

CHURCH PROFILE
PASS-A-GRILLE BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
St. Pete Beach, Florida

Searching for our next Pastor for Congregational Life

Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ



“Ask, and you will be given what you ask for. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Anyone who seeks, finds. If only you will knock, the door will open.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

CONTACT INFORMATION & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact Information

Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church UCC
Address: 107 16th Avenue St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
Phone: 727-360-5508
Email: admin@pagchurch.org
Website: <https://pagchurch.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/PAGBCC>

UCC Florida Conference
Area Conference Minister Name: Rev. S. LaTrell Harrison
ACM cell phone: (689) 500-7386
ACM email: LHarrison@uccfla.org

Please send ministerial profiles to LaTrell Harrison.

Executive Summary

Pass-a-Grille Beach Community Church enjoys a history of community, fellowship and service dating back to 1913. Members originate from all parts of the country, bring a wealth of diverse experience, and share a willingness to use their talents to serve God as they are called. Our church is located at the south end of a chain of barrier islands on the gulf coast with three miles of uninterrupted, beautiful, white sand beaches. We enjoy an average temperature of 74° and 361 days of sunshine a year.

We seek a pastor to partner alongside our Senior Pastor in leading our congregation of approximately 535 members. Specifically, we seek a part-time, settled Pastor for Congregational Life. This person's main roles will be to oversee our small group ministries and our pastoral care ministries. The candidate must have eligibility for standing with the United Church of Christ and the skills and abilities identified in the following section. We offer this profile to describe and share with candidates about our church, its mission, our congregation and our community.



WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

Overview

Our Pastor for Congregational Life is one of the spiritual leaders of our church, who willingly collaborates with church staff, committees, and volunteers. Their primary areas of leadership are supporting our small group ministries and pastoral care. We seek a Pastor for Congregational Life with the following values, strengths, and skills:

AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

Engaging Sacred Stories and Traditions

- Exhibiting knowledge, understanding, and continuing study of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament
- Growing in effective proclamation and preaching

Building Transformational Leadership Skills

- Encouraging leadership development of self and others through continuing education and lifelong learning
- Performing necessary and appropriate administrative tasks
- Working collaboratively with intercultural awareness and sensitivity

Strengthening Inter- and Intra- Personal Assets

- Developing and maintaining a healthy sense of self as shaped by God, community, and life experiences
- Living in relationships of covenantal accountability with God and the Church
- Exhibiting strong moral character and personal integrity
- Respecting the dignity of all God's people
- Understanding and ministering to stages of human development across the life span
- Demonstrating excellent communication skills

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Small Group Leadership

- Provide leadership to our church's small groups, including, but not limited to: Social Justice Ministry (including ONA and Racial Justice), Outreach Ministry, Women's Ministry, Men's Prayer Group, our Piece Makers sewing ministry, and our Thrift Store
- Organize and create new small groups as needed, perhaps including Covenant Groups which are organized by geography
- Serve as the liaison on Sunday mornings between the congregation and our small group ministries, overseeing publicity and sign-ups for our church's programs
- Provide outreach to newcomers and new members, helping them to getting assimilated into the life of the church by connecting with our small groups.
- Identify emerging leaders in our congregation and train them to be small group leaders

Personal Pastoral Care

- Visitation of hospitals, rehabilitation centers, assisted living facilities and parishioner homes
- Referring to professionals and resources when needed
- Personal encouragement and coaching for those in caregiving roles
- Serving Communion to those who are homebound, as requested

Programmatic Pastoral Care

- Serve as clergy support to our church's Caregivers Ministry by facilitating meetings, coordinating care among the members and helping the group with strategic planning
- Teach on topics/plan worship services (such as a Blue Christmas Service) related to care and compassion

Worship Leadership

- Preach approximately every 6-8 weeks
- We have a strong lay leader ministry in our church, so weekly worship participation will be discussed with the candidate.

CORE COMPETENCIES

We specifically seek a candidate who can demonstrate experience and skills in the following:

- Commitment to social justice, community service and an Open and Affirming culture
- Effective administrative skills and experience in best practices for preparing members of the congregation for leadership positions, and engaging volunteers in church ministries
- Committed to building fellowship and providing pastoral care to the congregation and attracting and retaining new members. We see this role as a critical component of our church growth strategy as we welcome newcomers into the congregation, the Pastor for Congregational Life will help integrate them into our church through small group ministries
- Has a healthy self-awareness and high emotional IQ, is a good communicator, and is eager to serve in a collaborative manner alongside our Senior Pastor
- Someone who is energetic and is eager to join a growing church, using their spiritual gifts to help our church continue to grow and spread the Gospel message in PAG and beyond!

COMPENSATION

Time	
Hours	This is a part-time position at approximately 25 hours per week, with expected Sunday morning worship attendance except when the pastor is away.
Paid Vacation	3 weeks per year
Continuing Education Time	1 week per year

Salary and Housing	
Base salary	\$31,500 – \$38,500
Housing allowance (30% of base)	\$13,500 – \$16,500
Total	\$45,000 - \$55,000

Insurance and Pension	
<p>Because this is a part-time position, health insurance benefits are not offered. The church can enroll the called candidate in the UCC Health Insurance with the employee covering 100% of the premium.</p> <p>Because this is a part-time position, no pension contribution is provided.</p>	

Professional Allowances	
Continuing education/professional expenses	\$3,000 annually
Phone expense	\$150/month
Mileage allowance	as needed
Relocation expenses	negotiable



WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?

As a diverse community of faith, we encourage people to accept Jesus Christ as their lord and savior, live with Christian values, and share God’s love by showing compassion and generosity for all communities. “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

God is calling us to unite and build community as a congregation, to commit to preparing for and accepting leadership positions within the church and in church ministries, to connect with younger generations, and to serve the needs in our community through expanded outreach.

In 2023, our congregation voted by an overwhelming majority to adopt the UCC designation of ONA, an open and affirming congregation. For many years, we have sought to build a place where all people know the grace and healing love of God.



On our church property, we host the Montessori by the Sea School for grades K-6. The school provides a valued educational option in our community with a current enrollment of over 100 children. We recognize the value of high-quality early childhood education, as well as the potential the school provides to build our youth programs, in part, by offering additional activities to the students and their friends and families.

Our congregation is striving to involve more members in planning and leading worship services, leading our numerous ministries, and serving on our Church Council. We recognize the importance of congregational involvement and leadership in the continuous lifespan of the church.

WHO ARE WE NOW?

CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Faith in Action. Our membership vows include a commitment to active participation in the life of the church and the broader community. Members pledge to support the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and to witness as Christ has called them to do, both locally and globally. Sunday sermons foster spiritual growth through scriptural teaching, challenging each one to apply our learning to daily encounters and interactions.

Inclusion and Diversity. We believe that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all individuals, regardless of their background, into our congregation. Our Social Justice group includes our ONA and racial justice commitments. They help us continuously ensure that inclusion remains a cornerstone of our faith practice.

Spiritual Growth. Members are encouraged to engage in continuous spiritual development through regular worship, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Our book studies, numerous community outreach programs and mission trips manifest our belief that nurturing one's faith is a lifelong journey.

Worship Liturgy. In our worship services, God is most often described as a loving and just creator, who is actively involved in the world. Our liturgy reflects a balance between reverence and joy, recognizing God's majesty and grace. Common themes in our prayers and hymns include: God's unconditional love and mercy, God's call for us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and God's justice and righteousness, urging us to work for peace and equity.



Our congregation is warm and welcoming. Our strengths are diverse talent, generosity, a quest to grow and improve and a sincere desire to serve our community. Our winter resident population is also a strength of our congregation, as they are quite active when they are here. Seasonal residents and visitors share what they have learned here with friends and other churches around the country.

OUR WEEKLY WORSHIP

Pass-a-Grille Beach Community Church holds two services each Sunday. Our 10am service is streamed live and past services are available on the website. <https://pagchurch.org/worship-live-broadcast/>

The 8:30 contemporary service is held outside on the large, covered patio at the main entrance to the church. Music is provided by Winston Culler who plays contemporary, religious and secular music mirroring the liturgy. Communion is served every week.



<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/kCAV5MkDjd8>

The 10:00 traditional service is held in the recently renovated sanctuary with inspirational stained-glass windows surrounding the entire sanctuary. The church is blessed to have a full chancel choir, as well as a hand bell choir. The chancel and bell choirs are led by our Music Director, Ms. Dale Williams, an extraordinarily gifted musician deeply dedicated to using music to enhance worship. She plays both the piano and organ, and the inspiring music reflects the worship theme. Communion is served the first Sunday of each month.

We have Fellowship Hour after each service, serving refreshments and inviting fellowship and conversation.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3haYMpuvWqw>

OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The church provides a variety of faith formation and leadership opportunities for adults and youth. An example of recent adult faith-building programs includes a Lenten series led by our Senior Pastor based on the book The Last Week by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. That series had over 30 attendees, as our congregation is hungry for theological engagement and study. In addition, Women on a Faith Journey and the Men's Ministry each meet weekly for Bible and book study, as well as to address prayer concerns.



In preparing to seek the Open and Affirming designation from the UCC, we held a four-week series of sermons that included member testimonials in preparation for a vote from the congregation.

The Social Justice Ministry held a book launch event for the book An Uncertain Life: Growing Up Gay and Southern Baptist by Charles Michael Brill, a member of our church.

In 2025, our Social Justice ministry conducted a survey and the top 3 items that people said they wanted to learn more about were:

1. Housing inequality
2. Constitutional rights and responsibilities
3. Immigration/refugee issues



Top 3 items that people thought our church should take action on are:

1. Work on voter education/registration campaigns -- held informational workshop with representatives from Supervisor of Elections office. Attended by 21 people
2. Consider supporting groups who care for refugees in our area
3. Actively engage in prayerful protests

Faith-building for our youth is accomplished through innovative Bible study/Sunday school, weekly age-group specific Bible study/discussion sessions, and a variety of family events. Our youth are organized into three groups: “Ripples” (three years to grade 6), “Riptide” (grades 7 to 9), and “Wave” (high school age).



We also provide our youth with many opportunities to live their faith. These opportunities involve the youth in various aspects of church life and also empower them to take on responsibilities, develop leadership skills, and contribute meaningfully to the community. Youth are encouraged to participate in activities to support our church and the community including:

- Ushering at our services
- Technology support
- Readings from the Lectern
- Dramatizations
- Project planning and execution
- Mission trips out of the local area that focus on helping others
- Parking lot donation collection (from beach goers) and traffic management

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/458399890019659>

OUR ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP

The leadership and management of the church are vested in the Church Council, comprised of an Executive Committee and representatives from church ministries. The pastors of the church are ex-officio non-voting members of the Church Council.



The Executive Committee includes the corporate management officers of the church and is responsible for the governance of the church in accordance with the congregation by-laws. The Executive Committee comprises:

- President
- Vice-President (also serves as Personnel Committee Chair)
- Secretary
- Treasurer (also serves as Finance Committee Chair)
- Pastoral Relations Chair
- Senior Pastor

The full Church Council consists of the Executive Committee plus one representative from each of the following ministries. The chairs of each are responsible for the ministry:

- Business Manager
- Children and Youth Ministry
- Endowment and Stewardship Ministry
- Facilities Ministry
- Men's Ministry
- Montessori by the Sea
- Music Ministry
- Nominating Ministry
- Outreach Ministry
- Social Justice Ministry (including ONA and racial justice)
- Women's Ministry (includes the Thrift Shop)
- Worship Life Ministry

OUR CONGREGATION



Church Participants	Estimate
Number of voting members of record	535
Average number of Sunday worshippers	
In person	250
Online	50
Active youth	30



87% of our congregation is an active or retired professional or executive. Examples of specific roles include teacher, doctor, lawyer, accountant, business manager, civil servant, insurance agent, professor, systems analyst, IT manager, and software engineer. Our congregation is predominantly white, as is our surrounding community.



OUR CURRENT STAFF

Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation	Supervised by	Time in position
Rev. Dr. Angela Wells-Bean Senior Pastor	Yes	Full Time	Executive Committee	18 months
Dale Williams Music Director	No	Part Time	Sr. Pastor	10 years
Winston Culler Music Leader 8:30 Service	No	Part Time	Sr. Pastor	15 years
Signe and Todd Webb Youth Programs	No	Part Time	Sr. Pastor	10 years
Stacey Jackson Office Manager	No	Full Time	Sr. Pastor	11 years
Traci Hitchcox Media Communications Coordinator	No	Part Time	Sr. Pastor	3 years
Jennifer Bell Rafiq Kaid Cleaning Services	No	Part Time	Sr. Pastor	5 years

<https://pagchurch.org/about-us/contact-us/>

OUR HISTORY

Pass-a-Grille Beach Community Church has a rich history beginning in 1911 with its first meeting in the old schoolhouse on the island. It is the only barrier island church on the National Historic District register for the west coast of Florida. In 1949, the church joined the Congregational Conference of Florida; and in 1959, the congregation moved into a new (and current) church building. In the early 1960s, the congregation became a part of the United Church of Christ. A thrift shop, day school and counseling clinic were begun during that time. The Montessori by the Sea school was formed as an outreach to the community in the late 1980s. In the 1990s, a new educational building was added, along with a remodeled courtyard area including a labyrinth, fountain and garden.

In 2012, the church celebrated its 100th anniversary with a centennial concert series, ongoing historical displays and a beach bonfire. For more than a century, the church has been an integral part of the life of the beach community.

In 2020, the church added an outdoor pavilion and did extensive interior remodeling to create a more open and inviting space for people to gather during the week as well as before and after services. In April of 2023, the church's senior pastor retired after 18 years of service, a major event in the life of the church.

HURRICANE HELENE

In September of 2024, Hurricane Helene hit the Tampa Bay area, and our church was flooded with over 28 inches of water. The congregation temporarily worshipped with Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, while our building was remediated. We began worshipping again in our Sanctuary in January of 2025, just in time to welcome our new Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Angela Wells-Bean. Our renovations were completed in the summer of 2025. The reconstruction included the installation of water intrusion barriers in each of our church's many doorways.

Before, during, and after the hurricane, our congregation stepped up to help our community and beyond. Our Outreach Ministry organized a group of people called Hurricane Helpers, in which church members assisted people with mucking out their homes, removing debris from yards, painting, rebuilding and moving back into their homes. In September of 2025, our church co-hosted a One Year Service of Remembrance with Church of the Isles UCC in Indian Rocks Beach. To this day, church members and the surrounding community are still working on rebuilding their homes and their lives. The effects of the storm will have a lasting impact on our community for years to come.

Today this active church of 535 members continues to reach out to community, country, and world-wide missions as it did from its onset.

OUR PASTORS THROUGH THE YEARS



Rev. Dr. Angela Wells-Bean with her family

Over the Past 30 Years			
Minister's Name	Role	First Year	Final Year
Scott Comrie	Senior	1990	2004
Emily Bell	Associate	1991	2004
Lawrence Washburn	Interim	2004	2006
Sue Detterman	Associate	2004	2005
Jennifer Glover	Associate	2006	2009
Keith Haemmelmann	Senior	2009	2023
Jeanne Haemmelmann	Associate for Youth and Young Adults	2012	2023
Victoria Long	Associate	2009	2013
Bill Main	Bridge	2014	2015
Guillermo Marquez-Sterling	Associate/Pastor	2015	2024
Michael Price	Bridge	2023	2025
Eric Elnes	Interim	2023	2024
Angela Wells-Bean	Senior	2025	present
You??	Pastor for Cong. Life	2026	present

WHO ARE OUR NEIGHBORS?

COMMUNITY VISION

We strive to live our mission statement daily by supporting our congregation and reaching out to our neighbors near and far.

“As a diverse community of faith, we encourage people to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; live with Christian values; and share God’s love by showing compassion and generosity for all communities. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

Serving Through Mentorship. In partnership with Mount Zion Christian Academy’s after-school program for at-risk children in grades K thru 6, members of our church participate by tutoring and mentoring the children. Along with the MASTR Kids program, our church created Tutoring Angels in reading and mathematics programs.



<https://sppf.org/mastr-kids-programs/>

Sharing Through Music. Our vibrant Music Ministry is an important aspect of outreach. Annually, the church hosts several special concerts for the public:

- In November, we perform a Thanksgiving concert to express our gratitude. Audiences range between 350-400.
- Our concert in the early spring is a highlight of our program year. Typical audiences are 300 attendees.
- One Sunday in July, during our 10:00 service, the Music Ministry performs the “Let Freedom Ring” concert. This concert is not intended as a fundraiser but is a gift of patriotic music to our community.



- Over the last several years, the church's Spring Concert Series has brought over 2,000 community members to our church and raised over \$5,000 for local non-profits. Many experienced the welcoming spirit of our congregation for the first time and have subsequently returned to become more involved.



<https://www.facebook.com/reel/119146450202228>

Attending to Our Neighbors' Needs. The church actively supports the Good Samaritan Pantry, one of the largest food pantries in our county. Ministries within the church raise funds, collect/deliver food, and work in the warehouse/distribution center. Member donations of toiletries and food support the St. Petersburg Free Clinic. Volunteers help deliver and distribute donations to those in need. Church members also participate in the Clothes2 Kids' annual clothing drive for school-aged children in the local school district. At Christmas, the Women's Ministry sponsors the Angel Tree using donations from the congregation to purchase gift cards for two local non-profit organizations. The Piece Makers quilt-making group makes infant quilts for all children born at a local hospital, comfort quilts for church members in need, and quilts for youth to take on mission trips. Church members regularly volunteer to prepare and serve meals at the local Ronald McDonald House. The church also sponsors environmental work days, such as a beach clean-up at Fort DeSoto Park in coordination with the youth and clean-ups at municipal parks in St. Petersburg. The church's Caregivers Ministry meets monthly sending cards and gift baskets to church members and visiting ill and grieving members in their homes, hospitals and nursing facilities.



Thrift Store

The church has operated an on-site Thrift Shop for more than sixty years. Volunteers sort and tag an abundance of new and gently used donated items for resale. Members staff the shop four mornings each week during most months of the year. The shop is a popular destination for residents as well as many beach area visitors. In 2025, proceeds of over \$50,000 were used to enhance our community in a variety of ways, while moving thousands of unwanted household items into the hands of those who treasure them.



Investing In Children and Youth

Our congregation supports the on-site Montessori by the Sea School, established in 1985 as an outreach program to serve the local community with a high quality, Montessori program. The school accepts students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin. All religions and faiths are respected. The school operates independently from the church, but the church is represented on the school's Board of Directors and the school is represented on the Church Council.

<https://www.montessori-by-sea.org/>

The relationships between the school, the congregation and our community continue to be strong and collaborative. The congregation is invited to participate in art fairs, singing programs and other activities presented by Montessori students. Our Piece Makers Ministry volunteers with Montessori sixth graders to prepare quilted items for All Children's Hospital. During the most recent school year, the lease with Montessori by the Sea school contributed over \$100,000 to the church budget.



Growing Through Mission Work. Each year, the church sponsors adult and youth mission trips. In summer 2025, high school youths served on a mission in Peru. Adult groups are very popular. They have responded to the needs of storm victims in nearby Ft. Meyers; in Mayfield, Kentucky and Houston, Texas; and as far away as Puerto Rico. In May 2026, our adults went to Biloxi, Mississippi, to work with Back Bay Mission. As is often the case with missions, the volunteers gain more than they contribute while building lifelong bonds of fellowship.



Sharing the Good News. On Easter, the church shares a sunrise service with our community. This tradition dates back nearly a century and is enthusiastically supported by residents. With approval of the city, services are held on the public street overlooking Boca Ciega Bay. Volunteers arrive in the early hours to place hundreds of folding chairs on the streets. Together, our members, families, friends, neighbors and beach visitors await the sunrise and the renewed spirit of the living God. Easter sunrise service attendance is approximately 1400.



<https://www.facebook.com/reel/794986172037263>



MISSION InSite

Current trends. Our congregation comprises a community of well-educated, older, primarily Caucasian, and more affluent individuals when compared to our neighbors within a ten-mile radius of the church. Church membership has remained fairly stable for the last several years. In 2025, we focused on growth and added over 50 members to our congregation. By recognizing the needs in the greater community, we have designed ministries and programs to meet and serve the community where the needs are greatest.

Opportunities for growth. Recent visioning discussions at the Church Council have yielded promising opportunities for retaining members, growing church membership and creating new ministries:

- Expanding educational programs, opportunities for fellowship and small group study for the church's current, older membership
- Engaging with and involving the children and families of the Montessori by the Sea School
- Creating generational activities to serve and invite younger community members

Our church is known for being open and welcoming to all. Community attendance at concerts, shrimp boils, pancake breakfasts, and a full sanctuary for many services, concerts and events provides evidence that we are striving to serve our mission to share God's love with everyone.

CLOSING PRAYER

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
Colossians 3:1

