

Search and Call Tools for Congregations

Advancing the Spirit's guidance into God's future

INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE



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

Bethel Church
Beloit, Ohio

Full time Pastor

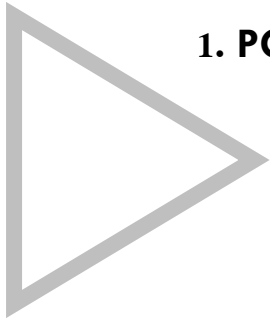
Heartland Conference, Living Water Association

[Validation Date]

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

- Position Posting
- Who Is God Calling Us To Become?
- Who Are We Now?
- Who Is Our Neighbor?
- References
- Consent and Validation

*“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: Bethel United Church of Christ
Street address: 25701 Buck Road, Beloit, Ohio 44609
Supplemental web links: www.bethelbeloit.org

Conference: **Heartland Conference**

Association: **Living Water**

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person:

**Kellie Ramirez, Information Management and Media, 330-940-2220 x100
searchandcall@livingwaterone.org**

Summary Ministry Description:

The church is looking to bridge the gap between the older generation and younger generation. Expand existing programs to bring together the generations.

A welcoming church to both younger and older parishioners, open to new ideas. Push and pull us to new areas of worship and day-to-day church life. Depth of faith that enables us to understand. Good with children. Fully engaged pastor.

Photographs:



Bethel United Church of Christ



Parsonage

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

Rural setting and the family community it creates. Accessibility to larger communities (ie: towns and cities.)

Current size of membership: **100-150**

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*): **None**

Position Title: **Full time Pastor**

Position Duration:

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:

Full Time

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

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

Core Competencies:

- 1) Pastoral care.**
- 2) Sensitive to family history, but willing to lead the congregation forward.**
- 3) Organizational and leadership skills.**
- 4) Spiritual guidance.**
- 5) Technology proficient.**

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

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

Benefits (*choose one*):

Salary plus Benefits

What is the expected living situation for your next minister: **Updated parsonage across the parking lot from the church.**

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference: **West Branch Ministerial Association. The Living Water Association provides many opportunities of support as it offers communities of practice for authorized ministers, healthy practices for ministry, and more.**

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.

- **Support and revitalize our children ministry (CAMPP Children's art, music, praise, program)**
- **Participate with our elderly and home bound with visitation and communion.**
- **Coordinate with our music program.**
- **Teach and lead bible study.**
- **Present new ideas for consideration.**

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

- **Involved in Food Pantry**
- **Continue to support the church's involvement in Habitat for Humanity.**
- **Present new ideas for consideration.**

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.

- 1. Exhibiting a spiritual foundation and helping guide us on our spiritual growth.**
- 2. Healthy sense of spiritual/church community.**
- 3. Promote sacred stories.**
- 4. Identifying and working to overcome explicit and implicit bias in the life of the Church.**



2. WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?

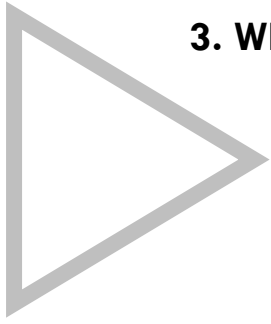
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?

- **Faithful servants / Good stewards**
- **Sharing the word and being a light in the community.**
- **Actively involved**
- **To be more accepting and forgiving**

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

- **The growth in food pantry needs**
- **Reaching out to the elderly and homebound.**
- **Supporting Habitat for Humanity**



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.

- **Our mission... is to be and make disciples in authentic community for the good of the world.**
- **Compassion/ support for each other**

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

- **Music ministry.**
- **Food and fellowship**
- **Welcoming**

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

- **Spiritually renewing music.**
- **Sharing our joys and concerns as part of the prayer time.**
- **We anticipate a scripture based good sermon with humor (animation).**
- **Primarily meet in the sanctuary; sometimes outside and sometimes in the fellowship hall.**

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

- **CAMPP (Children’s art, music, praise, program)**
- **Bible study**

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

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

As a result of limited availability of persons, all our committees were restructured under the Council structure.

- Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished? **Quickly under the guidance of the Council.**
- 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)

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	100-150	Yes
Number of active non-members:	20	Yes
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	120-170	Yes

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ELEVEN YEAR CHURCH PROFILE BASED ON DATA REPORTED IN UCC YEARBOOKS



Church#: 520500

Assoc: 566

Schedule: 0

Bethel United Church of Christ

Beloit

OH

44609

YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION	CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR REAFFIRM	DEATHS OR TRANS OUT	OTHER LOSSES	NET MEMBS ADDS-REMOVED
2013	269	61	18	0	0	2	5	0	-3
2014	262	56	0	3	0	1	11	0	-7
2015	259	55	0	0	0	0	3	0	-3
2016	259	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017	259	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	252	54	20	0	0	0	7	0	-7
2019	252	54	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	248	47	26	0	0	0	4	0	-4
2021	243	48	25	0	0	0	5	0	-5
2022	243	50	42	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	243	50	42	0	0	0	0	0	0

YEAR	CURRENT EXPENSES	CAPITAL PAYMENTS	BASIC SUPPORT	TOT OTHER UCC GIVING	TOTAL OCWM	OTHER GIFTS	WIDER MISSION	BASIC SUPP% CURR LOCAL	TOTAL EXPEND	PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS
2013	\$186,120	\$0	\$14,145	\$8,991	\$23,136	\$0	\$23,136	7.60	\$209,256	\$0
2014	\$188,857	\$0	\$15,600	\$5,936	\$21,536	\$13,446	\$34,982	8.26	\$223,839	\$180,425
2015	\$194,499	\$0	\$12,500	\$3,552	\$16,052	\$22,191	\$38,243	6.43	\$232,742	\$177,201
2016	\$194,499	\$0	\$9,375	\$2,356	\$11,731	\$502	\$12,233	4.82	\$206,732	\$0
2017	\$194,499	\$0	\$15,625	\$2,197	\$17,822	\$0	\$17,822	8.03	\$212,321	\$0
2018	\$171,366	\$0	\$12,500	\$3,300	\$15,800	\$12,800	\$28,600	7.29	\$199,966	\$231,227
2019	\$171,366	\$0	\$12,500	\$0	\$12,500	\$0	\$12,500	7.29	\$183,866	\$0
2020	\$171,366	\$0	\$12,500	\$2,870	\$15,370	\$8,034	\$23,404	7.29	\$194,770	\$200,187
2021	\$187,500	\$0	\$7,500	\$3,585	\$11,085	\$14,260	\$25,345	4.00	\$212,845	\$199,283
2022	\$60,231	\$40,352	\$8,500	\$153	\$8,653	\$0	\$8,653	14.11	\$68,884	\$0
2023	\$60,231	\$0	\$8,500	\$0	\$8,500	\$0	\$8,500	14.11	\$68,731	\$0

% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
2018-2023	-3.57	-7.41	110.00	0.00	-100.00	-64.85	-46.20	-65.63
2013-2023	-9.67	-18.03	133.33	-100.00	-100.00	-67.64	-63.26	-67.15

Please note: Zero values ("0" or "\$0") may reflect missing information in some years. Christian Education/Faith Formation refers to Church School Enrollment for all figures before 2007.

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	85%	Yes
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	10%	Yes
Less than 5 years:	5%	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>
17	6	2	6	6	2	12	25	25	Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	1-2%	Yes
Households with minors:	3%	Yes
Single adults age 35-65:	1%	Yes
Joint households with no minors:	75%	Yes
Single adults over 65:	10%	Yes

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	100%	Yes
College:	25%	Yes
Graduate School:	1%	Yes
Specialty Training:	5%	Yes
Other (Agriculture):	30%	Yes

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	40%	Yes
Adults who are retired:	50%	Yes
Adults who are not fully employed:	10%	Yes

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation: Farmers to nurses to teachers to engineers and everything in the middle. White collar and blue collar.

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?

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: **No**

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	16	Bible study and WINGS
Baptisms (<i>number last year</i>)	0	
Children’s Groups or Classes	20	CAMPP
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	70 to 80 at both	
Church-wide Meals	40	
Choirs and Music Groups	18-25	

Church-based Bible Study	6	
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	Monthly	
Community Meals		Part of a community wide meal program
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	0	
Drama or Dance Program	0	
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	2	
Intergenerational Groups	0	
Outdoor Worship	35	
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> 10AM </u>)	45	
Worship (time slot: <u> </u>)		
Young Adult Groups or Classes	0	
Youth Groups or Classes	6	
Other	NA	

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)
N/A				

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
Admin assistant	No	Full time	Pastor	?
Treasurer	No	Part time	Financial chair (deacon)	1.5 yrs
Janitor	No	Part time	Property committee	3 years
Choir Director	No	Part time	Pastor	15 years
Pianist/organist	No	Part time	Pastor	5 years

REFLECTION

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

Good support staff with focus on outreach and music.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$ 191,928.00
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$ 84,000.00
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	\$ 0
Fundraising Events	\$ 6,000
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$ 0
Grants	\$ 0
Rentals of Church Building	\$ 0
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$ 0
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women's Group</i>)	\$ 0
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$ 0
Other (specify): Additional Endowment Proceeds to cover renovation projects of the church.	\$ 100,000.00
Other (specify):	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 381,928.00

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$ 326,243.00

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? 27.5%

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%*) Budgeted amount.

What is the church’s current indebtedness?

- Total amount of loan debt: 0
- 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

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

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

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe:

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

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

Does your church have an endowment? **Yes**

What is the market value of the assets? **\$2,834,769.00**

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances? **From proceeds, budgeted at \$7,000 monthly and as needed.**

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)? **0% Not drawing on principle.**

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

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last? **N/A**

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates: **Goal is to only use proceeds and not draw down the principle.**

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$ **(All endowments are invested.)**

Investments (other than endowment): **See above.**

Does your church have a parsonage? **Yes**

Fair market rental value of the parsonage:

How is the parsonage used? **For clergy housing**

Street / City / State / Zip: **25697 Buck Rd, Beloit, Ohio 44609**

Finished square footage: **2209**

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms: **3 bedrooms / 1.5 baths**

Assessed real estate value: **\$132,700**

Available for minister residence: **Yes**

Expected minister residence: **Yes**

Condition of structure, systems and appliances: **Completely renovated in 2022.**

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs: **Property Committee**

Describe all buildings owned by the church:

Church Building is 18,868 square feet. Brick construction – basement and 2 floors, Sanctuary seating capacity 250, Fellowship hall capacity 180. Additional rooms include nursery, parlor, administrative offices, 10 classrooms, 2 storage rooms, kitchen, and AV room.

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

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? **Main floor (sanctuary, bathrooms, offices) and Basement (Fellowship room and bathrooms.)**

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

Budget committee reviews the income and expenses from the previous year, and bases the new budget on anticipated expenses and future projects as deemed necessary.

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.

- 1) Fire destroyed entire building in 1945. The congregation came back in 1948 to a new building that includes current sanctuary and fellowship hall. This brought the congregation together at the time and laid the groundwork for the future.**

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

COVID: Upgraded technical facilities to get the services broadcast on social media. Initially struggled to get the congregation back, but have been able to rebound.

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.

Member's past history as an accused pedophile before becoming a born again Christian caused conflict with some members. Some congregants left the church. The active church embraced and nurtured the accused member.

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

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)

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

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

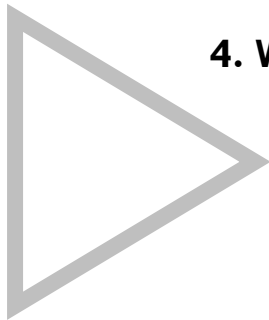
Y/N/Ask us

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

Y/N/Ask us

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

Y/N/Ask us



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?

Habitat for Humanity

Food Pantry

CAMPP ()

Bethel Hofer Clinic (Ukraine)

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

At present, no one is involved in the wider church.

In the past, there were active members at all levels of the wider church.

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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <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 checked="" 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). **West Branch Ministerial Association in the community. Community worship and music events.**

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.

There is a good blend of all time in activities in the church and out in the community.

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?

Historically it was expected the minister to be a part of the community ministerial association.

As part of their call agreement, pastors have been encouraged to spend a week at camp with expenses paid. Registration fees for association/ conference/ general synod meetings are covered by the church.

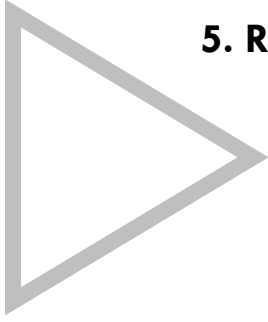
4b. MISSION InSite

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

Rural church in a rural community with an aging congregation. The community has younger people. One of our focuses is the CAMPP program that is targeting the youth.

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

The church is welcoming and including.



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

Name / Position / Setting
(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

REFERENCE 2

Name / Position / Setting
(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

REFERENCE 3

Name / Position / Setting
(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

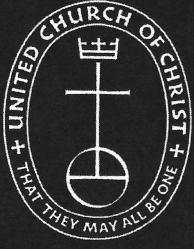
PROMPTS FOR REFERENCES

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.



Celebrating
the Journey
since 1830

BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

To be and make disciples in an
authentic community for the good of
the world

August 7, 2024

Melissa Brand
2773 Homeworth Rd.
Alliance, Oh 44601

25701 Buck Road
Beloit, Ohio 44609

T 330/525-7330
F 330/525-0000
www.bethelchurchbeloit.@gmail.com

Senior Pastor
Pastor Mike Bone
pastor@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant
Deborah Cappa
Bethel united
churchofchrist@ymail.com

Congregation, Ministers All

Dear Melissa Brand

Thank you for your willingness to be a reference for Bethel United Church of Christ.

Below is a list of four topics to be addressed as they apply to your association with the church:

- > Describe some areas of strength in this church's ministry.

We have many folks that participate in many activities. Choir Kids group Food Pantry, Funeral dinners, Plus many other things that come around.

- > Describe some areas for improvement in this church's ministry.

I would love for more children to be in church on Sundays. But I realize that means young families need to be present. However, I love the traditional service while.

- > Describe a significant experience you have had of this church's ministry.

I participate in the choir/music program. That is where my experiences are centered.

- > Anything else you wish to share.

I do believe that Bethel has so much to offer anyone that attends. We are a welcoming group!

Sincerely,

Melissa Brand

Bethel UCC Search Committee

Young families tend to go to more praise type services.



Celebrating
the Journey
since 1830

BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

To be and make disciples in an
authentic community for the good of
the world

August 12, 2024

Linda Slack
800 S.15TH Street # 1626.
Sebring, Oh 44672

Dear Linda Slack

Thank you for your willingness to be a reference for Bethel United Church of Christ.

Below is a list of four topics to be addressed as they apply to your association with the church:

➤ Describe some areas of strength in this church's ministry.

I found the congregation to be willing to step up and support our Habitat affiliate in many positive ways. Very nice folks!

➤ Describe some areas for improvement in this church's ministry.

- We had the privilege of working with Pastor Allen Kahler - but found that the congregation was a little hard to communicate with after he left.

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

My experience with Bethel was with our many years of strong partnerships as Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity Chairman of Apostle Builds - I had direct contact with many churches &

➤ Anything else you wish to share.

many different denominations. Bethel was always the first to step up with volunteers, teachers and very generous financial support in all of the 7 Apostle Builds we have had recently

Sincerely,

Linda Slack
Bethel UCC Search Committee

*Board of Directors
Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity*

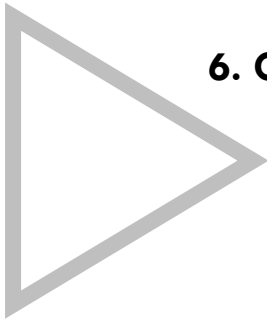
25701 Buck Road
Beloit, Ohio 44609

T 330/525-7330
F 330/525-0000
www.bethelchurchbeloit.@gmail.com

Senior Pastor
Pastor Mike Bone
pastor@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant
Deborah Cappa
Bethel united
churchofchrist@ymail.com

Congregation, Ministers All



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:

Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for meeting with this committee to guide us in our search for a "faithful to your word", loving Pastor. We pray for your faithful servant to accentuate the strengths of this congregation and to further expand our servant ministry here at Bethel. We also lift up the Pastor who is to be among us, and pray for the strengths and gifts you have instilled in that person to be at full strength, as Pastor and congregation collaborate together to spread The Word of GOD to the people around us.

A poem:

Bethel United Church of Christ
Being an example
Compassionate
Considerate
Community
Welcoming
Singing
Servant
CAMPP
Church
Caring
Jesus
GOD

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.*)
Search Committee Members
2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed: *Bryan Cope*

Name / Title / Date: Search Committee Secretary, August 22, 2024

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment:

A Congregation in good standing with the Association Beloit UCC is an intergenerational, active, vital congregation called to be and make disciples in authentic community for the good of the world. Bethel is a beautiful rural community where family and friends gather and make a difference in the wider community. Bethel has a big heart for its wider community, it nurtures it beautiful music and children's ministry. The church is a cohesive faith community ready to begin its next chapter with new leadership.

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:



Name / Title: Association General Minister

Email: nayiri.agm@livingwaterone.org

Phone: 330.940.2220 x102

Date: August 22, 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