



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

The Beneficent Congregational Church of
Providence, R.I.

Senior Minister

Rhode Island Conference

February 7, 2018

LISTING INFORMATION

The Beneficent Congregational Church of Providence, R.I.

300 Weybosset St., Providence, RI 02903-3773

<http://www.beneficentchurch.org>

Additional ecumenical affiliations: Rhode Island State Council of Churches

Conference: Rhode Island Conference, UCC

Association: Rhode Island Association, UCC

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person:

Rev. Barbara J. Libby, Interim Conference Minister

Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ

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Summary Ministry Description:

Since its founding in 1743, Beneficent Church has been a beacon in the community and a leader in social justice issues. Over the last fifteen years we are proud to have become a truly diverse, Open and Affirming (ONA), Christian church. We value our Black, White, LGBTQ, Asian, Native American, Latino, young, old, and socio-economically diverse community; we join together to celebrate Jesus, our shared humanity, and the gifts God has given each of us.

We want a minister who is committed to urban ministry and radical hospitality. Our minister will understand the power of the gospel, music, and powerful preaching to help us further energize and grow our church. We are seeking a leader and a teacher who will comfort, encourage and inspire us to create meaningful connections to God and one another and to promote justice, peace, and healing in our local and global communities.





What we value about living in our area:

We love being part of the capital city of the Biggest Little State of the Union! We are located in the heart of Downtown Providence surrounded by a wealth of culture. Within walking distance are award winning theaters, fabulous restaurants, beautiful architecture, a variety of festivals including the famous Waterfire, art galleries, museums, shopping, University campuses, sporting events and venues... We love that you can get to beautiful beaches, parks, farms and natural reservation areas (or anywhere else in RI) in less than an hour. Plus, Boston is nearby and New York City is also easily accessible.

Current size of membership: 180 (*working active membership*)

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*):

None regularly but we occasionally have some prayers and songs in Spanish.

Position Title: Senior Pastor

Position Duration: Settled

Compensation Level: Full-time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? Yes

SCOPE OF WORK

Full-time pastoral position (40 to 50 hours week/10-12 units)

In general, the Pastor will preach the gospel, administer the sacraments, teach the faith, care for the spiritual welfare of the Congregation, lead the Church toward broadening and strengthening its ministry, and supervise all worship and work, including the staff.

1. Lead the way for the church to be an ambassador of God's love and call to justice.
2. Prepare and lead Sunday worship, including scripture study, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, sermon preparation, guiding and sometimes finding lay liturgists, planning of music in coordination with the Deacons and musical staff, preaching, offering prayers, and performing other tasks with the goal of making each service meaningful.
3. Engage in personal study and prayer to increase faith and improve skills to lead, teach and preach better.
4. Spearhead faith formation and vitality through prayer, Bible study, service in collaboration with the Deacons and the Christian Education Committee.
5. Develop leadership by working with the congregation to create and implement ministry programs and community engagement.
6. Provide pastoral care in collaboration with the Deacons and staff, including counseling, listening and referrals.
7. Be part of strategic planning process for new directions in ministry.
8. Attend meetings and give leadership as needed to church programs in collaboration with lay leaders.
9. Support faithful financial development and stewardship in partnership with staff and lay leadership.
10. Participate in wider church activities such as conference and regional meetings.
11. Be responsible for the supervision of staff, including administrative oversight.
12. Be available for weddings and funerals.
13. Work in partnership with staff for community outreach and to represent the church to local organizations.

Core Competencies:

- Experience with working in urban settings
- Sensitive and compassionate to the issues of cultural diversity and skilled in working with a truly diverse population
- A compassionate, effective communicator of well-prepared and delivered sermons
- A spiritual director/teacher who is a social justice worker and convenor of faith
- *Some of the words our congregation used in describing what being a good preacher means: inspirational, motivational, sermons that relate to current events.*

COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis (from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/Housing Allowance): >> salary range of total package (per RI Conference guidelines) \$51,000 - \$60,000 plus approx \$60K benefits

Benefits:

Includes Housing Allowance, Health and Dental Insurance, Life and Disability Insurance, Annuity, FICA, Continuing Education and Professional Expenses

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?

Living nearby with a housing allowance

Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister.

Because of our commitment to ministry in our urban community, we hope our candidate would live within the greater Providence metro area.

State any incentives (e.g., school debt reduction or retention bonus after a certain number of years in position): Open for discussion

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference:

Committee on Church and Ministry (RI organization)
Rhode Island Clergy Association
Clergy Excellence Group

If applicable, describe how your church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment: N.A.

WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

We want to foster Beneficent Church to be a beacon for the larger community of progressive Christianity. Working together to grow our church, we want to share in energized worship services, and develop strong lay leadership.

Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.

Our vision of a minister is a person of conviction, who guides our faith formation to look inward to be able to effectively reach outward. Our minister will listen, support and guide us towards positive community outreach by tapping into our rich resources and programs, helping us to evaluate, prioritize and strengthen their impact beyond our walls.

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

The services at Beneficent are generally conducted in English, however, Beneficent Church has a wide breadth of cultural expressions to be honored in worship, meetings and other gatherings. We expect our minister to come with sensitivities to language of inclusion. Ideally our next minister will have first-hand experience working within a multi-racial and multicultural community (some knowledge of Spanish would be an asset.) While we use non-gender specific language for God when possible, our congregation's variety of religious backgrounds is reflected in the rich tapestry of how we pray and sing to our God.

Based on what you have learned about who your church is, who your church's neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, describe four areas of excellence from *The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry* that your next minister will display to further equip the congregation's ministry in these areas.

1. Building transformational leadership skills
2. Working together for justice and mercy
3. Strengthening inter- and intra- personal assets
4. Exhibiting a spiritual foundation and ongoing spiritual practice *
5. Engaging sacred stories and traditions *

** The fourth and fifth areas of excellence received equal support from the search committee and we therefore felt that both should be included here.*