



**Name of Church**

Second Congregational Church of Stafford, UCC

**Address**

197 W Stafford Rd  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

**Conference:**

Southern New England

**Association:**

Tolland

**Title**

Designated Term Minister

**Start Date**

n/a

**Description**

SCC Stafford - DT

### Church Contact Information

No contact information has been added to this profile.

### Listing Information

#### Web Presences

<https://www.secondchurchweststaffordct.org> *Type: Other*

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

#### Additional Formal Ecumenical Affiliations

*No response*

#### UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person

**Name:**

Reverend Isaac Lawson

**Title:**

South Central Region Area Conference Minister

**Phone:**

860-761-7188

**Email:**

lawsoni@sneucc.org

#### What we value about living in our area.

Located in the rural community of West Stafford, we are a small but faithful and friendly congregation! Our members are empathetic and always willing to lend a hand to those in need. The church has been active in this community for over 260 years.

Some of our current mission projects include collecting food for Crystal Lake Food Pantry, our gently used clothing shop and holiday toy and food collections. We would like to explore more missions work, as well as look into ways to welcome more people into church and church activities. Ideally, in the future, our congregation will remain active and engaged. We will be partnering with our community (and beyond) in new and exciting ways, and we will have expanded our outreach. We are looking for a pastor who is empathetic and can check in on members in need. Our congregants come to worship to feel inspired and uplifted through sermon, song and prayer. An ideal DTM could help support us in the work we are doing and navigate new opportunities (like exploring ONA). Our goals are 1.) to increase attendance, 2.) Keep up our social media presence, 3.) Keep engaging youth, families and young adults, and 4.) financial growth and stability. Recently, we experienced the unexpected loss of our minister and pillar members to our community. We took some time to heal and know there will be echoes of grief. Now, we have been engaging pulpit supply for a few months and are ready to call a new designated term minister.

**Current size of membership**

56

**Average in person attendance**

33

**Does your church hold virtual worship services?**

No

**Languages used in ministry**

English

**Position Title**

Designated Term Minister

**Position Duration**

Designated Term

**Compensation Level**

1/2 Time (approximately 20-22 hours/week)

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

No

**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.  
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).  
Maintain collegial and denominational relationships.

**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)	30000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing Allowance	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any Experiential Difference (Related to years of experience)	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salary Basis: 30000			
Pension/Annuity	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Security and Medicare Offset	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical/Dental Insurance	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Insurance	0	<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.**

The 30,000 in salary compensation will be discussed upon hire about how to split that amount through that and housing allowance, etc.

**The expected living situation for our next minister.**

We would like our next minister to live within a reasonable commuting distance to Stafford Springs, CT, but we are flexible. (no parsonage provided)

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.**

If a minister is bi-vocational, we would be able to work with them on availability, based on what time they have. **Priorities:**

- Crafting Sunday worship services
- Visits as needed *by appointment*
- Phone calls to members
- Attending church meetings (normally directly after worship), and visit to a few events.
- Funerals, weddings
- Hopefully: keep in touch with local church association (Tolland)

Anything else they would like to pursue would be flexible based on their time. Deacons and other lay leaders assist w/ ministry needs. **Not expected:**

- In-person office hours during the week
- Presence at Every event

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

Tolland Association is very active and works with our ministers. Additional resources for clergy are available through the Southern New England Conference. The website is: [www.sneucc.org](http://www.sneucc.org)

## 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.

God has been calling the church community of SCC at West Stafford for the past 260+ years, to minister to the church and the community beyond the church, to extend God's love and the friendship of Christ to all. We feel that God is calling us to become a more vibrant and active force in our community, working together to make a difference, and spread a little more of Christ's light in the world.

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

Experiment 1: Our minister at the time started adult education again. We used social media and e-mails to try to spread the word about it. Congregation members saw the advertisements and the education classes were well attended! We would love to engage in adult ed again. Looking to our aging youth, it might even be useful to have adult and youth discussion or education opportunities. It's something we could start to plan for now. Experiment 2: We provided more opportunities for worship- both short e-services (online) and 20-30 minutes services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Blessing of the Animals. At the same time, we integrated new opportunities to engage and celebrate members of the congregation through blessing of the backpacks, All Saint's Day prayers and more. All of this was in an effort to continue to keep our congregation active and engaged. We did not make a strategic mission statement or multi-year plan. We just stayed positive and kept the momentum going!

## 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:	56
NUMBER OF ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS:	7
TOTAL OF CHURCH PARTICIPANTS (SUM OF THE NUMBERS ABOVE):	63

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Describe the total participation of the church:

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
MEMBERSHIP 5 YEARS AGO:	78
MEMBERSHIP 10 YEARS AGO:	98
WEEKLY ADULT EDUCATION ATTENDANCE: (IF ANY)	0
YOUTH MINISTRY ATTENDANCE: (IF ANY)	0

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

## Number of total participants by age:

AGE	NUMBER
0-11	8
12-17	3
18-24	2
25-34	1
35-44	7
45-54	16
55-64	14
65-74	12
75+	11

## 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
Sexton	Trustees	part	2 months

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

We do not, at this time, have any paid positions besides the sexton (janitor) and the minister. It does make us wonder if perhaps one day we could hire a musician again. Our ground maintenance (lawns, gardens) is all volunteer. Administrative duties are normally shared by church members. Phone messages are checked once a week on Sundays by pastor, or by members when no pastor, and during the week if a member is at the church. Communication to members is normally done by the appropriate committee or chairperson (example: In the case of bad weather, moderator)

## Church Finances

### Current Annual Income

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	23184
Endowment Proceeds (as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)	1491
Fundraising Events	11404
Lighting of the Cross	795
Memorial Gifts	715
Misc	201
Contributions	6309
Transfer from Invested Funds	7000
Capital Campaign	2890
Total	53989

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

52871

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:

No response

Are capital and other payments current?

Yes

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

Endowment:

No response

Endowment:

No response

Endowment:

No response

### Capital Campaigns

Description of any building programs projected or underway.

No response

### Pictures



Does the church have a parsonage?

No

**Describe all buildings owned by the church and include pictures:**

Church building: The church building itself was moved by oxen in the 1800s to its current location. Note that our front door is now red. The cross with bulbs lights up at night (it's one of our fundraisers: "Lighting of the Cross"). There is a front entrance and two side entrances. The front entrance goes directly to the narthex of the church. There is a basement, where we have Fellowship Hall for coffee hour. Parish House: No longer in use as a parsonage, our parish house has Sunday school classrooms and the pastor's office. On the lowest floor is our "Little Shop", which we sell gently used clothing from. On the very upper level is the historian room, storage and extra classrooms (not in use). The Barn: Community members donate gently used goods (furniture, pans, dishes, kid's toys, etc) for us to sell at a reasonable price to the community. It is next to some land that the church uses for outdoor events, and a brook. It is a standard barn- a bit dusty with signs of mice from time to time. At a minimum, The Barn opens at our annual flea markets, twice yearly. Otherwise, it is open when we have a volunteer to spend time there (infrequently, usually a couple of times a year on Saturdays).

**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)

Large print bulletins  
Handrails on all stairs  
Sound system in sanctuary and other meeting places (fellowship hall, large meeting rooms, etc.)

**Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs:**

There are ramps going into the narthex of the church building, and going up into the parish house. Note that although we do not have an elevator going into the sanctuary (and therefore, wheelchairs would have to be lifted up the stairs), we have a power chair that can help people who cannot safely go up stairs. We have large print bulletins available at request.

## Historical Information

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

- The passing of some long-term, beloved, dedicated members. Earlier in 2025, we had two long-term members pass away. Both were active in church life, friends with other members and pillars of our volunteer force. We have supported one another through the initial waves of grief. Members have shared their emotions and support for one another. At this point, we are not "done" grieving, but have adjusted to a new "normal".
- The unexpected passing of our last pastor, who was vibrantly involved and engaging our congregation. He was active in our congregation- revived Adult Christian Ed., did a few special services and online prayers. He vibed well with everyone, with good humor and kindness. Necessitates healing still.
- Multiple vehicles hitting the parish house and church lawn/signs. At this point, it has given us a sense of humor. First hit: we moved the pastor's office for safety! We had our signs rebuilt. Thank goodness no one has been seriously hurt!

## Ministerial History:

Name: Robert LaRochelle Years of service: 1

Name: Brian Baeder Years of service: 4

Name: Carl F. Reynolds Years of service: 7

Name: Stuart Charter (interim) Years of service: 1

Name: Wayne Strever Years of service: 4

Name: Alice O' Donavan (interim) Years of service: 3

Name: Joseph A.C. Wadsworth III Years of service: 11

## Community Vision

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

Crystal Lake Food Pantry: we work with our community to provide non-perishable food items for a nearby food pantry. A volunteer brings the food once a month to the pantry. We would love to get more involved with them if possible- our members are eager to help those who may be food-insecure. The Little Shop helps with clothing waste, and sells gently used clothing items for \$2-3 dollars (or, for children's clothing, \$5 fill-a-bag) to our community. The benefit is three-fold: helps to combat "fast-fashion" and keep useable clothing from landfills, provides clothing to those in need for reasonable prices, and provides a meager source of income to our church. To explore:ONA: We do have an ONA committee but are not ONA. Hoping for pastoral support for navigating potential conflict when we explore it again. Green Church: A few members have showed interest off/on about Green Church projects.

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

None contacted yet

## Closing Prayer

From the hymn, Called as Partners in Christ's Service:

"Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to worth and work,

Let us follow, never faltering,

Reconciling folk on earth

Men and women, richer, poorer,

All God's people, young and old..."

The work is vast! We pray that they would be willing and ready, to follow where God in Christ is leading us, to journey alongside us in partnership and Christian love...





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### Statement of Consent

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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.*

Pastoral search committee, head deacon, and Moderator.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

*No response*