

PARKSIDE

COMMUNITY CHURCH UCC

Local Church Profile



PARKSIDE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Parkside Community Church
Sacramento, California
Settled Pastor
Northern California/Nevada Conference

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“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! At Parkside Community Church, we are a Caring Community, Pursuing Justice, Practicing Diversity and Promoting Spiritual Journeys.”



Introduction

Parkside Community Church (Parkside) is a Progressive Christian community in the heart of Sacramento, and since our early days in the 1950s, we have remained committed to furthering God's mission of justice for all people.

Because we believe "God is Still Speaking," our ever evolving theology informs our progressive Christian and social justice stances.

As progressive Christians, we:

- Believe that following the way and teachings of Jesus can lead to experiencing the sacred, to wholeness, to respect for all life.
- Believe that the Sacred and Holy flows through many faith traditions.
- Are a community that is inclusive of all people honoring differences in theological perspectives, age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, class, or ability.
- We are a [Just Peace Church](#) and strive for peace and justice among all people.
- Embrace contemporary science and strive to protect the Earth.
- Embrace lifelong learning and pursue the next good question instead of claiming absolutes.

We take the Bible seriously but not literally, and we honor the spiritual paths of others.

We are part of the United Church of Christ, which does not require acceptance of any creed or dogma for membership. Along our path of following in Jesus' way, we proudly offer spiritual sanctuary to seekers and believers of all varieties.

Our mission is to:

- Seek together to know God's love
- Learn, live and share the good news of Jesus Christ
- Celebrate our humanity in diversity
- Nurture one another within a spiritual community
- Respond with love to the needs of others

We are a Christ-centered community blessed by diversity. Our diversity can be seen in the wide range of theological beliefs, cultural backgrounds, and lifestyle orientations. We think of ourselves as a thinking and questioning congregation.

"Parksiders" have a passion for mission and service and are committed to ministries that provide opportunities for people of all ages to grow in their relationship to God, each other, and their community.



Our Worship and Spiritual Approach

Our weekly service has been conducted in English on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM. The service is a mix of traditional and contemporary aspects, reflecting our theological diversity and our use of inclusive and modern language.

We have a special time for our children during the service that is led by the Pastor or lay people. Following the “Children’s Moment,” Sunday school is offered for children of all ages while the worship service continues in the main sanctuary. We share in Holy Communion by intinction on the first Sunday each month and all are welcome to partake. Our children assist the Pastor with the communion process.

Our sanctuary is accessible to persons of all abilities and equipped with multimedia resources including audio equipment for the hearing impaired. We also stream our service on-line and have approximately 30-40 virtual attendees each week.

The Pastor is the worship leader at Parkside and is supported by lay leaders who serve as liturgists, communion assistants, greeters, and ushers. The congregation values effective, inspiring preaching that embraces theological diversity while making scripture relevant to daily life. We look for thoughtful and thought-provoking messages from the pulpit. The use of humor, the inclusion of social justice concerns, as well as interactive engagement and participation with the congregation are welcomed and encouraged.





Core Values and Commitments

Caring Community: We care for everyone in our community, from visiting the sick and homebound to talking and texting with troubled youth. We come together for potlucks, soup Sundays, protest marches, baby showers, concerts, fabulous holiday celebrations, and a wide array of gatherings throughout the year.

Pursuing Justice: We are supporting community partnerships by working to fight hunger and homelessness. We partner with the [SSIP Food Closet](#) that provides food and support that families and individuals urgently need. Our congregation is also a proud member of [Sacramento ACT](#), a powerful multi-racial, multi-faith advocacy organization.

Practicing Diversity: We are living into our commitment to celebrating diversity. Diversity to us means welcoming ALL people regardless of their socio-economic status, cultural experience, ethnicity, neurodiversity, marital status, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expressions by intentionally creating programming for every age and ability; by insisting that our spiritual journeys are shared but not identical; and by trying to reclaim our founders' ideal of a multiracial church.

Promoting Spiritual Journeys: We offer an array of spiritual and faith development programs for all ages - from a children's program on Sunday mornings to our Outside the Box youth program; plus Bible Study, Prayer Circle, Book Club and small groups for adults, and diverse music from both our Chancel Choir as well as our Music Leaders.



Social Justice Commitments

Open and Affirming to the LGBTQ+ Community: In the early 1990s, we voted proudly to become Open and Affirming, which is a [special designation](#) conferred by our denomination, the United Church of Christ. We are an Open and Affirming (ONA) church welcoming our LGBTQ+ siblings into the full life and ministry of our church.

Standing in Solidarity with Immigrants & Refugees: In partnership with our PICO affiliate, [Sacramento Area Congregations Together, SacACT](#), we are a Solidarity church, committing to stand in solidarity with immigrants by being a community of love, hospitality, fellowship, and partners in advocacy. We pledge to support individuals and families seeking refuge or who are in danger of deportation. We made this formal declaration on Palm Sunday in 2017.

Seeking Just Peace Action for Oppressed People: We are a [Just Peace](#) church that stands with people who are disadvantaged, marginalized and unheard, putting ourselves and our voices in places of oppression, poverty, and violence. Just Peace action means we are in for the long haul. Our goal is to change the world for the better through hope, love, justice and action regardless of how long this may take. Our church made this public commitment in June 2018.

Parkside's Statement on Palestine: Parkside Community Church is committed to peace, justice, and respect for human dignity. We strongly condemn the atrocities and destruction in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel that are doing violence to all of those values.

We call for:

- an immediate and permanent ceasefire,
- the release of all hostages and prisoners,
- an end to the blockade of Gaza,
- an end to the illegal Israeli occupation of the West Bank,
- Palestinians' right to self-determination to be granted and respected.

A2A - Access to All: We are an "A2A" church which means Accessible to All. We are continually working toward removing any barriers for people with differing abilities who want to fully participate in our services and activities. Included are individuals with hearing, visual, sensory, physical, mobility, neurological, emotional or mental differences requiring accommodations.

Parkside's Land Acknowledgement: The land on which we gather is the traditional and ancestral land of the Nisenan people, whose headquarters are in Nevada City, CA and whose traditional homeland includes both banks of the Sacramento River, spanning a large area of central California. The Sacramento Region has long been a gathering place for many Native groups, including the Nisenan as well as the Valley and Plains Miwok. The Nisenan peoples had their federal recognition taken away from them in 1958. We support their current advocacy efforts to reclaim it. They are the past, present, and future stewards of this place.



Leadership & Staff

Church Council: The executive body of the church is the Council, consisting of the following elected members: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, two At-Large Members, and four Council Liaisons to Ministry Teams (Congregational Life, Discipleship, Justice, and Outreach and Welcome).

- **Moderator**: Presides at all meetings of the Council and the Congregation; develops meeting agendas in co-operation with the pastor(s); serves as spokesperson for the Congregation.
- **Vice Moderator**: Serves in the absence or disability of the Moderator and serves as Chair of the Personnel Committee.
- **Secretary**: Records minutes of Council and Congregational meetings; ensures that church records are kept and maintained.
- **Treasurer**: Performs accounts payable and receivable duties, except where the Council provides custodians for special funds; provides information to the Council necessary for the development of an annual budget.
- **Council Liaisons to the Ministry Teams**: Facilitate communication between the Council and each of the Ministry Teams; coordinate activities and programs across ministry areas.
- **At-Large Members**: Represent the interests and concerns of the congregation at-large.
- **Pastor(s)**: Serve on the Council in an advisory capacity.

The officers of the Church Council comprise the Executive Committee of the Council, and with the Pastor(s), also comprise the Administrative Ministry Team. They have the authority to act on routine and/or emergency matters that may arise between regular monthly meetings. Non-budgeted and undesignated expenditures of funds in excess of \$2,000 require approval of the Church Council.

Church Administrator: At Parkside, our Church Administrator handles the day to day operations of the church. This includes:

- ♦ Regular coordination with the Facilities Manager and tenants to address any issues on campus.
- Church Communications: Website, weekly email to congregation, church bulletin and inserts, etc.
- ♦ Manages church calendar, business records, and church management software.
- ♦ Church Media: Campus technology, service stream, graphic design, video, etc.

Youth & Young Adult Director : Parkside has a unique structure for our youth ministry. We share a youth director with two other local UCC congregations, Loomis Basin UCC and Field of Hope UCC. Our youth ministry is called El Parkis, a name derived from the three churches. Our young adult program is called Bridge.

Our youth and young adult director provides the following programs:

- Youth gatherings once a month at each church
- Regular special events
- Yearly youth service for each church
- Service events and trips
- Fundraisers
- Monthly book club
- Special outings

Facilities Manager: The Facilities Manager handles weekly care (event and service set up, janitorial, landscaping, minor repairs, etc.) for the church grounds and coordinates with vendors for repairs needed outside of his expertise.

Church Organist & Choir Director: The choir is led by a professional pianist and piano instructor who is also an accomplished organist. She has served the Parkside community for 44 years. She is helping with the choir as an interim measure. She prepares a weekly prelude and postlude for worship services, directs the choir, and coordinates with the song leaders.

We have lay "song leaders" with one member leading them in a compensated position. We do not currently have a permanent choir director, a position which the new minister could possibly help to fill.

Sunday School Director: Our Sunday School director, in coordination with a parent group, prepares curriculum and teaches our weekly Sunday School class, sends out weekly communications to our families and coordinates the volunteers of children each week to light the church candles during our service's prelude.

Pastor History:

Lewis J. Knight 1955 - 1961	Robert E. Kein 1961 - 1965
Richard H. Crawford 1965 - 1970	Robert C. Anderson 1971 - 1982
Edgar S. (Ned) Luther 1983 - 1993	Susan Hamilton 1995 - 2011
Elizabeth Griswold 2013-2020	Bonnie Rambob 2016-2021
Rajeev Rambob 2020-2023	Carla Dietz (Interim) 2024-Current



Ministry Teams

Congregational Life Ministry Team: Each Sunday and beyond, Parksiders experience the creative and caring support of the Congregational Life Ministry Team (CLMT). This Team works in tandem with the pastor to plan and enhance the worship experience, oversee church events and programs that enrich faith, deepen community, and foster growth along spiritual journeys. The list of what CLMT coordinates is expansive. Ushers, after service coffee hour, small group gatherings including Bible Study, Supper Group, congregational care, church celebrations, and more. The time and talent they provide for Parkside is a key component of why Parkside is a thriving Progressive Christian community.

Welcome and Outreach Team: Parkside's Welcome and Outreach Team reach beyond the walls of the church to let the greater community know about Parkside, and hopefully bring more people in to be a part of all we do. Increased membership keeps Parkside diverse and strengthens the church financially. The Welcome and Outreach Team plan community events, social media posts, press releases and so much more. They also run our Sunday morning welcome booth to help provide a path for new visitors to get involved at Parkside.

Justice Team: The goal of the Justice Team is to bring social justice education and action opportunities, with a little fun mixed in, to the congregation and community. They regularly host educational events, protests, political action events, form task forces to address current world events and much more.

Discipleship Team: Parkside's Discipleship Team provides support for the life of the church. Giving and volunteerism are especially important areas the Discipleship Team handles on a regular basis. Each year they organize our pledge drive and special offerings in addition to special events and campaigns designed to acknowledge and encourage the amazing dedication and work of Parksiders.



Church Campus

The Parkside campus consists of the legacy building (1960), its sanctuary (2009), two parking lots, a playground, and ample grounds. The legacy building holds our Social Hall, the church's main office, the pastor's office, two other offices (currently rented out), a Montessori preschool, a nursery, two rooms for Sunday school and Youth, and a room for recovery group meetings.



Groups, Gatherings, Classes & Workshops

Parkside Groups: Opportunities for on-going connection with other Parksidians through social, spiritual and educational engagement in smaller, more intimate settings. Some are more informal, like our 5th Sunday Pot Lucks, or our weekly Coffee Hour in the Social Hall after services. Others are more formalized like the following:

- **Small Groups:** Parkside Small Groups consist of people who are interested in growing in their spirituality and community. Group members make a commitment to meet once a month to explore and discuss condensed materials provided from the current worship series and sermons, Bible, and other related resources. Prayers, conversation, and relationship building are other hallmarks of the 90-minute small group gatherings.
- **Weekly Bible Study:** Our weekly Bible Study is held on Thursdays, Noon-1:15 pm. Bible Study takes place in person in the Church Office and online.
- **Men's Discussion and Support Group:** The group's intention is to be a supportive space where new forms of masculinity emerge and evolve. The group meets every 4th Wednesday at 6:00 pm at various locations.

- **Supper Groups:** Three groups are put together to give members the opportunity to meet new people at Parkside, or get to know old friends even better! Every month, on the third Friday from 6:15 pm-8:00 pm, members eat a fabulous dinner prepared by one of the three groups. Sessions last three months, so a group of eight will only plan and prepare a meal together once during the session. The other two Fridays it's just sitting back, relaxing, and enjoying a yummy dinner and engaging conversation.
- **Parkside Piecers +:** Parkside Piecers began as a group of quilters. In an effort to be more inclusive, Parkside Piecers invites artists and crafters of all kinds to join. The overall mission is to do work to benefit the church. Last year contributions were made to the Arts and Crafts Fair and quilts were made for Christmas Love Gift Bags for homebound members and those needing extra holiday cheer. The group meets the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in our Social Hall.

Parkside Gatherings: An opportunity to connect with other Parksiders through social & spiritual connection in larger settings. It can be a wonderful way to see a fuller expression of the larger Parkside Community and beyond.

- **5th Sunday Potluck:** Every 5th Sunday we gather together after church to enjoy a shared meal.

Parkside Classes & Workshops: Parkside is always providing education workshops and classes throughout the year on a variety of topics reflecting Parkside's interests and values.





Sacramento & Church Demographic Information

Sacramento, the state capital located in California's Central Valley, has a population of approximately 500,000 and is the center of an eight (8) county, combined statistical area of almost 2.5 million. There are a myriad of family friendly activities, numerous museums and parks located in or near the city, often referred to as the "City of Trees" because of its plethora of trees. More recently, it has become the "Farm to Fork" capital. It has a Mediterranean climate and is about halfway between Lake Tahoe and San Francisco. For more information on local activities, visit www.visitsacramento.com.

The area's largest employers are state and local government, education - including elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, and medicine - including several large hospitals. Although the two zip codes closest to the church are 95822 and 95831, members come from a much broader area. Sacramento is also the cultural and economic core of the Greater Sacramento area, which at the 2020 census had a population of 2,680,831, the fourth-largest metropolitan area in California.

Parkside is a diverse congregation of approximately 152 members. Our weekly average attendance is 100 between in-person and on-line attendance.

Many members of the congregation are, or were, professionals in fields such as education, health care, government, and law. Other occupations include small business owners and the trades.

In addition, we have several retired UCC pastors who have served as Interim pastors during our brief search for our Intentional Interim.



Story of the Church

1954: Parkside was formed by a group of residents in a new and expanding multiracial/multiethnic community within Sacramento known as South Land Park. (Just north of us is a large park called William Land Park, hence the name.) There were no churches in the new neighborhood.

1955: The congregation chose to seek the wider support of denominational affiliation and the Northern California Congregational Conference was selected because it offered the most freedom of polity.

1957: The current church site was purchased.

1958: The celebration of groundbreaking for a new educational and chapel building.

2003: The congregation agreed to build a new sanctuary.

2009: First worship service in the new sanctuary occurred on Easter Sunday.



Present and Future FOCI

- ♦ Sermons that Challenge Us on Our Spiritual Journeys
- ♦ Inclusion/Acceptance
- ♦ Open and Affirming of the LGBTQAI+
- ♦ Social Justice
- ♦ Developing a Safe Space for Congregants to Lay Down their Burdens through Meditation and Prayer
- ♦ Grow in discipleship with Children and Youth



What is God Calling Us to Be?

- ♦ We believe that God is calling us to be a caring and compassionate faith community where people of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, and life experiences have the opportunity to grow in their relationship with God, one another, and the wider community/world. In doing so, we will develop our spiritual life and reach out to our community to help those in physical, social, or spiritual need.
- ♦ We will continue to be open and accepting of all people.
- ♦ We will become a place where youth and families flourish and ministries of the church continue to grow.



Who Will Lead Us?

Our Pastor will possess the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

Type of Position: Full-time Settled Minister

Salary Basis: Compensation will adhere to Northern California Nevada Conference guidelines.

Benefits: To be Negotiated

Housing: No Parsonage Provided

Language: English

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Plan, preach, and lead worship service each week in coordination with the Music Team
- Provide spiritual leadership for the church
- Work with [Sacramento ACT](#), [SSIP Food Closet](#) and other partners the church supports
- Help church reassess and implement its strategies for building, activating, and nurturing our community
- Attend monthly Council meetings. Attend other monthly Team meetings as necessary
- Visit and maintain contact with sick and/or homebound members
- Provide weekly content for Friday newsletter
- Be comfortable using (or learning) ProPresenter, Google Workspace, and the Microsoft Office Suite
- Be available to officiate at weddings and memorial services
- Develop the spiritual gifts and discipleships of the congregation

Compensation for Authorized Minister in 3-Way Covenant:

Part 1: Base Salary

Category (Guideline)	2025 Guideline	Local Church Amount/Response
Baseline Salary (A1)	\$68,640.00 per year \$33 per hour	\$68,640
Local Cost of Living Adjustment (A3)	1% of Median Single Family Home Selling Price in Local Church ZIP Code	\$6,710
Experience & Education Points (A4)	See Grid { } = hypothetical	Each year of prior experience up to 35 {18} And, for continuing ministers, each year of service in one's current call, up to 20 {10} 3 points for each Masters degree beyond Master of Divinity {3} 5 points for each doctorate {5}
Setting Points (A5)	See Grid	2
Points Multiplier (A6)	\$900 per point	$18+10+3+5+2 = 38 \times \900 \$34,200
Total Base Salary		\$109,550

Part 2: Social Security Offset

Category (Guideline)	2025 Guideline	Local Church Amount/Response
Social Security Offset (A7)	7.65%	\$6,246
Total Base Salary	From Part 1	\$109,550
Total Direct Compensation		\$115,796

Part 3: Standard Benefits

Category (Guideline)	2025 Guideline	Local Church Amount/Response
Retirement Annuity (A8)	14%	\$11,431
Life & Disability Insurance (A9)	1.5%	\$1,224
Criminal Background Check Reimbursement (A10)	\$160	\$160
Total Standard Benefits		\$12,815

Part 4: Customary Benefits

Category (Guideline)	2025 Guideline	Local Church Amount/Response
Minister + Family Health Plan (A11)	See Annual Premium Rates	Place Holder \$10,000
Total Customary Benefits		\$10,000

Part 5: Entitlements

Category (Guideline)	2025 Guideline	Local Church Amount/Response
Weekly Days Off (A12)	2	2
Annual Leave (A13)	25 Working Days	25
Holidays (A14)	12 Working Days	12
Lifelong Learning Leave (A15)	15 Working Days	15
Sabbatical Policy (A16)	In Place	Compensation will adhere to Northern California Nevada Conference guidelines.
Parental Leave (A17)	2 Calendar Months (60 Days)	60
Sick Leave (A19)	12 Working Days	12
Wider Church Participation (A21)	Provided	Compensation will adhere to Northern California Nevada Conference guidelines.
Total Entitlements		126 Days

Part 6: Professional Expenses

Category (Guideline)	2025 Guideline	Local Church Amount/Response
Professional Expense Account (A22)	\$2,500	\$2,500
Mobile Phone (A23)	\$50/month reimbursement	\$50
Wider Church Participation (A24)	All Fees	Compensation will adhere to Northern California Nevada Conference guidelines.
Community of Practice (A25)	\$250	\$250
Total Professional Expenses		\$2,800
Total Pastoral Compensation Budget		\$141,411

Synopsis of Parkside Community Church:

- We are a strong congregation of about 150 members and regular visitors, located in Sacramento, CA. Parkside is diverse on many levels. We are open and affirming and are in the process of becoming an A2A (Accessible to All) congregation. We follow the way of Jesus and are actively committed to supporting everyone wherever they are in their spiritual journey.
- Along with diversity, spirituality, and community, pursuit of social justice is our fourth core value and a key element of our identity both within the church and in the greater community.
- While we do have a number of families with young and teenage children, our membership is mostly over 40 and includes government, legal, medical, and business professionals as well as people struggling with economic and housing fragility.
- The church itself is financially stable although undergoing assessment of its fiscal organization. Our facilities are generally adequate for our activities but have the potential for creative development that better reflects our goals and values.



References

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