

Name of Church

First Congregational UCC

Address1000 Willson Ave
Webster City, IA 50595**Conference:**

Iowa

Association:

Northwestern

Title

FT Settled Pastor

Start Date

May 18, 2026

Description

We are looking for a minister to join us in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, nurturing and supporting one another, and showing concern for humankind through love in action.

Church Contact Information

515-832-2232 (Church Primary Phone)

515-835-2342 (Personal)

jane@ucctcm.org (Email Address)

Listing Information**Web Presences**<https://firstcongregationalwc.org/>

Type: Professional

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064506107045>

Type: Professional

Additional Formal Ecumenical Affiliations

None

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person**Name:**

Kendy Miller

Title:

Associate Conference Minister

Phone:

515-669-5243

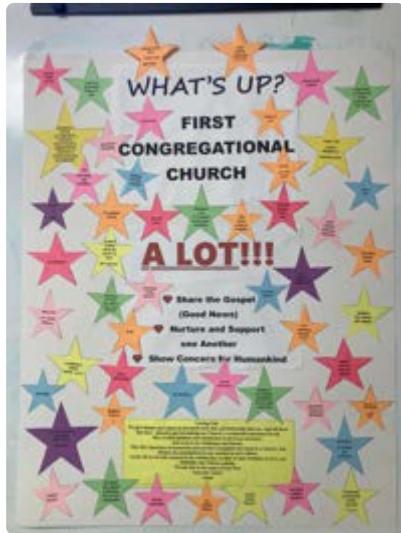
Email:

kendy@ucctcm.org

Summary Ministry Description

We are a mature congregation with an upbeat, positive attitude: There are good works yet to be done, and we're going to do them! Spirit, not mileage: that's key for the person we seek to lead us to the next chapter of our congregational life. We'd like to focus on adult ministry and continued service to the Webster City community and to our world.

Church pictures



What we value about living in our area.

Webster City, 65 miles north of Des Moines, is a county seat town of 7200. It's a community of involved people in all walks of life. The community offers opportunities for personal growth and service. It has a small town feel within easy reach of the amenities of larger cities. Webster City and Hamilton county offer a variety of recreational opportunities: parks, trails for hiking and biking, camp grounds, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a recreation center, a number of service clubs, well-respected public school system and parochial grade school. Efforts being made to restore several downtown buildings and to revitalize the downtown district. We are home to several excellent restaurants and shops and we hope you'll come and try them out!

Current size of membership

95

Average in person attendance

42

Does your church hold virtual worship services?

No

Languages used in ministry

English

Position Title

FT Settled Pastor

Position Duration

Settled

Compensation Level

Full Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

Yes

Link to current Conference guidelines

[Download compensation guidelines](#)

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.

[Download scope of Work](#)

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

First:

We would like our pastor to be an effective speaker and communicator, effective in planning worship and able to engage the congregation in those efforts. We would love it if the scripture lessons can be applied in such a way as to help us faithfully navigate our world today.

Second:

We expect our pastor to lead us in our ongoing spiritual practice, helping us discern our role in our neighborhood and world.

Third:

Our pastor will be of high character and help strengthen the congregation's sense of identity and belonging in the community and world.

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)	0	☒	☐
Housing Allowance	0	☒	☐
Any Experiential Difference (Related to years of experience)	0	☒	☐
Salary Basis: 0			
Pension/Annuity	0	☒	☐
Social Security and Medicare Offset	0	☒	☐
Medical/Dental Insurance	0	☒	☐
Life Insurance	0	☒	☐
Disability Insurance	0	☒	☐
Worker's Compensation	0	☒	☐

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

** Please see our budget, attached below.

We will use conference guidelines as a basis for negotiating salary. Because we don't know the particulars— years in ministry, education, other factors, we're using minimum salary based on our average attendance, (up to 50). According to conference guidelines, that would be a minimum of \$43,000 - \$50,000 That is fully negotiable based on the above factors. We provide housing allowance. (We do not maintain a parsonage.) We also offer all benefits listed above. All are negotiable.

The expected living situation for our next minister.

Live nearby with housing allowance

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Reimbursement for use of personal vehicle.

Conference and/or Association meeting registrations

Other meeting registrations (or educational requirement registrations).

Criminal background checks.

Community of Practice Participation.

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

Our minister is expected to be a part of the local ministerial association which offers collegial support for its members. The Iowa Conference has a resource list of spiritual directors to counsel clergy. They also arrange virtual "communities of practice" which are small cohort support and growth groups.

We encourage participation in that group.

MIND AND SPIRIT counseling center in Urbandale provides therapy and counseling for pastors.

Who Is God Calling to Minister with Us?

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

Our congregation has always had a sense of community and compassion that extends outward to the community and world. We expect our pastor to continue to help us look beyond ourselves. We are still discerning the role we will play as we move into the next phase of our church life together. We invite our pastor to join us in that process. Certainly the vision will revolve around adult ministry and our church's role in continuing to make our community alive and vital in doing God's work.

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

We see our minister as one who will be able to help us redefine ourselves in light of current realities. We would expect the person to help us focus on our own sense of community in keeping with our mission statement and personal beliefs.

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

English is the only language requirement needed. Webster City has a 10% hispanic population, some of whom make use of our clothes closet and semi-annual thrift sales. So any knowledge of that language would be helpful.

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. Engaging sacred stories and traditions. We expect the person to be able to help us relate those to today's world
2. Exhibiting a spiritual foundation and ongoing spiritual practice.
3. Strengthening inter- and intra-personal assets.
4. Caring for all creation.

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.

Our God is calling us to continue to be servants in our congregation, our community and throughout the world. We're called to continue to grow in our faith of our God and in our love for all people. God is calling us to evaluate and reflect on past missions and use that as a basis for continuing to expand our reach.

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

We evaluate and adjust our mission as congregation and community needs change. Example: we made our church facility available to a Hispanic congregation until they found a permanent home. We hope this opens the door to further cooperation with other groups as well. We have participated in local Habitat for Humanity efforts to help winterize low income housing residents' homes. We have been engaged with other churches and service organizations in the community for various projects. Examples: making and serving meals in a local homeless shelter; supporting an area domestic assault victims home; supporting a local food pantry; rotating with other churches to provide services at local care centers. We maintain a clothes closet in the church basement for use by those in need. We also provide a semi-annual "thrift sale" that offers low cost used clothing and household goods. These are just a few examples of our outreach efforts in the Webster City community.

Our Mission Board is always seeking new ways to expand our outreach in the community and beyond.

Congregation Reflections

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

First Congregational's life of faith centers on our mission statement:

- To share the gospel
- To nurture and support each other
- To show concern for humankind

These are the key factors in what we do as a congregation and in our personal lives. We see God in our liturgies as a benevolent one exhorting us to be our best selves.

Strengths or positive qualities of our congregation.

We have a very positive self-image as a congregation. We are respected by other churches and civic groups as a congregation willing to step up to assume participation and leadership roles in community efforts. Our pastor has been a leader in the ministerial association. Our members have been leaders in local initiatives such as food and shelter programs. Our members have led numerous other community betterment efforts. Many of those are described elsewhere in this document.

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

Open and honest communication has been key to our success as a congregation and we need to keep this process going.

We need to continue to find innovative ways to reach out to address community needs. We're also working to develop a clearer vision of our future. We invite our new pastor to help us do that.

What worship is like when our congregation gathers.

Our weekly services are informal, yet structured into a familiar order of worship. Prelude is followed by welcome and announcements by the pastor. Volunteer liturgist leads the call to worship. After opening hymn, with projectionist showing the words on the three screens, liturgist leads responsive opening prayer. That's followed by "short takes" a brief commentary by the pastor about some topic of his interest. Liturgist reads the scripture lesson, which usually ties in to the message. We don't follow the lectionary, but are aware of the seasons and often refer to them via scriptures and message (advent, Pentecost, lent, etc.) sung response to the scripture (appropriate hymn); Pastoral message tends to be conversational with biblical references connected to daily life and messages of hope. Some messages use humor; others more serious. All make you think and might make you uncomfortable. Shared joys and concerns, then silent and pastoral prayer lead to doxology and prayer to dedicate offering. Service ends with hymn and benediction. Coffee and conversation follow in fellowship hall.

Service has evolved and we're open to changes under the guidance of our new pastor.

The educational program/faith formation vision of our church.

The educational program for youth revolves around our KLAB program (Kids Learning About the Bible). It's a weekly after-school program for kids K-5th. It involves snacks, physical activity, and a bible/faith enhancing segment. Also involves a service element such as project to raise money for animal shelter

and then a visit to the shelter to present the money.

Adult education centers on a Sunday morning discussion led by the pastor. It covers a wide range of participant chosen topics from Biblical to current events. Recent topics included: changes in our church, happiness, the body, religious trauma, and personal Christologies.

We also have a "Shalom Circle" prayer and meditation group that meets regularly. It offers a time of peace and inspiration in the midst of a hectic life.

How our congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

The governing body of the church is the Cabinet.

The officers of this church shall be a Pastor, Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Financial Secretary and Treasurer. All except the Pastor shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Officers shall assume their duties upon election at the Annual Meeting.

Boards and committees include the following:

Cabinet: a) Nominating Committee b) Search Committee (when needed)
c) Memorial Committee

Parish Nurse Program

Staff/Parish Relations Board

Trustees Board

Finance Board

Worship Board

a) Chancel Committee

Mission Board

Christian Education Board

Women's Fellowship Executive Board

Endowment Fund Committee

Description of Boards & Committee duties are listed in the Attached Documents.

Church cabinet, which meets monthly, consists of representatives from each board. Members are informed via monthly newsletter, printed or on line. Announcements are also made prior to Sunday worship.

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...

Unpredictable winter weather is one reason that may call for sudden changes in Sunday morning worship or other events. Pastor and church moderator (chair of the cabinet) confer to make those decisions. Word would be relayed to the congregation via automated "one call" system.

Other situations might require a special meeting of the cabinet (representatives of each of the boards and committees) to make that decision. Cabinet meets monthly.

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

[📎 2024 Better copy - page numbers are correct.docx](#)

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:	94
NUMBER OF ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS:	7
TOTAL OF CHURCH PARTICIPANTS (SUM OF THE NUMBERS ABOVE):	101

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

TIME	PERCENTAGE
MORE THAN 10 YEARS:	92%
LESS THAN 10, MORE THAN 5 YEARS:	0%
LESS THAN 5 YEARS:	8%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Number of total participants by age:

AGE	NUMBER
0-11	7
12-17	2
18-24	5
25-34	7
35-44	10
45-54	11
55-64	2
65-74	26
75+	31

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

HOUSEHOLD TYPE	PERCENTAGE
SINGLE ADULTS UNDER 35:	4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH MINORS:	10%
SINGLE ADULTS AGE 35-65:	6%
JOINT HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO MINORS:	52%
SINGLE ADULTS OVER 65:	28%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

EDUCATION LEVEL	PERCENTAGE
HIGH SCHOOL:	7%
COLLEGE:	67%
GRADUATE SCHOOL:	13%
SPECIALTY TRAINING:	13%
OTHER EDUCATION LEVEL:	0%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

EMPLOYMENT TYPE	PERCENTAGE
ADULTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED:	22%
ADULTS WHO ARE RETIRED:	73%
ADULTS WHO ARE NOT FULLY EMPLOYED:	5%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

The range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

Our working members are farmers, teachers, health care, self employed, service industry employees. Our retirees had similar occupations.

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

We're 98% European heritage with a Puerto Rican family and an African-American lady.

What diversity means in our context?

As mentioned above we're mostly white, class diverse. We do have former Catholics, former Baptists, and former Methodists.

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

No

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)	12	pastor
Baptisms (number last year)	5	Pastor
Children's Groups or Classes	7	CE/pastor
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	85	pastor/CE
Church-wide Meals	40	women's fellowship
Church-based Bible Study	0	pastor
Communion (served how often?)	0	monthly pastor
Community Meals	0	mission board
Confirmation (number confirmed last year)	0	pastor
Funerals (number last year)	7	Pastor/women's fellowship
Outdoor Worship	0	pastor/CE board
Prayer or Meditation Groups	8	pastor
Public Advocacy Work	0	mission board
Weddings (number last year)	1	pastor

Worship Times

WORSHIP (TIME SLOT):	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ATTENDANCE	WHO PLANS EACH OF THE LISTED GATHERINGS
10am	42	Pastor

Additional comments:

During June, July, and August the last weekend is a Saturday evening (6pm) worship service.

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.

No Response

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

N/A

List of all current staff:

STAFF POSITION	HEAD OF STAFF	COMPENSATION	SUPERVISED BY	LENGTH OF TENURE FOR CURRENT PERSON IN THIS POSITION
Organist/Pianist	Staff Parish	part	Staff Parish	10 years
Custodian	Staff Parish	part	Staff Parish	25 years
Administrative Assistant	Pastor	part	Staff Parish	13 years

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

Although our membership has declined over the years and our congregation has aged, we remain committed to the wider church goals and ideals. We continue to seek ways for our members to remain faithful and relevant in today's world. We continue to thank God for those blessings in our lives and continue to praise and seek his guidance.

Church Finances

Current Annual Income

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Endowment Proceeds (as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)	4000
Support from Related Organizations (e.g. Women's Group)	400
Total	4400

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

No response

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?

46

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

No

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year? (indicate those included during the most recent fiscal year)

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)
One Great Hour of Sharing
Strengthen the Church
Neighbors in Need
Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered?

It is a budgeted item and collected as part of the overall giving. Some members choose to contribute directly to the OCWM.

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

6

Total amount of loan debt:

No response

Reason for debt:

No response

Are capital and other payments current?

Yes

Capital Campaigns

Description of any building programs projected or underway.

We are currently repairing the bell tower and making it squirrel and bat proof. Project started about July 1 and is expected to be completed by November 1. A campaign to raise \$40,000 is underway to help defray the expected cost of about \$100,000. Remaining cost will be covered by building fund money. About \$27,000 has been raised

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.

Goal is to ensure that the bell tower remains a functional part of the church building

Does your church have an endowment?

Yes

What is the market value of the assets?

No response

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

No response

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

No response

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

No response

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

No response

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

please refer to the annual report for complete information

Other Assets

please refer to the annual report

Reserves (savings):

No response

Investments (other than endowment):

No response

Does the church have a parsonage?

No

Description of all buildings owned by the church:

Church was built in 1890. Significant additions in 1930s, 1950s and 1990s.

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

Listening devices in the sanctuary, or wireless technology to connect to hearing aids

Large print bulletins

Wheelchair access in bathrooms

Handrails on all stairs

Sound system in sanctuary and other meeting places (fellowship hall, large meeting rooms, etc.)

Curb cuts

Accessible bathroom on each floor

Wheelchair areas in sanctuary (other than "front or back")

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs:

Lower Level: handicapped accessible restroom, classrooms quilting room and other rooms.

First Floor: offices, sanctuary, East chapel, Fellowship Hall, kitchen, handicap accessible bathrooms

Policies regarding financial practices of the church:

Financial Secretary:

1. Enlists one volunteer to help count all offerings
2. Promptly deposits funds in accordance with the procedure established by the Finance Board
3. Oversees the records of all contributions.

Treasurer:

1. The Treasurer shall disburse all funds in the church budget and any other funds that the Boards designate. The Boards (Cabinet) shall approve all disbursements.
 2. The Treasurer shall make regular and detailed reports of all income and disbursements to the Finance Board and the Cabinet.
- The Endowment Committee reports through the annual report and annual meeting.

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

Our church is in good financial condition. However we need to realize that as the congregation ages we may not always be able to continue to cover expenses with pledges and other revenue sources. That may limit what we are able to do regarding ministry and missions.

Historical Information

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

Congregational church in Webster City was established in 1855. Current building was built in 1890 and has undergone numerous additions and remodeling. The building has shaped our identity as a steadfast and integral part of our Webster City community.

The past ten years have seen repair and restoration of all the stained glass windows. We are now in the process of repair/restoration of the bell tower. The Covid pandemic forced us to reflect on our own spiritual lives and the spiritual life of our church. We moved outside for worship when weather permitted. When inside, we masked and sat apart. Or we listened at home to the audio services the pastor sent each week. When it was over, the experience of being apart drew us back together to become a closer, more appreciative, more caring congregation. A sense of "Praise God! Crisis resolved, let's move on with renewed vigor."

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

We have moved our Sunday School education program to weekday afterschool program for K-5. We felt this better adapted to today's lifestyles and better met the needs of both parents and kids in that age group.

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.

We believe that conflicts need to be openly addressed and resolved. We believe that we need to be willing to openly listen, discuss and compromise for the good of the entire church family. The church cabinet takes the lead in addressing issues that may affect the life and health of the church. Special meetings, such as the one described below, are used to bring differing views together to discuss and resolve.

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

The decision to repair the bell tower was a difficult one, but not one we would classify as major conflict. In the larger picture, we looked at possible options like downsizing and moving to another facility. Some members thought we should find a smaller venue rather than repair this one. After considering several options, we voted to repair. That process is now underway, as of July 1.

Ministerial History:

Name: Craig Blaufuss

Years of service: 15

UCC Standing

Name: Howard Hunt

Years of service: 5

Name: Jim Buffington

Years of service: 3

Name: Jeff Palmer

Years of service: 3

Name: Ward Malloy

Years of service: 10

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

We have to practice due diligence. We've learned from experience that open communication between congregation and pastor is vital to the success of the ministry. Our staff parish board has that responsibility. We also know that when we find the right person we must nurture them and remain receptive to new perspectives.

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.

We have a long history of service to our community. Many of our members are active or were active in the community. They have acted as liaisons to bring information about worthy projects for our congregation to consider. It's part of our global mission. Here are a few event examples:

Support for school back pack programs (weekend food supplies for needy children)

Local Habitat for Humanity projects

Local Care Center Services

Beacon of Hope meals for homeless shelter

Support for Domestic assault victims and families

There are many more. We also appreciate and support our current pastor's involvement in these and other ecumenical activities through the local ministerial association and service clubs. These efforts improve our city, affect people's lives in a positive way, and spread the word of God by actions, deeds, and involvement.

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

6 Members have been Synod delegates in recent years

9 members have been delegates to NW association meetings, IA. Conference or Tri-Conference meetings

3 have served on committee on Ministry

2 have served on Iowa Conference Board of Directors

One has been IA. Conference Board Treasurer and NW Association Treasurer

2 have served on Mayflower Board of Trustees

2 have been Global Ministries pilgrimage participants

2 have become UCC clergy

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

A community movement usually starts with a call to action meeting. Our church would typically send a representative (or one of our members would be involved in the call to action meeting) and we would decide if we wanted to be involved as a church group

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.

Our church has not formally voted to support these worthy causes but we embrace them on an individual basis. Our priorities lie mainly at the local level and supporting the wider church's 5 for 5 initiative.

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

Our church has always been passionate about working with worthy ecumenical and interfaith efforts at the local level and beyond. Many of these have been spearheaded by the local 12-member ministerial association. Our pastor has been a vital part of that group, having served as treasurer and chair during his tenure here. Here are some examples:

Interfaith church services at the local county fair

Multi church fund-raising effort at Christmas to raise money for the Ecumenical Human Needs program in the area

Multi-church effort to provide weekly church services to our three local care centers.

Community effort to provide Christmas presents to needy families. (Called Angel Tree)

These are just a few examples of what we do.

Our Mission Board is always looking for more ways to contribute to our local community.

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

In general, we would say time spent planning and initiating the various activities which reflect our mission statement (Share the gospel, nurture and support each other, and show concern for humankind) is time well spent. Most of the activities with which we are involved as a congregation revolve

around some aspect of that mission statement.

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.

Historically our church has always been active in the local community. We encourage and support our Pastor to participate in the Community in areas of their interests. We don't specify a certain amount of time to be spent in community and wider church activities and projects. First priority is to the congregation. We expect our pastor to be a member of the local ministerial association and to support the efforts of that group according to the pastor's interests and expertise. We also expect the pastor to be a part of the association and conference meetings, activities, and projects, according to their interests and abilities.

The ARDA or MissionInsite Reflection

ARDA/MI File

No response

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

Trends point to lower population growth, opportunity for expanded adult ministries. The ARDA findings confirm trends that we are aware of.

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.

Our demographics follow the same trend as the community

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

Our congregation is following the same trend: more emphasis on older adult ministry.

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

A good question to ask our references. Generally, they cite our willingness to cooperate with other churches and community groups in worthwhile projects and causes such as Relay For Life, and community Christmas fundraisers like Angel Tree.

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

Our active non-members and new members cite a variety of reasons for their involvement: opportunities and programs not available at former churches. Examples: adult Sunday school; spousal involvement; service opportunities. Also, a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

References



☒ Theo Boman

Completed: Wednesday, Jul 23, 2025

Undertaker

Primary Email Address: Bomanfh@gmail.com

Business: 515 832 6001

Reference Response

I would be happy to visit with you about the church and the building.



☒ Amy Erickson-Keller

Completed: Friday, Aug 1, 2025

Local funeral director since 2007

Primary Email Address: Keller22@me.com

Personal Cell: 515-835-1944

Reference Response

I am a born and raised Webster City native. I grew up only living a few blocks from the church. I work very close with the minister at the church when funerals are needed. I have been the local funeral director since 2007.

☒ Tony Streigle

Contacted: Monday, Oct 6, 2025

Primary Email Address: Shepherdboyfirearms@gmail.com

Mobile Phone: 5154507643

Reference Response

No response

Closing Prayer

As winds of change begin to blow,
And new paths call, and seeds we sow,
We lift hearts in prayer and hope,
For the minister on life's steep slope.
May God's hands direct the way,
Through every step of every day.
May strength be found in every stride,
And peace and courage be our guide.
May they arrive with joy and might,
To share God's wisdom, pure and bright.
To shepherd souls, with love profound,
And plant the seeds on fertile ground.
May unity and purpose blend,
With open hearts and willing hands, we receive this faithful friend.
May blessings flow, in every part,
And Christ's love fills every 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.

The search committee (members listed at the beginning of this document) consisted of members who are or have been active in many areas of church leadership: past, current and incoming cabinet chairs, trustees, women's fellowship chair. The committee also drew on a number of sources within the church organization for help, information, and input into this document, including:

Church treasurer, administrative assistant, women's fellowship, trustees, Christian Education, Mission Board, Worship Board, and current pastor.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

We have tried to paint an honest and accurate picture of our church, its members, and the community we live in. Parts of this document are difficult to apply to our conservative rural Iowa setting. But we are unashamed of the fact that we are a UCC church that has survived and thrived in this setting for 170 years. We have survived because of our commitment to service to God and community and to the bond of love and friendship between members.