

Name of Church

First Church of Christ Congregational, UCC

AddressPO Box 1055
Redding Center, CT 06875**Conference:**

Southern New England

Association:

Fairfield East

Title

FCCC, UCC Redding IN Search

Start Date

Mar 17, 2025

Description

FCCC, UCC Redding IN Search

Church Contact Information

203-938-2004 (Church Primary Phone)**Listing Information**

Web Presences

<https://www.firstchurchredding.org/>

Type: Professional

Additional Formal Ecumenical Affiliations*No response***UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person****Name:**

Margret Hofmeister

Title:

Area Conference Minister, SW Region

Phone:

860-761-7198

Email:

hofmeisterm@sneucc.org

What we value about living in our area.

Redding, a classic small New England town, is a vibrant community known for its commitment to preserving open space and fostering strong community involvement. About 25% of Redding's 32 square miles is protected open space, including two state parks, hundreds of miles of walking trails, and a town park with a beach, swimming, and boating opportunities. With a population of 8,700 as of the 2020 Census, Redding is a welcoming place for all generations, offering a range of services and a bustling library, the Mark Twain Library, at its heart. Often referred to as the "Vermont within 60 miles of NYC," Redding features a working dairy farm alongside backyard farmers, blending rural charm with modern living. Its rich natural beauty and commitment to community make it an ideal place for those seeking a peaceful, engaged lifestyle.

383

Average in person attendance

89

Does your church hold virtual worship services?

No

Languages used in ministry

English

Position Title

FCCC, UCC Redding IN Search

Position Duration

Intentional Interim

Compensation Level

Other

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

Yes

Link to current Conference guidelines[🔗 Download compensation guidelines](#)**Scope of Work**

Select the expectations of the church's next pastor using the list below and following the [Call Agreement Workbook](#).

Some additional goals for the pastor may also be included here. Expectations should be reasonable based upon the compensation level selected above; for example, a ¼ time pastor likely has time for Worship Leadership, preaching, service preparation, and possibly emergency on-call pastoral care.

Expectations:

Worship Leadership, Preaching, Service Preparation.
Church Administration, Newsletter, Communications, Staff Supervision.
Leadership with Church governing body and committees.
Pastoral care, visitation of hospitalized, homebound, and members in care facilities.
Special services (weddings, funerals, liturgical year services).
Teaching – Bible Studies, adult education, confirmation, other (please provide a list of any other teaching items).

Compensation and Support

The salary basis comes from the [Call Agreement Workbook](#), equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/ Housing Allowance. The Conference can assist in determining these amounts or provide a worksheet to be used to calculate these values.

SALARY AND BENEFITS OFFERED: SALARY BASIS: ITEM OFFERED	AMOUNT OR PERCENTAGE(IF DETERMINED)	IS THIS NEGOTIABLE	PASTORAL CANDIDATE DETERMINES
Salary (Cash basis determined from Conference/ Association Guidelines)	85000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing Allowance	46500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any Experiential Difference (Related to years of experience)	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salary Basis: 131500			
Pension/Annuity	18410	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Security and Medicare Offset	10060	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Medical/Dental Insurance	13740	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Life Insurance	1973	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability Insurance	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worker's Compensation	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If needed, please comment further on your church's salary and benefits for the minister.

Life insurance and disability insurance are combined into one amount.

The expected living situation for our next minister.

The parsonage is currently rented but may become available in August 2025. Living nearby with a housing allowance will be available if the parsonage is not.

If a parsonage is provided, will the church offer a home equity allowance to the pastor? (The recommended guidelines for a home equity allowance is equal to 1.5% of the average home value in the community; this is considered taxable to the minister. The Housing Equity Offset should not be calculated into the Salary Basis upon which other Benefits are determined. Churches should consult a tax advisor prior to establishing any account for an equity allowance to ensure compliance with IRS rules on nonqualified deferred compensation plans.)

No

No response

How our church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment.

Not applicable. Full time position.

Additional reimbursements the next Pastor can expect to receive as part of their employment:

Reimbursement for use of personal vehicle.

Cell Phone and/or Internet.

Conference and/or Association meeting registrations

Peer and professional supports available for ministers in our association/conferences.

Continuing education/professional developemnt programs are offered through the SNEUCC and its Center for Transformational Leadership; programs are offered by the Fairfield East Association.

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 God is calling us to become as a congregation.

Since the day of our early New England forefathers and mothers, we, the members of our church, have united in God and with one another, in covenant of mutual support, care, and encouragement. This covenant has been a guiding light that binds us together as a community of faith, reaching across generations and extending beyond the walls of our church. It is a covenant that includes not only those who gather for worship but also the youth of our church and the wider community we are called to serve.

We, as a community of believers, covenant to discern God's will together, to sing hymns of praise together, to interpret God's word together, to work for justice and peace together, and to serve Christ together. We do this not by demanding theological conformity from one another but by embracing the diversity of our experiences, perspectives, and gifts. Our faith calls us to walk alongside one another, offering space for growth, learning, and transformation.

Our covenant is essential to our identity because it is the loving arena within which freedom, responsibility, communal support, and accountability can flourish. It is within this covenant that we, the youth, families, and members of all ages, find strength in shared purpose and the joy of serving others. It is in this sacred space that we are challenged to live out the love of Christ in our relationships, our actions, and our outreach to those in need.

God is calling us to re-commit to this covenant, to renew our commitment to one another and to the wider community we serve. Through Christ, we are invited to grow, to strengthen our bonds, and to build a community that reflects God's love in the world. Let us be a church that nurtures the next generation, supports one another in our individual and collective journeys, and works with our neighbors to create a more just, compassionate, and faithful world.

How God is calling us to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of our community and congregation.

Members of First Church of Christ, Congregational follow the teachings of Matthew 25:35-40.

We have always been committed to serving and loving our local community and beyond. Now more than ever, we are being called to deepen and expand our outreach efforts.

Our church has a strong history of local community involvement including: supporting the homeless at Dorothy Day, organizing Thanksgiving meal through the Christian Community Action, and the Daily Bread Food Pantry. Our annual Dove Project supporting families in need at the holidays, and our Winter coat drive just to name a few. These ministries have been a beacon of hope for many, and God is urging us to continue and expand these efforts, ensuring that no one in our community is left behind.

Our church faces some challenges as well. We've seen a decrease in membership, a reduction in volunteerism, and fewer people attending our services. While these changes may seem discouraging at first, they also present a powerful opportunity for renewal and transformation. God is calling us to rethink how we engage with our congregation and our community. This is a time to be creative in how we reach out, connect, and invite people back into fellowship. We must ask ourselves: How can we create an environment where people feel welcome, loved, and motivated to serve?

Together, as a congregation, we can rise to the occasion, addressing both the needs of our members and the wider community with a renewed commitment to service and outreach.

Ultimately, God's call is clear: He is calling us to love, serve, and engage more deeply than ever before. This is not a time to retreat but a time to lean into His purpose for us. With faith, compassion, and unity, we will continue to be a beacon of light in our community, meeting the challenges head-on while seizing the opportunities for growth, connection, and transformation that lie ahead.

11-Year Report

Download a copy of the 11-Year Report developed with the help of our conference staff and UCC Data Hub.

[Download 11-Year Report](#)

Congregation Demographics

Describe those who participate in your church.

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS:	383
NUMBER OF ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS:	0
TOTAL OF CHURCH PARTICIPANTS (SUM OF THE NUMBERS ABOVE):	383

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Describe the total participation of the church:

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
MEMBERSHIP 5 YEARS AGO:	440
MEMBERSHIP 10 YEARS AGO:	522
WEEKLY ADULT EDUCATION ATTENDANCE: (IF ANY)	0
YOUTH MINISTRY ATTENDANCE: (IF ANY)	10

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

Number of total participants by age:

AGE	NUMBER
0-11	9
12-17	14
18-24	6
25-34	6
35-44	10
45-54	9
55-64	13
65-74	20
75+	13

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Staff and Volunteer Leadership

List of all current staff:

STAFF OR VOLUNTEER POSITION	WHO GUIDES THE WORK OF THIS POSITION?	COMPENSATION	LENGTH OF TENURE FOR CURRENT PERSON IN THIS POSITION
Director of Music	Music Committee and Minister	part	15
Director of Children's Ministries	Christian Education Committee and Minister	part	5
Church Administrator	Minister	part	3
Sexton	Property Committee	part	10

Reflection: What this information reflect about our congregation's overall ministry:

We are committed to provide a faith experience for all ages including a robust Sunday school program, inspiring music during worship and special services.
We care for the health of our property and fulfilling the needs of the congregation with support staff that helps both committee and all congregants.

Church Finances

Current Annual Income

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	499874
Fundraising Events	52650
Rental Income	61649
Investment Income - Dividends	6000
Total	620173

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

609259

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.

[Download church budget](#)

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

No

Total amount of loan debt:

No response

Reason for debt:

N/A

Are capital and other payments current?

Yes

Does the church currently have any endowments? If so, what are the values of those endowments?

Endowment:

525000

Endowment:

No response

Endowment:

No response

Capital Campaigns

Description of any building programs projected or underway.

N/A

Pictures



Does the church have a parsonage?

Yes

Fair market rental value of the parsonage:

No response

How is the parsonage used?

No response

Street

Cross Highway

City

Redding

State

CT

Zip

6875

Finished square footage:

2888

Number of Bedrooms:

4

Number of Bathrooms:

2

Assessed real estate value:

900000

Available for minister residence?

Yes

Expected minister residence?

No

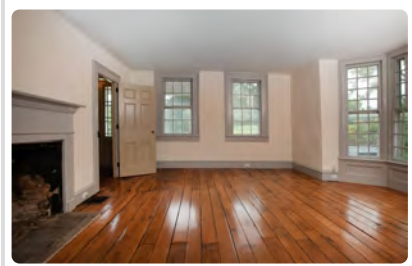
Condition of structure, systems and appliances

Excellent historic building from 1789 that has been lovingly maintained and updated. Newer systems and appliances.

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs

Property Committee

Parsonage pictures



Describe all buildings owned by the church and include pictures:

Church building - Built in 1837. Downstairs seating, balcony, choir loft, basement for choir rehearsal, deacon kitchen and parlor.
 Sunday School building - Built in 2002. Includes fellowship hall with commercial kitchen, church offices, Six Sunday School rooms, Montessori school
 Studio - Antique building used for live Nativity in December, church fair in September and general storage
 Garage - Antique building used for fair storage, general storage
 Pump House

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

N/A

Accessibility features of our building(s):

Exterior access such as ramps for wheelchair users or people requiring other mobility assistance
 Accessible parking spaces
 Interior access to different floors for wheelchair users or others with mobility aids (elevator, chair lift, ramps)
 Access to worship spaces, including chancel and pulpit, for wheelchair users and people with other mobility aids

Access to child care spaces for wheelchair users and people with other mobility aids
 Listening devices in the sanctuary, or wireless technology to connect to hearing aids
 Wheelchair access in bathrooms
 Handrails on all stairs
 Sound system in sanctuary and other meeting places (fellowship hall, large meeting rooms, etc.)

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs:

Sanctuary and Sunday School Building

Historical Information

Significant happenings in the history of our church that have shaped the identity of our congregation.

The most recent and most significant event impacting our church in the past 10 years has been navigating our way through the Covid-19 pandemic. We stayed together and supported our congregation in way that was safe. We considered the concerns of the staff members as well as our vulnerable elderly population by offering online recordings of our weekly services and returning to in-person services in a safe and respectful way all the while maintaining our financial strength.

Our volunteerism has remained strong. We have provided meals to Dorothy Day House monthly for 40 years.

Supporting our community by providing an annual Artisan Fair for the past 43 years; an event that was a much-needed 1-on-1 connection in 2021 after staying in place during Covid.

We have also provided mission trips internationally and domestically.

We continue to support our Christian Education efforts by having a paid Director of Christian Education position for over 30 years.

Ministerial History:

Name: Dean C. Ahlberg

Years of service: 35

Name: Jane Moran

Years of service: 5

Name: Jack Davidson

Years of service: 5

Name: Jeff Braun

Years of service: 5

Community Vision

How the relationships and activities of our congregation extend outward in service and advocacy.

We have a tradition of service. Our Outreach budget increased 38% in 2025 in response to increased needs.

Local

- Prepared sandwiches, casseroles and breakfast items and collected clothing for the homeless for 35+ years
- Contributed items for the Thanksgiving meal sponsored by Christian Community Action for 20+ years.
- As "the church at the center," sponsored an Artisan Fair for the past 43 years.

National

- Contributed financially to Fuller Center for Housing, Appalachian Service Project, Americares Health Clinic, Coastal Habitat for Humanity, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Fisher House, Renewal House and others for many years.
- Since 1999 traveled to 12 US destinations for disaster or humanitarian relief.

International

- As part of UCC's People to People program, linked with Boscobel United Church in Jamaica. Six mission trips ensued.
- Since 2019, partnered with The Cookstove Project to build clean cookstoves in Uganda and Nepal. We sponsored construction of 1,243 cookstoves in 8 villages.

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, through Just World Covenants or affiliations with other groups. Check any of the following partnerships which your congregation has formally adopted, or movements which otherwise apply to your congregation.

None.

References

☒ Jeff Braun

From August 2004 through mid-February 2009, I (Jeff Braun) served as Associate Minister.
Since then, I've kept close tabs on First Church's endeavors.

Primary Email Address: jeffb@southchurch2.org

Personal Cell: 2039132574

Reference Response

First Church:

- **Asks** how Jesus' life and lessons relate to our modern lives. Congregants are smart yet heart centered.
- **Thirsts** to feel the Word through Scripture, the spoken word, music, and silence. They lean in, offer vulnerably of themselves, and process deeply.
- **Appreciates** the acts of service, care, and fellowship that make church vibrant. They enjoy being together.
- **Embraces** you for your gifts. When I arrived, Dean Ahlberg was established, esteemed, and beloved. The congregation could easily have wanted me to do things "like Dean." But they never did. This exemplifies how they come alongside their clergy of whatever title or tenure.
- **Shares** of themselves generously (including their financial gifts), and offers diverse perspectives and talents.
- **Possesses** the holistic means to engage with an intentional interim minister in the critical work of asking, "Where, now, is God leading us?"



☒ Jack Davidson

Completed: 6 days ago

Former Associate Minister 2011-2016.

Lived onsite in well-maintained historic parsonage.

I am happy to talk more if helpful.

Jack@SpringGlenChurch.org

Primary Email Address: jack@springglenchurch.org

Mobile Phone: 2039038044

Reference Response

First Church Redding spoiled me by setting high expectations for how healthy a church can be. That's not to say there was never conflict, but the laity knew how to dig deep into the tension points with love. That's not to say they spoiled me with tangible goods, but they felt a particular call to care for their clergy so we could more sustainably care for the community. It may be a difficult transition ahead, but logistically the laity are well-practiced from clergy vacations & sabbaticals at sustaining the church regardless of who is in the pulpit. With that strong foundation, I found they were always open to outside-the-box experiments in ministry, from online classes long before Covid to engaging in surprisingly groundbreaking justice work, from creative worship to reimagining youth ministry. FCCC Redding is a great opportunity for a thoughtful, trusting, & pastoral interim.

Closing Prayer

Piece of music that is meaningful to the Search Committee:

Here I Am, Lord

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

Statement of Consent

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.

Suzanne England - Church Council Chair

Angela Matsuoka - Christian Education Chair

Hugh Sigmon - Christian Outreach Chair

Luann Stoner - Business and Finance Chair

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

With the retirement of our pastor after 35 years, we recognize the need to grieve and reflect. This transition is also an opportunity to discern who God is calling us to be. We seek an impartial interim minister to guide us and help us to connect our identity to grow in assessment, visioning, and shaping our Church Profile. They will support the Church Council in preparing for a settled pastor, manage the UCC Search and Call process, and help us answer: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? Who is God calling us to become? All with the grace and humor and love needed to keep the atmosphere light.