of farm land**

What is the market value of the assets? **\$1,200,000 Land \$200,000 Parsonage**

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

We do not borrow from the Principal. If needed we take money from interest or proceeds from crops.

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

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

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

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$
Investments (other than endowment): \$
Does your church have a parsonage? **YES**

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: **\$ 1,200 per month**

How is the parsonage used?

335 N 1475 E Road, Atwood, IL 61913

Finished square footage: approx 2,000

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms: **4 bedroom 1 bathroom**

Assessed real estate value: **\$ 200,000**

Available for minister residence: **Yes**

Expected minister residence: **No**

Condition of structure, systems and appliances **Recently remodeled in very good shape.**

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs **Trustees**

Describe all buildings owned by the church: **Church, Parsonage, Small storage shed.**

The Church is handicapped accessible throughout the building, with an elevator that reaches 3 levels, one of which gives access to the restrooms. The restrooms are also handicapped accessible. The church kitchen had been updated.

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church:

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? (*worship space, pulpit, fellowship space, facilities, etc.*) **The entire church is accessible. Parsonage, no**

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

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?

We are a fiscally conservative congregation. Each year each standing committee develops a budget for their area of responsibility, i.e. Deacons pastor salary. The entire Church Council then puts the numbers into the line item budget. The final budget is voted on by the congregation in January.

The Trustees have authority for the farm land and take care of who rents the land and when crops are sold.

In the past several years we have utilized funds from the Farm account to meet current bills for the church.

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.

Lake Fork Church is the mother church to six other congregations in the area: Friendly Grove, Tuscola, Garrett, Arthur UC Chapel, Pierson, and Voorhies Prairie Chapel. Helping a church into existence is just one of the mission works of our church. Mission work has always been a focus. In the early church, women gathered old fat chickens and sold them for cash to send to mission projects! Our Sunday School collects money for the Heifer Project. We have had members work on Habitat for Humanity Houses and a group went to Honduras for mission work.

We have had several female pastors in our church; the first was Rev. Kate Miller from 1896-1898. Rev Maude Bristol from 1942-1949. Revs Lisa Ann Hadler from 1990 – 1994. Rev. Jennifer Little was an interim for a time 2017-2018. Then Rev. Jennifer and Rev. Dorey Reigel were co-pastors beginning in May of 2019. Unfortunately Pastor Dorey died of cancer in November of that year and Rev Little continued as a solo pastor till Dec. of 2019. Female leadership from our church included Permelia Livengood Quick and Ruth Cordts as President to the Women’s Missionary Board.

We had a huge celebration for our 175th year. The theme “Honor our Past, Celebrate Our Present, Imagine Our Future ”. We had special speakers from the Conference, a skit telling of events in the past, a Mennonite music group providing entertainment. We served dinner with dessert of cake and Lake Fork homemade ice cream. We had approximately 125 people attend.

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

The biggest change has been moving to part time ministers. This has necessitated the congregation to be more self-sufficient in having meetings, setting budget, and doing the work to maintain the building and 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.

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?)

We rarely have conflict. We all do however get irritated with each other at times. When this happens we take a deep breath, realize this is the way they are, listen as patiently as possible hearing them out, and move on.

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

Staff member’s name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Lisa Hadler	1990-1994	YES
Conrad Heisner	1996-2011	YES
Harold Harmison	2013-2017	YES
Jennifer Little and Dorey Regal	2019	YES
Jennifer Little	2019-2000	YES
Eric Quinney-Burnard Interim	2021-present	YES

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

Work between a congregation and its pastor can be challenging at times. There needs to be clear communication and set expectations that are reviewed periodically. There will be respect for all opinions but we have learned that our pastors are people too and we need to give them grace of forgiveness as God forgives us.

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

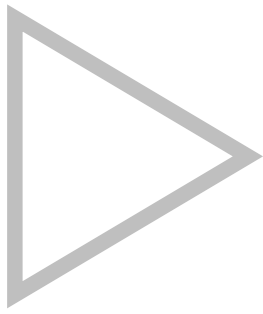
Yes, please ask about the situation.

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?

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?

Our Micro Pantry, Farmer's Breakfast, Cemetery Walk, Heifer Project, Scholarships were the main activities of outreach this past year. When there is a need in the community we respond.

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

Members of the church attend Eastern Association meetings. This year a member is a delegate to the General Synod. Three of our members serve on Conference committees; Personnel, Committee on Ministry and Eastern Association Council.

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

Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M)

Faithful and Welcoming

Just Peace

X God Is Still Speaking (GISS)

Global Mission Church

Border and Immigrant Justice

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?

Not at this time

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

The church is a member of the Atwood-Hammond Area Association of Churches (AHAAC) made up of four churches in the community. United Church of Atwood, Zion UCC, Hammond Methodist, and Lake Fork.

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.

No Mission Statement. Our Vision Statement is:

Lake Fork UCC is a Christian Community giving God the credit for all the blessings we receive. We listen for the way God calls us to serve. We lean on God's promises as we share God's love and grace with all people. We actively pray, searching for ways to benefit other's lives. God asks us to: listen – embrace – serve.

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 anticipate that our minister will be involved with the Eastern Association of the Illinois Conference and on committees of the IL conference as time permits. This keeps us in touch with the conference. We expect the new minister to attend the local Sunrise Cluster and the AHAAC.

4b. MISSION InSite

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

Homogeneous area with a growing Spanish population and a sizeable 25% Amish population. The population in general is shrinking and our young people do not stay in the community but leave for employment opportunities or because of marriage to someone from outside of the community. We see a growing transient population of people moving in

to the area for lower housing costs. The area is somewhat economically depressed. Many of our senior citizens suffer loneliness, isolation and some food insecurity and lack of transportation. There is also an element of drug abuse that has resulted in the death of young people and some crime.

There are fewer people living in the country, farms are farther apart because fewer people are needed to farm now with changes in equipment.

These changes are future opportunities to do some outreach to seniors and new people to the community. For example, we are exploring how to do a mobile food distribution with the Eastern Association Food Bank.

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 demographics and those of our community are very similar.

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

The demographics are not directly shaping the ministry because they are so similar.

The items in the first question in this section are potential areas of new ministry.

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

They think of the church as rich because of the farm land that the church owns. The community knows us for our mission work outside of the church building.

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

The most recent new members came back to Lake Fork because it was the family church. Others come to us because of the nearness to their home.

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

Lester Rabe / Student / Sunday Worship
(217) 418-9567 / lrabe@att.net / Student intern

REFERENCE 2

Kathy Terril / Friend of the Church / Lives here in Atwood
(217) 433-1013 / kathy@terrilfarm.com / Member of Atwood United Church

REFERENCE 3

Rev. Eric Quinney-Burnard / Pastor / Intentional Transitional (Interim) Minister
(503) 330-7023 / qbunard704@gmail.com / Interim Minister

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.

Reference 1

Lester Rabe / Student / Sunday Worship
(217) 418-9567 / lrabe@a.net / Student

I served the academic year in 2021-2022 as a student intern at Lake Fork U.C.C. as a part of my learning while attending Chicago Theological Seminary in pursuit of the Master of Divinity degree. During my time at Lake Fork, I found the congregation to be an active congregation that was very warm and welcoming. I had many great experiences and loved my time while serving at Lake Fork.

The Lake Fork congregation is small. What I found was for such a small congregation, there was considerable vitality among the members of the church. The events that this rural church hosted always was able to draw in support for its activities such as the ice cream social and the cemetery walk. People always show up to help during the church activities. The church is active in supporting the local community.

The community support orientation of the congregation is shown by efforts such as the offering of scholarships to students at the local high school who wish to continue their education past the high school level. The congregation has also opened a mini pantry to serve those in the community who are challenged with food security. The church holds an annual "Cemetery Walk" through the cemetery adjacent to the church building. This cemetery is an old one, and this event is appreciated both by those who are curious about local history as well as those who come to pay respects to family members who have passed on.

One of the significant challenges of the church is the small membership. Rural churches such as this one suffer from the trend of advanced mechanization in agriculture which has reduced the rural population in the area. While this tendency has led to a reduction in the farming segment of the population, the area around Lake Fork has a population to draw from which is not directly related to the farm economy. There is an opportunity for extending the community outreach for someone with a good vision of the needs of the community around Lake Fork.

One of the things about the congregation that I most enjoyed is the inter-generational aspects of the church. There are children and adults of various ages. I enjoyed the conversations that were offered at times such as the preparation of the church for Christmas and at other times when the church held events for the greater community. Lake Fork is truly a great experience.

Lester Rabe

Kathy Terril / Friend of the Church / Lives here in Atwood
(217) 433-1013 / kathy@terrilfarm.com / Member of Atwood United Church

To whom it may concern

I am a member of the Atwood community and I'm writing this letter on behalf of the Lake Fork church.

I have attended many activities that this church has put on over the years-Thanksgiving service -Christmas service -Christmas walk -pork chop meals -ice cream socials they've been a very active

Reference 2

church and I've enjoyed getting to know them as part of our community.

I was a member of the A-H Area Association of Churches with the other local churches which included Lake Fork church we took turns having events at our churches to help bring everyone together to worship and get to know the people from these churches in our community.

The members of the Lake Fork Church are very kind, considerate and hard-working and they always make you feel welcome.

Kathy Terril

Rev. Eric Quinney-Burnard / Pastor / Intentional Transitional (Interim) Minister
(503) 330-7023 / qbunard704@gmail.com / Interim Minister

Re: Lake Fork United Church of Christ, Atwood, Illinois

My relationship as Intentional Transitional (Interim) Minister with the folks of Lake Fork UCC is over 2 ½ years, beginning in April of 2021. They were at a pretty low spot at that time as a congregation. Having the part-time pastor leave unexpectedly, their co-pastor associate having died, and their beloved former pastor passing away. To accentuate the situation was the Covid pandemic. In a small (35 members) congregation in a small rural community, these events can make them feel isolated, forgotten and their energy level diminished. As they had told me and as the today reflect, that were at a very dark place with a very uncertain future.

I live 2 ½ hours away near Chicago. When we began the transition ministry, we needed to be creative (as I am also working with two other churches) in our ministry, hopeful, energetic, and most importantly, be attuned to God's vision and purpose for a church, surrounded by corn and bean fields, a cemetery and 3 miles north of a small town.

I will not go into the details of what we had set out as foundations and the ground work of established as well as new outreach programs. But suffice it to say, when faced with a new challenge, be it hunger, poverty, education, or any needs in the wider community, their response is always "let's see what we can do about it" and they then do.

Reference 3

Lake Fork's parish is the 100 square mile of anyone and everyone who is in need. They do not nor do they want the minister to be in the church building during the week because they understand ministry is "out there" in

As for a congregation, they are fun the community.

, quirky in a wonderful way, dedicated to church and Jesus, a "we can do it" attitude. But most importantly, they are family. I am aware that most churches say they are "like" family but this little congregation act and behave as family. Case in point, a recent council meeting after worship was in the church kitchen because we needed to fill ice cream containers for an up-coming event. We were in the kitchen working while have a meeting, like families do.

Things I had learned and am grateful for that they shared with me. Time is fluid; we will start when we start and end when it's time to end. Don't change them, but love them; they will change to the needs of the community because that is their home, their issues, their concerns, their lives. The ministry of the wider community of Atwood and the congregation or intertwined, they are one and the same.

This is a congregation that understands their relationship with the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. They have a deep history with the Conference and are thankful and aware that the past thirty years, their ministers and ministry have been and continues to be directly connected with and shared through the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Over the years I have always reflected on where the congregation was, who they are when I completed my Transitional Ministry. The question I ask myself “is this a congregation I would join and participate with if I were looking for a church?” Rarely do I say yes, and that is having served or worked with nearly 25 churches. This small, but very dynamic and thriving congregation would attract me to participate as a member. They are a great group of people whose faith is demonstrated by the book of James “faith through works”.

I would recommend this marvelous congregation to one who has the energy to keep up with them:

- a. be involved in the community of Atwood and the counties around it,
- b. be open to the Spirit working within them, that is, don't try to change them, it won't work, leave it up to God
- c. offer quality worship but in a relaxed, family-type atmosphere
- d. understand and appreciate what rural issues and ministry is
- e. love them for who they are

Again, I truly appreciated my time with and being allowed to be a part of the family of Lake Fork United Church of Christ.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Eric Quinney-Burnard

6. 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:

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? *(for example, church council or consistory, transition team, etc.)***Members of the Church Council, Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, Chair of Christian Education, and Chair of Deacons**
2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:
Lake Fork is a rural/agricultural congregation. Many of our activities and mission work centers around the seasons of planting and harvest. We are very down to earth and very straight forward, “what you see is what your get.”

Signed: Beverly J. Obert, Chair of Deacons November 14, 2023

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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: *Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley*

Name / Title: Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley, ACM for Pastoral Transitions

Email: shernelledneystilley@ilucc.org

Phone: 708-701-4933

Date: March 11, 2024

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.

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