

**Golden Prairie UCC
Ryan, IA**

Where is Ryan Iowa, and why would I want to be there?

The first is easy to answer. Ryan, Iowa is an easy 35 minute drive north of Cedar Rapids on Highway 13. The second is answered in many ways; all positive. But I only want to speak of one reason to be in Ryan. That reason is to worship and be a member of Golden UCC Church.

Golden Prairie Congregational United Church of Christ was founded 150 years ago. The hill-top location was donated by one of our founding members. Over the years, the current quaint country church and parsonage were built. The parsonage is currently used only for our annual Vacation Bible School and Lord's Acre Days celebration. Our church is structurally sound, warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The handicap accessible basement of the church also serves as our fellowship hall. We have a second story over part of the church, and that serves as a classroom.

Our congregation is small, but warm and dedicated. We worship every Sunday and hold special services during Lent and Advent. While we would love to have a pastor lead us during every worship, we are not afraid of rolling up our sleeves and doing some of the work as well. Our Deacons help plan and organize many of our worship services. Our Deacons also work with our Sunday School leaders to plan and host the area's only remaining Vacation Bible School. While our congregation only numbers about 70 members, it is common for us to have nearly 50 participants in our Vacation Bible School. It is a week-long event that culminates in a program/worship service followed by treats and an opportunity for the kids to show off their week's work.

Golden hosts a rest and refreshment stop for bicyclist during the Rhubarb Festival in mid-June. It's a great chance for us to invite folks to look around our church and enjoy a little time resting, visiting and snacking. It is not a fund-raiser, but rather a community-support effort.

The second weekend of October is our Lord's Acres Days celebration. On Saturday, we have a parade, lunch stand, baking/canning competition and live auction. Nowhere else in Iowa will you see onions and potatoes sell higher than lobster! It is a great event, and our annual large fund-raiser. One of our local businesses, who has family history with Golden, donates 1-2 truckloads of farm supplies, which are auctioned as well. On Sunday, we host a noon feast of grilled pork loin, real mashed potatoes, sweet butternut squash, dressing, green beans and assorted salads and desserts. This is an "all hands on deck" event, with our youngest members carrying trays back to the kitchen and our more senior members greeting and taking tickets.

We hold our annual meeting on the third Sunday in January. At this meeting, we present our new committee members, give reports of activities during the past year, vote on this year's giving by our church and have a report on the past year's finances. And, after the meeting, there is, of course, food. We are blessed with great cooks and those willing to enjoy their efforts.

At least once during the year, our congregation volunteers to work at Second Helpings, a multi-denominational free meal. Much of the food is donated, and those who volunteer help serve and clean-up. We take this opportunity to support this effort with our annual donation to the service.

In addition to Second Helpings, we also provide financial support and food donations to our county food pantry. We also make an annual contribution to the elementary schools in our area. These donations are intended for coats, gloves, hats, etc. for the children in their schools.

So, that is a snapshot of our faith community. We have great leaders within our congregation who are always willing to serve on the committees that do that church's work. Our Trustees take good care of the grounds, building and finances. Our Deacons take an active role in planning and preparing worship, including monthly Communion. Our Sunday School Leaders offer fun faith activities for the youth and look for ways that our kids can give back to the world, by helping other children.

Please come visit us! Drop in any time. Or, better yet, let us know you are coming, and someone will bake something! You will not leave with an empty stomach or heart.

GOLDEN PRAIRIE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (UCC)

RYAN, IA

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Pastor
Location: Ryan, IA
Reports to: Trustees, Deacons, Members

Primary Function

Attend to spiritual needs, health and education of the members of Golden Prairie Congregational Church (UCC)

Duties and Responsibilities

- Plan, organize and lead worship on Sundays and Holidays. This includes coordinating with pianists to choose music, prepare bulletin and provide children's message whenever children are present for service.
- Have Holy Communion service at least once a month
- Attend committee meetings whenever possible
- Provide Confirmation training as need arises
- Visit ill and hospitalized members as needed
- Visit shut-ins as needed, preferably monthly
- Prepare a monthly newsletter
- Officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals as needed
- Participate in Vacation Bible School
- Participate in Golden festivities (Lord's Acre Days, Women's Fellowship Luncheon, etc) as much as possible
- Provide services at Penn Center rotationally as needed
- Participate in Delaware County Ministerial Society as much as possible.
- If pastor is unavailable to provide spiritual guidance/services, pastor will notify Chair or Co-chair of Deacons so that coverage can be arranged.
- Uphold the by-laws of the church

Organizational Relationships

Pastor must work closely with Trustees, Deacons and Membership to ensure that needs are being met and the greatest possible spiritual growth can be achieved by the Golden Family. Must be willing to assist in negotiation if conflict arises. Work with neighboring pastors to promote community cohesiveness.

Educational and/or Other Requirements

Complete all continuing educational requirements to maintain authorization for ministry.