

<p>Name of Church First Congregational Church of Canterbury, UCC</p> <p>Address PO Box 160 Canterbury, CT 06331</p> <p>Conference: Southern New England</p> <p>Association: Windham</p> <p>Title FCC Canterbury P Search</p> <p>Start Date n/a</p> <p>Description FCC Canterbury P Search</p>
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Church Contact Information

860-546-9007 (Church Primary Phone)

Listing Information

Web Presences

<https://fcccanterbury.org> *Type: Other*

<https://www.facebook.com/FCC.Canterbury> *Type: Other*

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGBY_YUNgA/piL-DduDVP0nAJgEdSpEQ/watch?utm_content=DAGBY_YUNgA&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=unique_links&utm_id=h2c4ed5c718https://www.canva.com/design/DAGBY_YUNgA/piL-DduDVP0nAJgEdSpEQ/watch?utm_content=DAGBY_YUNgA&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=unique_links&utm_id=h2c4ed5c718https://www.canva.com/design/DAGBY_YUNgA/piL-DduDVP0nAJgEdSpEQ/watch?utm_content=DAGBY_YUNgA&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=unique_links&utm_id=h2c4ed5c718 *Type: Other*

Additional Formal Ecumenical Affiliations

No response

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person

Name:

Carol Steinbrecher ACM

Title:

Area Conference Minister

Phone:

508-244-4887

Email:

Steinbrecherc@sneucc.org

Summary Ministry Description

In search of a vibrant and spiritual 3/4 time settled pastor for an active small congregation in the rural and historical town of Canterbury, CT. We are located on the historic town green just across the street from the Prudence Crandall Museum. We are a Christ-centered, spirit-led congregation with many active and moving parts, including a kind and caring congregation that helps the community by running a food pantry called Canterbury Cares, as well as helping with monthly community meals in a nearby city (Willimantic). We have Christian education for children, a youth group, and Bible studies for adults. We have many music offerings that include adult and children choirs, and a bell choir. We are blessed to have a very talented music director who has the ability to find music for every situation and occasion. We support projects with local shelters for the homeless and battered women.

We are searching for a dynamic and spirited pastor who will lead our congregation into our next journey. We are seeking a leader with the ability to communicate God's word so that all can receive his message.

We have a strong media presence and use these tools in many parts of our ministry. We live-stream our worship services through Facebook.

We have a history of feeding people well, whether it be at potlucks, fundraising dinners, the annual pie sale, holiday cookie walk, the chili cook-off, and through our food pantry.

We believe that all people are God's children! Therefore, we welcome everyone who wants to follow Jesus in the life, leadership and ministries of our congregation. We honor and support diverse individuals on their faith journeys. All who seek a spiritual home are welcome here!

Church pictures



What we value about living in our area.

We appreciate living in a rural and historic town. The town connections are wonderful, and yet we have access to larger towns and cities. Our children have the opportunity to attend several local high schools; with benefits noted at each school. When our congregation serves the community we are actually serving our neighbors. We are known as a bedroom town, often working/commuting to larger areas for work and then coming home to enjoy what rural life has to offer.

Current size of membership

76

Average in person attendance

40

Does your church hold virtual worship services?

Yes

Choose platform type(s) and number for virtual worship.**Multi-stream**

On average, how many viewers are there per service?

5

Languages used in ministry

English

Position Title

FCC Canterbury P Search

Position Duration

Settled

Compensation Level

3/4 Time (approximately 30-32 hours/week)

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

No

Scope of Work

Some fields reference [The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ](#).

The United Church of Christ recognizes *The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers* in the formation of ministers, in the practice of active ministry, and throughout life. For the purposes of completing a denominational Profile, ministers are asked to spend some time with the *Marks*.

The Scope of Work developed by our church using the [Call Agreement Workbook](#).

No response

3 core competencies that we imagine could be foundational in our next minister's relationship with the church.**First:**

Leadership development is an important core competency for our future pastor to. The ability to work with people in the church to develop future outreach projects and programs would be an important skill of our next pastor. An additional area would be to collaborate with lay people to help with the care of those who are sick, grieving, and isolated.

Second:

Experience with multi-generational worship and education is also an important core competency. We regard our children as precious, so Christian Education, including Sunday School, the Children's Message, Youth Group, and Vacation Bible Camp are important to us. Expanding our Bible studies and faith-based book studies for our adult congregants is an avenue that we would like to explore.

Third:

A person who is comfortable engaging with members of the community to help us lead the way for our church to be an ambassador of our faith.

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)	24000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing Allowance	24000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any Experiential Difference (Related to years of experience)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salary Basis: 48000			
Pension/Annuity	6720	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Security and Medicare Offset	3672	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical/Dental Insurance	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Insurance	360	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability Insurance	360	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worker's Compensation	900	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

We are open to further discussion about this compensation package. Currently the administrative assistant performs a variety of tasks, some of which could be moved to the responsibility of the minister, along with additional financial compensation.

The expected living situation for our next minister.

Living nearby with housing allowance. We do have a parsonage that is fully rented.

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.)

Yes

We have a parsonage that is currently occupied by renters. This home could be made available if needed by our future pastor.

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

We have had a 3/4 time minister for many years. We currently have a part-time administrative assistant who assists with many of the clerical duties each week.

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

Conference and/or Association meeting registrations



Other:

No response

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

There is reimbursement for continuing education and sabbatical in our budget.

Who Is God Calling to Minister with Us?

The ministry goals we envision our next minister collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

We are seeking a dedicated and spirit-led pastor who will help us to grow the First Congregational Church of Canterbury, Connecticut by engaging our current and future participants in the life of our church.

How our vision of the minister we are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.

We are seeking a pastor who will support the many outreach programs that are traditional in our church. We are hopeful that our future leader will assist us in extending our community outreach, impacting the region beyond the walls of the church.

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

We are an English speaking congregation. At this time we do not have any additional language requirements or culturally-specific capacities required in our next ministerial leader.

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

1. **Caring for all Creation** - as evidenced by supporting us in our effort to support the community through programs like our food bank, blessings of the animals, our outreach to senior housing, working with WAIM (Windham Area Interfaith Ministries) and community meals.
2. **Nurturing a UCC Identity** - as evidenced by participation with the UCC and the church on a larger scale.
3. **Building Transformational Leadership Skills** - as evidenced by engagement with people of the congregation in looking for ways to develop their relationship with God and the congregation at large.
4. **Engaging Sacred Stories** - by engaging in our sacred stories and traditions through our intergenerational ministries at the First Congregational Church of Canterbury.

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.

We are a Christ-centered, spirit-led congregation. We see ourselves as an entity that wants to continue to nourish our members, family, and community with God's Word, God's Love, God's Spirit, God's Music and of course God's Bread of Life.

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

In the past year we have had cottage meetings in which we took a close look at ourselves, our past and where we hope to be in the future as a congregation. We also explored our church history, noting the significant changes that occurred within our church and what was happening in the world at the same time. This work will be beneficial to our future pastor as we continue to grow as a congregation.

Congregation Reflections

We would describe our congregation's life of faith as...

We would describe our congregation's life of faith as being spirit led and Christ centered. We look to God's word and turn to prayer in our mission work, our music and our worship. The Holy Spirit is present through so many facets of our work.

Strengths or positive qualities of our congregation.

We are a friendly, welcoming and caring congregation. We have a strong group of engaged and team-oriented individuals who love to work together to accomplish the work of our church.

A growing edge for our congregation and what we plan to strengthen as a congregation

To strengthen as a congregation we believe that we need:

- to involve more of our congregants in the work of the church through participation in committees and activities that happen throughout the year. Hopefully this will lead to a greater feeling of connection to our church.
- to increase our outreach to families in our community.
- to continue growing our way of communicating to the church family and the community. We recently placed table chalkboard signs in Hart Hall as a means of improving our communication of upcoming events and announcements. We are always looking for more creative ways of communicating.

What worship is like when our congregation gathers.

Our worship takes place in a quintessential New England church on the historic town green in the center of Canterbury. Our services provide wonderful music, including piano and organ accompaniment, occasional children's and adult choir, bell choir, and special music. The children's message is a very important part of our service. Also important is a sermon that is Bible based and applicable to our everyday lives. We have worship outside at times, whether it's an Easter sunrise service or on a summer day. We have an annual Jazz Sunday, and our Christmas Pageants are imaginative and fun for all. Our services are live-streamed on Facebook.

Baptisms are a joyful time in our church. Families and friends are invited up to the baptismal font to witness this sacrament. The person being baptized is welcomed into our church family.

The educational program/faith formation vision of our church.

Sunday School meets in our Hart Hall after the children's message. Children are taught Bible lessons with a mix of crafts and songs. We have a youth program which meets regularly for social gatherings and to carry on some of the work of the church (filling Easter Eggs, distributing Christmas cards, helping at the food pantry, etc). Presently we have a high school aged youth who is serving as a deacon. When we have confirmands they become a part of the worship team, learning about and planning their confirmation service.

How our congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

Our committees include: Trustees, Deacons, Christian Education, Stewardship, Nominating, Missions, Pastoral Search Committee, and Music. A member of each committee serves on the Church Council which meets on a monthly basis. Decisions are communicated through announcements in church, through the monthly newsletter and via our Facebook page. Special membership meetings are held as needed throughout the year.

When it comes to decision-making, 4 hours are spent in meetings per month.

Is the pastor expected to attend all church meetings?

No

In times when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. These were the key leaders in taking this action and this was accomplished by...

Our most recent crisis was the pandemic. During this time we had great leadership from our pastor and musical director and we, like other churches, struggled to maintain the life of the church.

We added Facebook Live Stream of our service, reaching those who were unable to come to our services.

The choir started to meet virtually and a congregant built beautifully crafted offering boxes to use instead of the "passing of the plate" during service. We went outside for some of our larger worship events such as Christmas Eve when the children created a pageant in which participants traveled the steps of Joseph and Mary, but in the snow. We also recognized we needed socialization and had a Carol Sing outside with fire and fun for all!

A copy of an organization structure, by laws and/or annual report to further explain the patterns of the church's activity and governance

[☞ Canterbury Bylaws.2024.docx \(1\).pdf](#)

[☞ 2024 Annual Report Booklet March 2025.pdf](#)

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:	76
NUMBER OF ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS:	10
TOTAL OF CHURCH PARTICIPANTS (SUM OF THE NUMBERS ABOVE):	86

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

TIME	PERCENTAGE
MORE THAN 10 YEARS:	75%
LESS THAN 10, MORE THAN 5 YEARS:	15%
LESS THAN 5 YEARS:	10%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

Number of total participants by age:

AGE	NUMBER
0-11	10
12-17	5
18-24	6
25-34	18
35-44	0
45-54	1
55-64	15
65-74	37
75+	6

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

HOUSEHOLD TYPE	PERCENTAGE
SINGLE ADULTS UNDER 35:	16%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH MINORS:	18%
SINGLE ADULTS AGE 35-65:	26%
JOINT HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO MINORS:	19%
SINGLE ADULTS OVER 65:	21%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

EDUCATION LEVEL	PERCENTAGE
HIGH SCHOOL:	23%
COLLEGE:	65%
GRADUATE SCHOOL:	10%
SPECIALTY TRAINING:	2%
OTHER EDUCATION LEVEL:	0%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

EMPLOYMENT TYPE	PERCENTAGE
ADULTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED:	70%
ADULTS WHO ARE RETIRED:	28%
ADULTS WHO ARE NOT FULLY EMPLOYED:	2%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

The range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

Within our congregation we have a wide range of occupations, including teachers, nurses, business owners, IT, construction and healthcare professionals. Some of our largest employers in the area consist of two casinos, Electric Boat, local hospitals and schools.

The mix of ethnic heritages in our congregation, and the overall racial make-up.

We are a group with a mixed ancestry; including French Canadian, Eastern European, Finnish, Swedish, German, Jamaican and Hispanic. Our congregation is predominantly white, which reflects our community demographics.

What diversity means in our context?

Our congregation is predominantly white with diverse ancestry. Ages range from 5 to 102 years old and many of our people come from a religious background outside of the Congregational tradition.

Has our congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do we plan to hold one on the near future

Yes

Comment after the exercise:

Our congregation has had conversations about being Open and Affirming in the past. This was put into a church vote more than 25 years ago, leading to some members leaving the church. The congregation voted to be welcoming, but did not move completely towards becoming Open and Affirming. We asked for input about this topic at our recent Cottage Meetings and found that we still have mixed opinions on this topic. We currently have members who are LGBTQ, and they are welcomed and feel comfortable in our church.

Participation and Staffing

Participation and Planning of Gatherings

WAYS OF CHURCH GATHERING	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ATTENDANCE	WHO PLANS EACH OF THE LISTED GATHERINGS
Adult Groups or Classes (in person or online)	2	pastor
Baptisms (number last year)	3	pastor and deacons
Children's Groups or Classes	1	leaders and pastor
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	4	pastor and music director
Church-wide Meals	4	deacon and hospitality crew
Choirs and Music Groups	3	music director in conjunction with Christian Ed
Communion (served how often?)	12	pastor
Community Meals	12	a team
Confirmation (number confirmed last year)	3	pastor and mentors
Funerals (number last year)	1	pastor and deacons
Weddings (number last year)	1	pastor
Worship (digital / online / livestream)	52	music director and pastor
Youth Groups or Classes	1	youth leader and pastor

Worship Times

WORSHIP (TIME SLOT):	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ATTENDANCE	WHO PLANS EACH OF THE LISTED GATHERINGS
10:00 am	40	The Pastor and the director of music

Additional comments:

There are special services that happen throughout the year including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, etc.

List of all members or regular participants in our congregation who are ordained or commissioned ministers, or who hold Lay Ministerial Standing. Additionally the names of Members in Discernment in our congregation.

NAME	THREE-WAY OR FOUR-WAY COVENANT	MINISTRY SETTING	TYPE OF MINISTRY ROLE	RETIRED
Bonnie Piccione	none	Pulpit exchange.	Commissioned	<input type="checkbox"/>

Previous pastors or retired ministers who currently hold membership in the church and their role(s) in the life of the congregation:

Pastor Piccione is a current member of our church who does not participate regularly, but is sometimes available to assist us with pulpit supply.

List of all current staff:

STAFF POSITION	HEAD OF STAFF	COMPENSATION	SUPERVISED BY	LENGTH OF TENURE FOR CURRENT PERSON IN THIS POSITION
Secretary/Admin	none	part	Pastor, council, Trustees, Deacons, Music Committee	18 months
Interim Minister	7 months	part	Trustees	interim
Music Director	none	part	Pastor, council, trustees and deacons	22 years
Janitor	none	part	trustees	3 years
Treasurers	none	vol	Pastor, Trustees, council	15 years

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

We are able to achieve our overall ministry with our current staffing with the support of our church committees and congregants.

Church Finances

Current Annual Income

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	48638
Endowment Proceeds (as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)	30000
Fundraising Events	5539
Rentals of Church Building	1198
Rentals of Church Parsonage	10650
Total	96025

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

130632

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](#)

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

No response

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
- Neighbors in Need
- Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered?

We have made the OCWM a budgeted item.

If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, this is the percentage?

2

Total amount of loan debt:

No response

Reason for debt:

NA

Are capital and other payments current?

Yes

Capital Campaigns

Description of any building programs projected or underway.

At this time we do not have any projected building projects. We are actively discussing improvements to the church property including:

- church roof
- parking lot repaving
- parsonage upgrades

Pictures

Description of any capital campaigns in the last ten years:

YEAR(S)	PURPOSE	GOAL	RESULT	IMPACT
0		0	0	
0		0	0	

Description of any capital campaigns underway or anticipated:

YEAR(S)	PURPOSE	GOAL	RESULT	IMPACT
0		0	0	
0		0	0	

Description the prominent mission component(s) involved in the most recent (or current) capital campaign.

We have had no recent capital campaign projects but there were recent improvements to church walkways and doorways to allow for accessibility. This was paid for through a grant. We have also recently made improvements to the Hart Hall floor and kitchen.

Does your church have an endowment?

Yes

What is the market value of the assets?

850000

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

As needed

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

unknown

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

This varies from year to year based on needs as they arise

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

perpetually

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

Funds are drawn from the interest of the endowments.

Other Assets

Parsonage

Reserves (savings):

No response

Investments (other than endowment):

No response

Does the church have a parsonage?

Yes

Fair market rental value of the parsonage:

21600

How is the parsonage used?

Rented

Street

Library Rd

City

Canterbury

State

CT

Zip

6331

Finished square footage:

1800

Number of Bedrooms:

4

Number of Bathrooms:

2

Assessed real estate value:

330000

Available for minister residence?

Yes

Expected minister residence?

No

Condition of structure, systems and appliances

It has been occupied by the same renter for the past 12 years. Will need refreshing for new occupants

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs

Trustees

Parsonage pictures



Description of all buildings owned by the church:

The church is perched on the historic town green. Across the street are several historic homes, including the Prudence Crandall Museum, the first school for Negro Women in our country.

To the rear of the church property is the parsonage as well as one of the town's one room school houses.

The museum and school house are featured during different times of the year including The Old Home Days Celebration.

To view the buildings and the Green click following link.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/fM5UXJLakkhzHwg6>

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

None

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
 Large print bulletins
 "Quiet room" with worship viewing and listening availability
 Handrails on all stairs

Sound system in sanctuary and other meeting places (fellowship hall, large meeting rooms, etc.)
 Curb cuts
 Wheelchair areas in sanctuary (other than "front or back")

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs:

The sanctuary and the Narthex are wheelchair accessible as is our fellowship hall. We also have a stair lift connecting the worship area and fellowship hall. The area of the sanctuary adjacent to the handicap ramp has been customized to allow for easier walker and wheelchair access during worship.

Policies regarding financial practices of the church:

We have two volunteer treasurers who each have designated duties. Recently we have been working with a payroll company to address the payroll needs of the pastor and employees.

The Trustees Committee works closely with the church treasurer during their monthly meetings.

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what this information reflects about our congregation's mission and ministry:

We are a financially healthy church that is able to support its missions and ministries, now and in the future.

Historical Information

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

1. During the pandemic our church struggled to carry on its valued traditions but rallied to create meaningful experiences. The Christmas Eve service of 2020 was very special, being held outside and in the snow with starlight, luminaries and candles.
2. The introduction of the "God is still speaking" initiative led to some troubles within our church. The church struggled with the balance of being more Open and Affirming without offending some of our more conservative members.
3. In 1962 the church burned to the ground on Christmas Eve. The congregation rallied, as well as town people, to rebuild. It has been said that members had mortgaged their homes to help cover the costs.

A specific change our church has managed in the recent past.

Saying farewell to our beloved pastor of seven years was a significant change to our church in the recent past. This led us to the formation of a Pastoral Search Committee, the calling of an Interim Pastor and the engagement of Cottage Meetings to help prepare for our next settled minister.

Every church has conflict, some minor, some larger. "Where two or three are gathered, there will be disagreement....". These are our congregation's values and practices when it comes to conflict.

- a) We have a Pastoral Relations Committee with the goal of handling conflict between the congregation and the minister.
- b) We hold special congregational meetings outside of the annual congregational meeting to handle specific concerns, issues, or conflicts.
- c) We have a Church Council that meets monthly to deal with issues as they arise

The most recent major conflict through which our church has navigated.

We have been blessed to have a cohesive congregation that in general gets along well and is resilient. We have not had any recent major conflicts.

Twenty seven years ago we had to terminate our pastor. We are willing to talk about this in further detail as needed.

Ministerial History:

Name: Cheryl Caronna

Years of service: 7

UCC Standing

Name: Oscar Brockmeyer

Years of service: 17

UCC Standing

Name: George Haskins

Years of service: 3

UCC Standing

Name: Elizabeth Thompson

Years of service: 3

UCC Standing

What our church has learned about itself and its relationship with people who provided ministerial leadership.

Through this time of transition we have been reminded that the church is THE PEOPLE. We welcome new and creative pastoral leadership.

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

Yes

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

Has a previous minister been a contributor to conflict following their tenure as pastor?

No

Community Vision

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

Our congregation looks forward to being a vital part of our community by continuing our Canterbury Cares Food bank, our community meals, opening our church and our green for future concerts and programs, as well as hosting the Canterbury Old Home Day event. We are open to future endeavors with other members of the community. Currently our hall is used for AA meetings, Girl Scouts, stained glass classes and other activities. We look forward to growing our membership and participation. We hope to increase participation in our Christian Education, Sunday School, Youth Group, Vacation Bible Camp and adult Bible study programs.

Our congregation's participation in meetings, relationships and activities connecting the wider United Church of Christ.

We usually have at least one or two members attend conferences as well as the pastor. The weekend of 3/8/25, we had seven members attend Super Saturday.

We attend workshops by the UCC via Zoom as they become available.

Two of our members are representatives of the Southern New England Conference

How our church engages with the community organizing movements in our community.

We have been actively involved with Old Home Day, the annual community fair, which takes place on church property. This year the Church Council voted to adopt this event from the Canterbury Historical Society. This event draws hundreds of people each year to our church grounds.

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.

What the above statement(s) mean(s) to our community. How our congregation plans to work toward the above statements of witness in the future.

We are open to exploring the above covenants with our future minister

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

We continue to work with the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM) which has several programs where we assist.

We also have a blossoming relationship with a nearby synagogue and are in the process of working with them towards a joint community event. We look forward to seeing where this relationship leads.

How our mission statement compares to the actual time spent engaging in different activities.

Our Congregation is Christ Centered and Spirit Led

Our Mission:

We strive to share the love of God as expressed by Jesus Christ with all people.

We are a warm and welcoming congregation where the gospel of Jesus Christ is central. Our members include persons of all ages and walks of life; we offer many opportunities to be actively involved in the life of faith. We cherish our children and youth and reach out in mission to the local community and the world.

We believe that all people are God's children! Therefore, we welcome everyone who wants to follow Jesus in the life, leadership, and ministries of our congregation. We honor and support diverse individuals on their faith journeys. All who seek a spiritual home are welcome here.

The scope of work assigned to our pastor(s). How their community ministry and their ministry in and on behalf of the wider church accounted for in the congregation's expectations on their time.

In the past our pastor has been involved in the community including:

- participating in the Community Meal with members of the congregation
- Bible study and visitations at a local assisted living facility
- assisting with food distribution at Canterbury Cares food bank
- the Tree of Life blessing

We are hopeful that our next minister will be a presence in future community events

The ARDA or MissionInsite Reflection

ARDA/MI File

[Download ARDA/MI File](#)

From looking at our congregation's The ARDA or MissionInsite report, these trends and opportunities are what stood out to us.

We are a small, rural community with a need for more affordable housing.

How our congregation's internal demographics compare or contrast to a) the neighborhoods adjacent to our church, and b) other neighborhoods with which our church connects.

Most of our congregants come from Canterbury and the surrounding towns whose demographics are similar to our own.

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

Our outreach is varied. Our food bank draws clients from Canterbury and surrounding areas. Over the past few years participation in this food bank has increased substantially, reflecting the growing needs within our region.

What we hear when we talk to community leaders and ask them what our church is known for.

"That nice church on the green has the food pantry and has great dinners and music"

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

We are a welcoming and friendly group.

References



■ Linda Congdon

Contacted: Tuesday, Mar 25, 2025

Primary Email Address: congdonl01@gmail.com

Reference Response

No response

■ Roy Piper

Contacted: Tuesday, Mar 25, 2025

Primary Email Address: roy.piper@charter.net

Reference Response

No response



■ Jonathan Chapman

Contacted: Thursday, Apr 10, 2025

Primary Email Address: jon@westfielducc.org

Office: 8607748438

Mobile Phone: 7702652171

Church Primary Phone: 8607748438

Reference Response

No response

Closing Prayer

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-5vokDXCOCbVyCZx5BvoYULndFZOJG9C/view>

You are Welcome Here!!

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.

The Pastoral Search Committee:

Carol Palonen

Sharon King

Steve Brown

Mike Arndt

Terry Poirier

Tina Vaclavik

The Treasurers:

Emily Logee Savoie

Marilyn Esposito

Church Clerk:

John Baldwin

Secretary

Nicole Loser

Trustees Committee

Deacons Committee

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

No response