

Name of Church
First Congregational UCC
Address
214 S Third St Dayton, WA 99328
Conference:
Pacific Northwest
Association:
No Associations
Title
Pastor
Start Date
Mar 1, 2026
Description
placeholder

Church Contact Information

(509) 382-2471 (Church Primary Phone)

Listing Information

Web Presences

<https://www.facebook.com/DaytonFirstCongregationalChurchUCC/> *Type: Professional*

Additional Formal Ecumenical Affiliations

N/A

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person

Name:

Rev. Phil Hodson

Title:

Designated Conference Minister

Phone:

(206) 725-8383

Email:

phil@pncucc.org

What we value about living in our area.

We are a kind, loving, Congregational UCC Church that has welcomed people wherever they are on life's journey, striving to remain nonjudgmental and gracious even when our understanding of Christianity differs. We value our area's hospitals and medical services, our excellent school district, healthy downtown and good employment base such as tourism, agriculture and wind industries. We value our healthy non profits such as our historic theater and museums. We value how our community prioritizes and protects our children. We have multiple sports programs, a strong 4-H, an after school club, childcare, and a library. We have a peaceful, calm atmosphere in Dayton with abundant recreation opportunities such as camping, fishing, golfing, RV parks, hiking, skiing, and boating. We know our neighbors and we are a community that looks out for one another.

Current size of membership

47

Average in person attendance

22

Does your church hold virtual worship services?

Yes

Choose platform type(s) and number for virtual worship.**Audio Platform**

On average, how many listeners are there per service?

2

Languages used in ministry

English

Position Title

Pastor

Position Duration

Settled

Compensation Level

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

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

Yes

Link to current Conference guidelines*No response***Scope of Work**

Select the expectations of the church's next pastor using the list below and following the Call Agreement Workbook.

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

Expectations:

Worship Leadership, Preaching, Service Preparation.
Church Administration, Newsletter, Communications, Staff Supervision.
Pastoral care, visitation of hospitalized, homebound, and members in care facilities.
Special services (weddings, funerals, liturgical year services).
Mission and service involvements.

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)	32000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing Allowance	9600	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any Experiential Difference (Related to years of experience)	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salary Basis: 41600			
Pension/Annuity	5824	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Security and Medicare Offset	3183	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical/Dental Insurance	11000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Insurance	150	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability Insurance	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worker's Compensation	388	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Not Applicable.

The expected living situation for our next minister.

Parsonage

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

The parsonage is a 1920's 4 square 3 bed, 2 bath farmhouse consisting of full width front porch and a detached garage with a fenced yard in between.

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

If the candidate wishes to pursue additional employment opportunities or educational opportunities, the church will be more than willing to work with you.

The church is happy to be flexible and accommodating with the candidate's on-site hours and visitations times. Our dedicated congregation is ready to share the load, ensuring the candidate has the freedom and support to flourish both in our pulpit and in their additional career or educational goals.

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

Reimbursement for use of personal vehicle.
Cell Phone and/or Internet.
Conference and/or Association meeting registrations
Criminal background checks.
Community of Practice Participation.

Other:
Internet will be covered and cell phone service can be negotiated.

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

No response

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 congregation hopes to remain faithful, active, and committed for the long term and to continue our legacy of serving God and our neighbors in Columbia County since 1877. We seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community, responding to real needs with presence, service, generosity, and meaningful relationships.

We strive to reflect God's love in action: living with intention, compassion, kindness, and a nonjudgmental spirit. As a church, we want to remain welcoming, open, and supportive of all people - listening deeply to one another and seeking to live the Gospel faithfully. Guided by the Golden Rule, we aim to love our neighbors as ourselves, both within our church family and beyond.

Looking ahead, we hope to grow as stewards of God's work, always striving to be better than we were yesterday. Joy is an important part of our life together, and we want to continue nurturing a spirit of gratitude, generosity, and service.

We also hope to strengthen connections with younger generations by creating a safe and welcome space. Reintroducing family-centered events, such as game nights and casual gatherings, can help families connect with the church community.

Increasing our visibility in the community is another priority. We hope to maintain a consistent presence through local media, participation in community events, and engagement opportunities such as community meals, service projects, or clothing drives.

As we move forward, we want to use our resources thoughtfully, potentially supporting part-time youth leadership and partnering with other local programs to expand opportunities for youth and teens.

Above all, we believe ministry is a shared calling. As a congregation, we are committed to working together, using our building, small groups, and gatherings as welcoming spaces for connection, creativity, learning, and fellowship.

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

We believe God is calling us to meet this moment with honesty, openness, and renewed connection to our community. Like many churches, we face the challenge of declining Sunday attendance, along with fewer young people and families participating in church life. We see this not only as a challenge, but also as an opportunity to listen, reconnect, and invite people back into meaningful community.

We hope to reach those who may be searching for a spiritual home, including people who once attended church but no longer do, by continuing to offer an open and inclusive Christian community where all are welcome. In a region where many churches lean more conservative, we value being a place where faith can be explored with curiosity, compassion, and thoughtful conversation. Sermon or speaker series that engage social, historical, and spiritual topics are one way we hope to encourage that exploration.

Reaching younger generations is especially important to us. We hope to rebuild connections with youth by creating relaxed and welcoming spaces where they can gather, share food, ask questions, engage in music, and build friendships. Youth group could grow over time, beginning with simple gatherings and expanding into summer or year-round youth and family activities.

We also believe God is calling us to expand our presence in the our wider community. Needs we see around us include support for food security, mental health, and companionship for elderly neighbors. We hope to respond through practical service—such as meals, partnerships with the local food bank, visits to nursing homes, and collaboration with schools and service organizations.

At the heart of this calling is a desire to make a larger and more visible footprint in our community—showing up with compassion, building relationships, and offering a welcoming place where people know they are valued and cared for.

11-Year Report

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

No response

Congregation Demographics

Describe those who participate in your church.

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS:	47
NUMBER OF ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS:	0
TOTAL OF CHURCH PARTICIPANTS (SUM OF THE NUMBERS ABOVE):	47

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

Describe the total participation of the church:

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
MEMBERSHIP 5 YEARS AGO:	52
MEMBERSHIP 10 YEARS AGO:	55
WEEKLY ADULT EDUCATION ATTENDANCE: (IF ANY)	21
YOUTH MINISTRY ATTENDANCE: (IF ANY)	2

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

Number of total participants by age:

AGE	NUMBER
0-11	7
12-17	4
18-24	1
25-34	2
35-44	7
45-54	1
55-64	6
65-74	9
75+	18

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

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
Pastor	Church Council	part	2 years
Farm Account & Finance Manager	Church Council	vol	26 years

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

We are a stable, engaged congregation where every voice matters. Members share in church governance and contribute their gifts to a forward-looking vision. With the pastor as our only paid position, our ministries are led entirely by dedicated volunteers serving on active committees. Rooted in a rural community, we extend our faith beyond our walls through service as volunteer firefighters and leaders on school, hospital, theater, museum, library, and other community boards and organizations.

Church Finances

Current Annual Income

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	40205
Endowment Proceeds (as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)	20000
Total	60205

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

38000

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:

166000

Endowment:

No response

Endowment:

No response

Capital Campaigns

Description of any building programs projected or underway.

We are currently in the process of upgrading one of our restrooms to improve accessibility and better serve individuals with disabilities. In addition, we will be recarpeting the fellowship hall. The carpet has been generously donated, and we are presently awaiting a bid for the restroom renovation.

Pictures



Does the church have a parsonage?

Yes

Fair market rental value of the parsonage:

No response

How is the parsonage used?

No response

Street

208 S. 3rd Street

City

Dayton

State

No response

Zip

99328

Finished square footage:

1830

Number of Bedrooms:

3

Number of Bathrooms:

2

Assessed real estate value:

100000

Available for minister residence?

Yes

Expected minister residence?

Yes

Condition of structure, systems and appliances

3 new appliances. Structure of building is good/excellent.

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs

Trustees

Parsonage pictures



Describe all buildings owned by the church and include pictures:

Our church, built in 1903 in the Gothic Revival style, is a beautiful and carefully maintained place of worship. Recently restored and protected stained-glass windows fill the open sanctuary with light and color, complementing lovely pews, a working organ, and a piano. Our historic bell, donated by Cushing Eells, remains one of only three working bells of its kind in Washington State.

The church features a full kitchen, dining room, and fellowship hall with fireplace and small media center. Electrical systems have been upgraded throughout the entire church, and the sanctuary has an updated HVAC system. An elevator provides access to three levels.

An education wing, added in the 1950's, offers space for Sunday school, a nursery, choir room, and other ministries.

The 1925 four-square farmhouse parsonage has been recently renovated with new HVAC, plumbing, and wiring while retaining its 1920s character. It offers modern kitchen appliances, an upstairs laundry room, double-pane windows, a full unfinished basement, fenced backyard, and detached one-car garage. The parsonage is unfurnished.

More pictures of the church and parsonage are available upon request.

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

Not Applicable.

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 child care spaces for wheelchair users and people with other mobility 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
Wheelchair areas in sanctuary (other than "front or back")

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs:

Sanctuary
Pastor's Office
Narthex
Fellowship Hall
2 Bathrooms
1 Youth Room
1 Counseling Room

Historical Information

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

Our congregation has been shaped by both deep joy and deep loss. From 1993 until his passing in 2010, Pastor Steve Edwards and his wife Roslyn filled our church and community with music, theater, counseling, and a spirit of celebration. When Steve became ill and we lost him, our church family faced tremendous grief, yet it was also a time when we truly lived out our faith by caring for one another and stepping forward together. We have also taken meaningful steps toward inclusion and leadership in our community, including hosting the first same-sex wedding in our town and calling our first woman pastor and her wife. Through every season, we have remained a thoughtful congregation, many of us educators, who value asking questions, learning together, and living our faith with compassion. That stays the same no matter what comes our way. We are a small, loving church family who support one another, welcome all, and look forward to sharing ministry and new energy for the future.

Ministerial History:

Name: Steve Edwards

Years of service: 17

Name: Marj Johnston

Years of service: 10

Name: Deborah Tyler

Years of service: 3

Community Vision

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

Our congregation loves rolling up our sleeves for the whole town. Whether it's lending a hand after a fire or flood, hosting AA meetings, making hygiene kits, supporting schools, or volunteering at fairs, museums, and local events, we are out there every day. We welcome neighbors to join our book clubs, art groups, and coffee gatherings, building connections wherever we can. Proudly bold in our advocacy, we celebrate a long history of civic engagement, from members serving on city councils and volunteering as firefighters to supporting women leaders recognized as Citizens of the Year. By breaking barriers and stepping into leadership roles, our congregation has helped shape and strengthen our community. While we may be modest in recognition, our actions show who we are: a caring, hands-on church devoted to service, connection, and making our little corner of the world better.

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



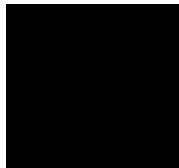
■ Julie Karl

Contacted: Wednesday, Mar 4, 2026

Primary Email Address: Waltzingdog69@gmail.com

Reference Response

No response



■ Linda Weistaner

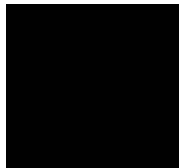
Contacted: Wednesday, Mar 4, 2026

Primary Email Address: lweistaner@gmail.com

Mobile Phone: 5092404555

Reference Response

No response



■ Mary Luce

Contacted: Wednesday, Mar 4, 2026

Primary Email Address: mandmluc611@gmain.com

Reference Response

No response

Closing Prayer

God of justice and kindness, we pray for the minister who may journey toward us. May they live Micah 6:8 each day—to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You. As a close knit church family who love fiercely, listen deeply, and share laughter and honest faith, we welcome a pastor to walk beside us with courage and grace, caring for one another and seeking a more just and compassionate world together.

Amen

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.

Pastoral Search Committee - Katie Leid, Van Whysong, John Laib, Roger Tumbocon, Robin McQuary-Billow

Church Moderator - Lois Farnsworth-Whysong

Farm Manager - John Laib

Church Council

75% of church membership

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

No response