

Dear Prospective Minister,

The United Church of Johnson in Johnson, Vermont, is prayerfully seeking a half-time (approximately 20 hours per week) minister to help lead our congregation into a new and hopeful chapter of ministry. We are pleased to share our church profile with you and invite you to consider whether God may be calling you to serve alongside us in this vibrant and caring community.

We are a small, faithful, and welcoming nondenominational congregation rooted in biblical teaching, heartfelt worship, and compassionate outreach. Our church family values strong relationships, meaningful fellowship, and active service within our community. Though modest in number, we are rich in dedication, resilience, and hope for the future.

In July 2023, our church experienced significant flooding that impacted both our building and our thrift shop ministry. Through God's grace, generous support, and countless volunteer hours, our facilities have been beautifully restored. This experience has strengthened our congregation and deepened our commitment to discerning God's direction for our future. We see this as a time of spiritual renewal, growth, and expanded community outreach.

Johnson, Vermont, offers a unique and deeply rewarding setting for ministry. Nestled in the heart of the Green Mountains, our town is surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty, outdoor recreation, and a strong culture of creativity and neighborly care. Johnson is home to Vermont State University–Johnson and the internationally recognized Vermont Studio Center, bringing energy, diversity, and artistic vitality to our community. Residents take pride in supporting one another through town events, volunteerism, and collaborative partnerships among churches, nonprofits, and local organizations.

Our church building serves as a welcoming gathering place for community groups, including recovery programs, youth organizations, and wellness initiatives. We are committed to nurturing these relationships while exploring new ways to serve our neighbors. Our congregation values long-standing traditions such as community meals, seasonal events, and outreach ministries, and we are excited to build upon them in meaningful ways.

We are seeking a minister who loves preaching and teaching God's Word, provides compassionate pastoral care, and enjoys building authentic relationships within the congregation and the broader community. We hope to find a leader who can inspire meaningful worship, encourage participation across generations, and help us grow in faith and service.

We provide a parsonage within the community, offering a peaceful wooded setting while remaining close to church and town life. This allows our minister to be both accessible and engaged while enjoying the beauty and quality of life Vermont offers.

If, after reviewing our church profile, you feel called to explore this opportunity, we would be grateful to hear from you. Please submit your resume, ministerial profile, and references to the Pastor Search Committee at:

United Church of Johnson  
Po Box 703, Johnson, VT 05656  
or via email at [Unitedchurchjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:Unitedchurchjohnson@gmail.com)

We welcome any questions and would be happy to speak with you as you prayerfully discern your next step in ministry.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our congregation and community. Please know that you are in our prayers as you seek God's guidance.

Blessings,  
Kim Goodell

On behalf of the Search Committee  
United Church of Johnson

**Welcome to the United Church of Johnson! God bless you as you read our profile and consider joining our faith community.**

We are a small but faithful congregation in a rural community that, despite ecological and economic challenges, looks to the future with hope and trust in God's guidance. We believe this is a time of renewal and new possibilities for our church and community. We are seeking a vibrant, visionary minister to join us in shaping that future—a leader who will inspire us, help us grow in faith, and guide us in finding new ways to serve and connect with those around us. This half-time position, about 20 hours a week, offers the opportunity to build something meaningful together as we follow God's call into what comes next.

Our church family is close-knit, welcoming, and grounded in a spirit of kindness and service. We value worship that is heartfelt and biblically grounded, fellowship that strengthens our bonds, and outreach that reflects Christ's love in action. Though small in number, we are rich in dedication and faith. We take joy in coming together—whether in worship, community events, or shared acts of service—and we are eager to grow in ways that make a lasting difference both within our congregation and throughout our community.

### **United Church Mission Statement**

The United Church of Johnson is founded on the fundamental proposition that here you may worship God—and you may worship in freedom.

Recognizing the divine purpose for the worship of God, we believe that the mission of our church is to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to celebrate the sacraments; to foster Christian understanding and be enable spiritual growth; to realize Christian fellowship and unity of all Christian beliefs within this church and the church universal; to render loving services toward humanity and to strive for righteousness; justice, morality and understanding of one another; and to strengthen family and community life.

We strive to live out this mission by revealing Christ's love through our actions, upholding worship, supporting our church's ministries, and seeking justice and peace among all people. To all who need rest and comfort, friendship and hope, we welcome everyone who seeks God's grace as we walk together in Christian love.

### **Worship and Music**

The United Church of Johnson is a welcoming, nondenominational community of believers from many faith traditions. We come together joyfully in worship to hear God's Word, sing praises, pray, and share in Christian fellowship.

Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month to all who wish to partake, and we celebrate the sacraments of baptism and confirmation as part of our growing faith community. Our worship follows the common lectionary and centers on biblically based messages that connect scripture to everyday life, offering spiritual guidance and inspiration to live out Christ's love.

Services include both pastoral and lay participation—members share their gifts through reading scripture, greeting, ushering, hosting coffee hour, and extending hospitality to all who enter our doors

Music has long been a cherished part of our worship, blending traditional and contemporary hymns from the Methodist hymnal. Though we no longer have an active choir, we hope to rebuild one and continue to make music a joyful expression of faith that uplifts and unites us.

In past years, our Sunday School served up to a dozen children who eagerly participated in worship. While we currently have no children attending, we remain open and hopeful for the return of a vibrant children's ministry, trusting that God will bring new energy and life in His time.

Our church family includes 102 members, with about 20-25 active participants. Our building, rebuilt in 1971 after a fire, and restored following the July 2023 flood, offers a bright, accessible space with a sanctuary that seats 120, a fellowship hall, classrooms, offices, and ample parking. Thanks to many hands and generous hearts, our church has been renewed and is ready for the next chapter in our ministry.

### **Beyond Sunday Morning**

Our church family is deeply committed to service, fellowship, and community connection. Each fall, we host our much-loved Chicken Pie Supper, a long-standing tradition that draws friends and neighbors from near and far to share good food and warm conversation. We also host a lively Craft Fair featuring local artisans, whose handmade creations bring color and joy to our church building. Throughout the year, volunteers organize various community gatherings that celebrate friendship, generosity, and the spirit of giving.

Our Thrift Shop, located on church property, is another cherished ministry. Run entirely by volunteers, it offers gently used clothing and household items at affordable prices, serving both residents and visitors who appreciate its friendly atmosphere and community spirit. Open Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, the shop blesses those who visit and provides vital support for our church's mission and outreach.

Following the flood of July 2023, both our church and Thrift Shop were significantly affected. Through special gifts, grants, and countless volunteer hours, we have restored and renewed our space—remodeling the kitchen and bathrooms, updating flooring, painting, and installing a new fire alarm system. Thanks to the dedication and faith of our congregation, we are once again ready to welcome all who enter with gratitude and hope for what God has ahead.

### **Wider Church and Community Connection**

The United Church of Johnson has a long tradition of community and ecumenical involvement. In past years, we have hosted Community Meals, seasonal concerts, and Community Breakfasts, and participated in town events such as the Johnson Holiday Jubilee. While some of these activities have paused, we remain eager to revive them as part of our renewed vision for outreach and service.

Our church building continues to serve as a welcoming gathering place for local organizations—including the Girl Scouts, Play Group, AA, and Bone Builders—providing space for meetings, fellowship, and community connection.

We maintain strong relationships with nearby faith communities and participate in an active local clergy association that offers shared opportunities for support, collaboration, and worship. Our community partnerships include Vermont State University–Johnson, Jenna’s Promise, and the Vermont Studio Center, among others. We are prayerfully seeking a minister who can help us focus our mission—guiding us to discern one or two key outreach opportunities that best align with our strengths, calling, and community needs.

Our commitment to service extends beyond our local borders. We have supported organizations such as Northwest Haiti Christian Mission, Church World Service, and various disaster relief efforts. When our Sunday School was active, children led projects like Taco Tuesday for Heifer International and supported Project Peanut Butter, learning firsthand what it means to live out faith through compassion and action. Locally, we support Lamoille Home Health, the Johnson Food Shelf, and the Lamoille Cancer Network, and regularly collect nonperishable items and household supplies for neighbors in need. When emergencies arise, our members respond quickly with donations, gift cards, and assistance from our Thrift Shop. We also provide financial help for children to attend summer church camps, ensuring that every child has a chance to grow in faith and fellowship.

### **Community Characteristics of Johnson, Vermont**

Nestled in the heart of Lamoille County in north-central Vermont, the town of Johnson is home to approximately 3,600 residents. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the Green Mountains, Johnson’s landscape is defined by forested hills, rivers, and scenic peaks. Butternut Mountain rises within the town’s borders, while the 3,715-foot Sterling Mountain stands just south of town. The Lamoille and Gihon Rivers add to the town’s charm, providing recreational opportunities and picturesque views.

The Village of Johnson is a compact, welcoming community featuring historic buildings, small businesses, and residential neighborhoods that reflect the town’s rich heritage. Johnson is also home to Vermont State University – Johnson, and the Vermont Studio Center, the largest international artist residency program in the United States.

Johnson’s strong sense of community and collaboration is reflected in the partnerships among area churches and organizations. The town is located about 40 miles from Montpelier and near two premier ski destinations—Stowe Mountain Resort and Smugglers’ Notch. Health care is accessible through Copley Hospital and other local providers, with the University of Vermont Medical Center about 40 miles west.

Johnson is also home to Jenna’s Promise, a thriving recovery community offering housing, treatment, vocational training, and holistic support for individuals rebuilding their lives—a program that embodies the compassion and resilience that define our town.

### **Schools and Recreation**

The town of Johnson offers quality educational and recreational opportunities for children and families. Johnson Elementary School serves students from preschool through sixth grade, with an enrollment of about 200 children. The school provides after-school care and a variety of extracurricular programs. Students in grades 7–8 attend Lamoille Union Middle School, and those in grades 9–12 attend Lamoille Union High School,

both located on a shared campus in Hyde Park, about five miles east of Johnson. These schools are part of the Lamoille North Supervisory Union, which serves six surrounding towns. The Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, also on the same campus, offers technical and vocational training for high school students. Some families also choose to enroll their children at All Saints Catholic Academy in nearby Morrisville, an elementary and middle school about eight miles away.

Johnson is home to Laraway Youth and Family Services, which provides education, special education, and mental health programs to youth across the region. The Johnson Recreation Committee offers a range of activities for children and adults, including basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, gymnastics, and a community ski program. Middle and high school students can also participate in interscholastic sports such as cross country, alpine skiing, basketball, soccer, and lacrosse. In addition, Johnson Elementary offers an after-school childcare program until 4:30 p.m. each day, along with a full-day summer camp in June and July.

The Johnson Public Library, now located on School Street after moving from a flood zone on Railroad Street, offers engaging programs throughout the year, especially for elementary-age children. The community also benefits from the Johnson Food Shelf, located at 661 Railroad Street, which provides essential support to local residents and is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

### **Church Government**

Chair – Pastoral Relations (P.R.) and Pastor Search – Vacant

Chair – Church Council (Spiritual Life) and a member of P.R. – Nicky Gardner

Chair – Executive Board and a member of P.R. – Judy Beard

Sunday School Superintendent and a member of P.R. – Kim Goodell

Other member of Pastoral Relations: Laura Lehouillier

The United Church of Johnson's governing bodies are vested in its active members. Although we hope to revisit and possibly revise our governance structure in the future, we currently follow by-laws rewritten in 2002. To improve coordination, the governing bodies now meet jointly on the second Sunday of each month.

- Church Council: Encourages and nurtures the spiritual life of the church, working with the minister to provide worship that praises God and extends His love into the community.
- Executive Board: Oversees finances, property maintenance, stewardship, and staffing other than the minister.
- Religious Education: Supports spiritual growth and fellowship through Sunday School, youth programs, confirmation classes, and Bible studies.
- Pastoral Relations Committee: Maintains open communication between the minister and congregation, supports both parties' needs, addresses concerns, and leads pastor searches and profile development.

We have begun exploring a transition to a single-board structure to further strengthen collaboration and communication.

## **Church Finances**

|                    | 2024      | 2025     | 2026 Budget |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Operating Revenue  | \$45,000  | \$51,400 | \$48,000    |
| Operating Expenses | \$53,200  | \$47,600 | \$64,400    |
| Operating Deficit  | (\$8,200) | \$3,800  | (\$13,400)  |

Deficits have been covered by using interest and some principal of our investment funds, which total around \$220,000. We are hopeful that increased attendance will bring in more revenue and financial stability.

Over the past three years, approximately \$144,000 has been spent on refurbishing buildings and grounds following flood damage, funded through grants and generous donations.

## **Parsonage**

The United Church of Johnson provides a parsonage for the minister located approximately one-half mile from the church, offering a comfortable and welcoming home within the community. The parsonage is an unfurnished, three-bedroom residence with one and one-half bathrooms, a full basement, and a one-car attached garage. Situated on 2.47 acres in a quiet, wooded setting, the home provides a peaceful environment while remaining close to the church and community. The church is responsible for maintenance and utilities in accordance with established church policies.

## **Leadership Expectations:**

We welcome applications from ministers who are ordained, licensed, credentialed, or currently in the process of becoming credentialed. More than anything, we seek someone called to serve our church family and community with faith, compassion, and enthusiasm.

Our ideal minister:

- Loves their congregation, preaches God’s Word with passion, and plans worship that inspires and uplifts.
- Knows the Bible deeply, preaches with relevance, and applies God’s Word to today’s world and issues.
- Demonstrates strong character and a warm, approachable personality that builds trusting relationships.
- Provides caring pastoral support, including visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and homebound members.
- Is dedicated to church growth and brings fresh ideas while honoring our traditions.
- Is dynamic, outgoing, approachable, and empathetic, enjoying connections with the broader community.
- Enjoys working with youth—from babies to teens— and helps them experience and grow in God’s love.
- Encourages members to participate actively in church life and reaches out to inactive members.
- Guides the congregation through challenges with patience, positivity, and constructive leadership.
- Loves Vermont—or is ready to take a leap of faith and discover the beauty, warmth, and community spirit of our wonderful state!

## **Challenges/Opportunities**

Like many small congregations, we face challenges such as maintaining financial stability and attracting new members. Yet we see these as opportunities to renew our mission, strengthen worship, and reach more people with God's love.

## **What do we need to become a healthier and more faithful Church?**

- A growing and engaged congregation – more adults and children actively involved in the life of the Church.
- A welcoming, inclusive, and diverse community – open to all, and celebrating differences.
- A family-friendly environment –where young people and families feel valued and included.
- Deeper commitment to Christ –members fully devoted to living out faith through service, worship.

## **Conclusion**

We are a resilient and caring congregation, rooted in faith and strengthened by our shared commitment to serve God and our community. Having rebuilt and renewed our space after the July 2023 flood, we are ready to embrace a new chapter of ministry—deepening our connections with one another, engaging meaningfully with our neighbors, and nurturing faith in all generations.

We look forward to welcoming a minister who will grow with us, inspire our congregation, guide our outreach, and help us focus on the opportunities where we can make the greatest impact. If you feel called to join our church family in this exciting season, we would be delighted to hear from you.