

INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE



MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE,
SUPPORT & AUTHORIZATION

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

West Liberty United Church of Christ

(Chartered in the State of Ohio as United Church of Christ, Congregational Christian)

212 West Newell Street

PO Box 427

West Liberty, Ohio 43357

Name of Position Opening: **Settled Pastor**

SONKA (Southwestern Ohio Northern Kentucky Association)

Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ

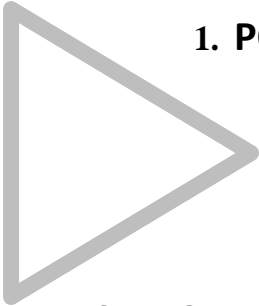
Validation Date: 10/14/18 at WL UCC Congregation Meeting

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

- Position Posting
- Who Is God Calling Us To Become?
- Who Are We Now?
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*“God is able to provide you with every blessing, so that
having all sufficiency in all things at all times,
you may abound in every good work.”*

(2 Corinthians 9:8)



1. POSITION POSTING

- a. LISTING INFORMATION
- b. SCOPE OF WORK
- c. COMPENSATION & SUPPORT
- d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: West Liberty United Church of Christ

Street address: 212 West Newell Street West Liberty, Ohio 43357

Supplemental web links: www.wlucc.org and

<https://www.facebook.com/West-Liberty-United-Church-of-Christ>

Additional ecumenical affiliations (*e.g. denominations, communions, fellowships*):

Conference: SONKA

Association: Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ

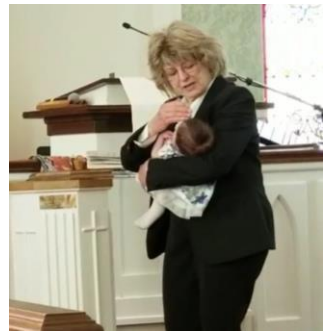
UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person (Name, Title, Phone, Email):

Penny Higgins, Chair of Pastoral Search Group

937-465-0600 Email: aphiggins@outlook.com

Summary Ministry Description:

West Liberty UCC is a place to worship God, encompassed in love, free of judgment in order to create a safe, just, energetic, and loving environment to help all people along their spiritual journey. We need Christ’s spiritual guidance as it relates to today’s world. We want our congregation to continue to join us on this path along with our God, members of our community, and our pastor.



What we value about living in our area: West Liberty reflects close family ties in a strong faith-based community.

Current size of membership: 302

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*): Sermons are in English but the kids learn songs in English, Spanish, German, Japanese, and American Sign Language.

Position Title: Settled Pastor

Position Duration: **Settled** – a called position intended for longer-term ministry in which the minister moves church membership to the congregation and moves standing to related association.

Compensation Level: **Full Time**

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? Our compensation package is within range for our area.

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

Core Competencies of a Pastor: Biblically-informed, able to adapt, sociable, creative, caring, financially-savvy, good speaker, patient, energetic, interacts well with all age groups

Mission of the Pastor of the Church (From the Bylaws of the West Liberty United Church of Christ)

27 (a) The Pastor shall provide effective leadership through conduct that honors the
28 mission and diversity of the congregation of West Liberty United Church of Christ and honors
29 the polity and traditions of the United Church of Christ.

30 (b) The Pastor shall maintain her or his ministerial standing in the United Church of
31 Christ.

32 (c) The Pastor shall undertake a program of continuing education that maintains
33 familiarity with current biblical and theological scholarship that informs the Pastor's preaching
34 and teaching activities.

35 (d) The Pastor shall attend meetings of the Church Board and Leadership Teams on a
36 regular and consistent basis and shall work collaboratively with church officers, leaders and
37 leadership teams to plan and implement congregational activities.

38 (e) The Pastor shall conduct baptism and communion services in accordance with the
39 beliefs and practices of the United Church of Christ. When requested, the Pastor shall take
40 communion to shut-ins and those people confined to hospital rooms.

41 (f) The Pastor shall assume leadership in a visitation program with particular emphasis
42 on members in the hospital, members who have been released from a hospital, but are unable
43 to assume normal activities, shut-ins and the elderly and new families moving into the
44 community.

45 (g) The Pastor shall enter or cause to be entered into church records the names of all
46 people that she or he has baptized, confirmed, married and buried, as well as records of all

47 communicant members.

48 (h) The Pastor shall provide counseling services to members requesting help with personal
49 and spiritual matters, keeping in confidence all personal information revealed during counseling
50 except those types of information that state or federal laws require to be reported.

51 (i) The Pastor shall disseminate through available church communication systems pertinent
52 information about the activities of the United Church of Christ.

53 (j) The Pastor shall work collaboratively with other area clergy and spiritual leaders to
54 promote religious services and ministries in the community.

55 (k) The Pastor shall make periodic reports to the congregation and the Board of her or his
56 activities.

We recognize that the demands of church life come at all hours of the day and night, and that the covenant with our church requires a pastor’s attention 24/7 to matters beyond your control. We expect that your work schedule will average 40-50 hours weekly, understanding that additional hours may be required but will be examined if an excess of 50 hours per week becomes a habit for you or for us. Therefore, we wholeheartedly support your need to take time for self-care on a regular basis, and we encourage your faithful management of 2 days off per week for rest and rejuvenation.

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis (*from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/Housing Allowance*):

2018 approved budget, Church Ministry:

Annuity	\$ 5,855
Car Allowance (mileage)	\$ 3,000
Social Security Offset	\$ 2,593
Health & Dental (plan C)	\$17,079
Life & Disability	\$ 627
Professional Expenses	\$ 250
Meeting Expenses	\$ 120
Salary	\$32,168
Workers Comp	\$ 175
Total	\$61,867

One month vacation, including four Sundays, increases by one week after five years.

Parsonage Utilities and upkeep	\$ 8,227
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Benefits: **Salary plus Benefits**

What is the expected living situation for your next minister? We have a parsonage next door to the church.

Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister: Our pastor needs to live in our community.

State any incentives: We offer a negotiated paid sabbatical of one month earned after five years of service or as negotiated.

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference: Our pastor and congregation participate in SONKA Crossroads Cluster of pastors and lay people from seven churches who meet monthly. Our pastor is encouraged to join the West Liberty Ministerial Association which meets every Tuesday morning.

If applicable, describe how your church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment: We will work with a pastor in this area.

1d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

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

A high priority is to strengthen the youth ministry plus provide spiritual guidance to our current congregation while reaching out to our community.

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

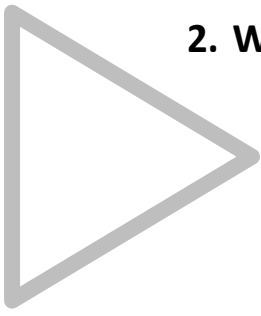
If the pastoral candidate meets the qualities that we've described, he or she will positively impact our congregation and community.

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

English is a first language for 99% of our community.

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.

- > Exhibiting a spiritual foundation and ongoing spiritual practice
- > Nurturing UCC identity
- > Caring for all creation
- > Strengthening inter- and intra- personal assets



2. 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 is God calling you to become as a congregation?

- Showing our faith everyday
- Striving to collaborate with our neighbors
- Supporting the youth of our church and community
- Doing what is right – just, moral, Christ-like
- Becoming a family of Christians

Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation.

We are comprised predominantly of older people and need to bring in more people ages 30 and younger. We continue to ask ourselves: How do we set a time around the kids’ activities in order to fulfill their spiritual needs? How do we focus on the 20-30 year olds? One idea we’ve discussed is focusing on their children by updating our basement area to be youth friendly and by hosting sporting events for adults and kids, such as basketball.

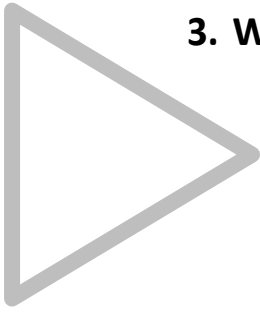
In 2017 we started Your Church Our Future to examine where our church is and where it’s going.

We’ve visited with newcomers to the community.

We’ve invited speakers from various organizations.

We’ve participated in outreach efforts, such as community, animal, and women’s shelters.

We’ve invited outside organizations to use our Friendship Hall.



3. WHO ARE WE NOW?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

- a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS
- b. 11-YEAR REPORT
- c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
- d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING
- e. CHURCH FINANCES
- f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith.

The mission of the West Liberty United Church of Christ is to respond to the Word of God revealed in scripture and through God's Holy Spirit, so that we may embody Christ's new life of peace and justice by providing a faith community for people to worship God, to serve God and people, and to grow in faith and wisdom.

We are making a deliberate effort to embrace that God is still speaking. We’re beginning to recognize the various opportunities and challenges this brings. The conversations have opened us to learning about other beliefs, religions, and lifestyles.

WL UCC’s Statement of Faith:

The congregation of the West Liberty United Church of Christ affirms the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (1977, 1981, adapted):

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to God's deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being, creates persons in the divine image, and sets before each one the ways of life and death. God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. God judges all people and nations by God's righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to the Creator. God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. God promises to all who trust in the gospel

forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the Holy Spirit's presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in God's realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

We have a can do attitude and are caring, loving. We think beyond ourselves. We are fiscally responsible. We work with other churches to reach the larger community with God's word.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

We worship in various parts of the church building. We also worship during picnics and meetings. Our formal worship service is in a traditional sanctuary but this doesn't limit us in how we approach worship. Our worship is comfortable, relaxed, upbeat, relatable, and challenging. WL UCC is a safe place to have various conversations of differing opinions.

The most recent baptism was also a joyful celebration of life. The congregation was made to feel a part of the baptism and of the children's lives.

We enjoy being taught something without knowing we've been taught something – make it seem effortless and interesting. We also enjoy watching for God-sightings in everyday life.

Describe the educational program/faith formation vision of your church.

Within the last two years we added a voting Youth Representative on the Church Board. Teens help lead the children's belle choir, serve as ushers, lead the Easter and Christmas services, read scripture during services, lead singing, perform acolyte duties, and help with Young People's Moment.

Our church embraces everyone's differences in their faith journey. We encourage freedom to think and ask questions. A huge breakthrough is that we do not feel threatened by asking questions.

Our self-review, *Your Church Our Future*, brought the congregation closer together.

In our Wednesday night discussion group, comprised of men and women of various ages, we recently studied the books: *Love Wins* and *If Grace Is True* plus a series about other religions.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

- How are decisions communicated in your church? Newsletter, email reaches 90% of active members, announcements before Sunday service, word of mouth, quarterly congregational meetings. The Moderator is the chief executive of the church for business affairs and serves as the public spokesperson.
- How are teams or committees organized? We have seven leadership teams.
- When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month? On average, each team meets monthly for about 2 hours and the Board meets monthly collectively for about 2 hours.
- Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished? The Board is empowered with decision making authority to act on behalf of the church in time of emergency to protect the property interest of the church while discerning God’s will. We have recently had two examples of need and responded accordingly.
- Where does your church struggle for vision? The things we do, we do well, but we have visions for the future that we struggle implementing.
- Can you provide the next minister with a copy of an organization structure, bylaws and/or annual report to further explain the patterns of the church’s activity and governance?
Yes

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

See attached: WLUCC yearbook data 2017

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	150	estimate
Number of active non-members:	15	estimate
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	165	estimate

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	75%	estimate
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	20%	estimate
Less than 5 years:	5%	estimate

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
15	10	10	15	20	30	30	15	20	estimate

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	5%	estimate
Households with minors:	35%	estimate
Single adults age 35-65:	5%	estimate
Joint households with no minors:	30%	estimate
Single adults over 65:	25%	estimate

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	100%	estimate
College:	50%	estimate
Graduate School:	10%	estimate
Specialty Training:	20%	estimate
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	50%	estimate
Adults who are retired:	40%	estimate
Adults who are not fully employed:	10%	estimate

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation: blue collar, professional, self-employed.

Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation, and the overall racial make-up. For all intents and purposes, we are mono-cultural. Most UCC congregations tend to describe themselves as “diverse.” Yet, the vast majority of UCC congregations are mono-cultural. What does diversity mean in your context? We have a wide age range with a good representation of all ages.

Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one in the near future (perhaps using, for example, the Welcoming Diversity Inventory)? Please note the date. Comment after the exercise: We have not addressed this issue at this time.

3d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

Complete the following chart. Please leave blank any fields that are not applicable to your congregation.

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings? (<i>list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff</i>)
Adult Groups or Classes	30	Lay leaders of the church with Education Team
Baptisms (<i>number last year</i>)	1	Pastor along with Worship Team
Children’s Groups or Classes	25	Lay leaders of the church with the Education and Youth Team
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	70	Lay leaders, musicians, pastor with the Worship Team

Church-wide Meals	60	Deacons, Missionary Aide, Hospitality Team
Choirs and Music Groups	15	Lay leaders, Worship Team
Church-based Bible Study	15	Wed. evening, lead by Pastor
Communion, historically quarterly	testing monthly	Worship Team, Deacons, Pastor
Community Meals		(talked about trying this)
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	0 for 2017 2 for 2018	Pastor with Education and Worship Teams
Drama or Dance Program	5	Education, Worship, and Youth Teams
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	4	Pastor and Hospitality Team for meal
Intergenerational Groups		All of our groups are intergenerational.
Outdoor Worship		At ice cream social, fish fry, summer picnic
Prayer or Meditation Groups	20	We held our first healing service 09/2018.
Public Advocacy Work		
Retreats		
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	10	In 2017 we offered a Bible Study to the community.
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	0 for 2017 1 for 2018	
Worship (time slot: 10:30 – 11:30 AM on Sunday)	Average 75, 2018	Pastor, Worship Team, Lay leaders, Musician
Young Adult Groups or Classes	10	Lay leader as Teacher
Youth Groups or Classes	15	Lay leader, Education and Youth Teams
Other		

Additional comments:

List all members or regular participants in your congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers. Indicate those with current United Church of Christ Three-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a congregation) or Four-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a ministry beyond a congregation).

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
Rose Michael	N/A		Interim 2011-2012, Disciples of Christ	Y

If one or more previous pastors or retired ministers currently hold membership in the church, describe their role(s) in the life of the congregation: Pastor Rose attends services regularly as well as volunteers with Missionary Aid and other groups within the church. When our current designated pastor began her term at our church, Pastor Rose asked Pastor Kay if she is okay with her attending. Pastor Kay and Pastor Rose have a good relationship.

List all current staff, including ministers. Exclude the position you are seeking to fill. Indicate which staff person serves as head of staff.

Staff Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation (full time, part time, volunteer)	Supervised by	Length of Tenure for current person in this position
Secretary	staff	Part time	Moderator	6 years
Custodian	staff	Part time	Property team	6 years

REFLECTION

Reflection: After reviewing the congregational demographics and activities above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's overall ministry? Our current Leadership Team structure was adopted in 2015 when our bylaws and constitution were revised. The structure allows for more input and support from various congregation members to encourage growth and diversity of thought.

3e. CHURCHFINANCES

Current annual income (dollars used during most recent fiscal year)

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$113,776
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$N/A
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	\$N/A
Fundraising Events	\$901
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$420
Grants	\$0
Rentals of Church Building	\$0
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$0
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women's Group</i>)	\$0
Transfers from Special Accounts: from reserves for major maintenance	\$2,945
Other (specify): From Memorial Fund for Sound System	\$14,405
Other (specify): refund from Workers Compensation	\$286
TOTAL	\$132,733

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$114,063

See attached WLUC Church Budget 2018; WLUC cash flow 2017; WLUC Financial Report 2017

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year (2018), compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? (\$61,867 Ministry + \$8,227 Parsonage)/ \$124,336 Total Budget = 56.4%

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church? No

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year?

- Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support) \$6,000, 2017 budget item
- One Great Hour of Sharing \$678, 2017 non-budget item
- Neighbors in Need \$475, 2017 non-budget item
- Christmas Fund \$431, 2017 non-budget item

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage? 4.8% (*recommended 10%*). OCWM is a budgeted item based on historical giving and current discussion.

What is the church’s current indebtedness?

Total amount of loan debt: Balance Aug 2018, \$46,494

Reason for debt: Addition of Friendship Hall 2015

Are capital and other payments current? yes

If a building program is projected or underway, describe it, including the projected start/end date of the building project and the total project budget. N/A

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: Addition was funded using Memorial Funds, Addition Drive (Goal \$33,250, Raised \$32,419), a mortgage loan, and reserves.

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
2015	Friendship Hall Added	\$170,000	\$	Financed \$63,231, balance as of 31 Aug 2018, \$46,494

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe: N/A

Describe the prominent mission component(s) involved in the most recent (or current) capital campaign. The addition of the Friendship Hall was to allow people who couldn’t navigate the steps to the basement to join in activities. Also, the community is invited to use the Friendship Hall.

Does your church have an endowment? No

What is the market value of the assets? N/A

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances? N/A

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)? N/A

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years: N/A

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last? N/A

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates: N/A

Other Assets

Reserves (savings) as of 31 Aug 2018:	Checking	\$4,150
	Savings	33,878
	Memorial Fund	21,570
	Music & Camp Fund	16,152
	Total	\$75,750

Investments (other than endowment): 0

Does your church have a parsonage? Yes

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: \$1,100/month

How is the parsonage used? Pastor

Street / City / State / Zip: 216 W Newell St., West Liberty

Finished square footage: 2961

4 Bedrooms, 1 and 1/2 bathrooms

Real Estate value per Logan County Auditor: \$150,500

Available for minister residence: yes

Expected minister residence: yes

Condition of structure, systems and appliances: Well maintained.

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs: Property Team

Describe all buildings owned by the church: church building and parsonage

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church: N/A

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? Worship, Fellowship Hall, Restrooms

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's mission and ministry? We have always been current in payments, debt to asset ratio is low, and we have the energy to stay that way. We have increased OCWM, added a Friendship Hall, and started a Benevolence Fund.

3f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Name one to three significant happenings in the history of your church that have shaped the identity of your congregation. Describe a specific change your church has managed in the recent past. Add the most important event in the life of your church in the past 10 years:

When the UCC began asking local churches to reflect on Equal Marriage Rights as voted upon at General Synod 25, our church, frankly, struggled. Members left and our long time, and much beloved minister, retired. For a time, we felt frustrated and lost.

Healthy discussions concerning ONA and Equal Marriage Rights have led us to a deeper, more respectful place. We have come to recognize and respect our great diversity of thoughts and ideas. Our congregation has come to appreciate the value in open discussion and has created a safe, healthy environment in which we can share our thoughts, beliefs, and ideas without fear of judgment.

Recently, we celebrated 200 years of being a church in West Liberty. In 2017 we added a Friendship Room which helped double the space used to serve meals and enables more people from the community to join us, including those who require handicap accessibility. September 2017 we began a self-review called Your Church Our Future.

Every church has conflict, some minor, some larger. “Where two or three are gathered, there will be disagreement...” Describe your congregation’s values and practices when it comes to conflict.

Please refer to the significant happenings above. Our ability to talk more openly about conflict has improved over time and continues to improve. The structure of using teams to help manage the church’s functions has included more lay people in on-going discussions concerning the life of the church and our community.

Ministerial History (*include all previous ministerial staff for the past 30 years*)

Staff member’s name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Ned Michael	1984-2005	Y
William Turner, interim	2006	Methodist
Will Stackhouse	2007-2010	Y
Rose Michael, interim	2011-2012	Disciples of Christ
Paul Forrey	2013-2017	Y
Kay Young, designated	2018-present	Y

Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership:

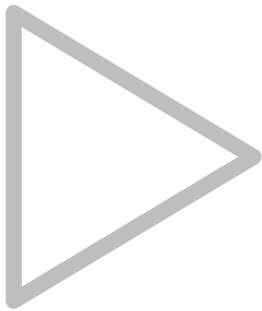
Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination?

Yes: Reference section above concerning conflict

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation? No.

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church? No.

4. WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?



“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

- a. COMMUNITY VISION
- b. MISSION InSite

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

How do the relationships and activities of your congregation extend outward in service and advocacy? Our church is not directly involved in any advocacy issues at this time.

Various members of our church belong to a variety of groups/clubs outside the church, some which participate in advocacy efforts.

Describe your congregation’s participation in meetings, relationships and activities connecting the wider United Church of Christ (association / conference / national setting).

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

Serve at Our Daily Bread in Bellefontaine, OH, Logan County

Serve at Caring Kitchen in Urbana, OH, Champaign County

Serve at West Liberty Cares Food Pantry, West Liberty, OH, Champaign/Logan County and also collect donated items and money for West Liberty Cares including utility assistance.

We donate food items and serve at the West Liberty Christmas Community dinner.

Deliver meals weekly to seniors of the church

Missionary Aide donates to various local charities each year, such as Adriel Schools, Habitat for Humanity, mental health initiatives, etc. The group sponsors a Thank Offering Dinner each year at Thanksgiving following a church service where a collection is taken for these projects.

Hold an ice cream social each July in conjunction with the Methodist church, proceeds going to a family in need
WL UCC is one of the founding churches of Green Hills Community.

Church members and families have gone on mission trips to various countries.

We collect Love Offerings when local people are in need.

LOVE OF CHILDREN

Donate winter coats, hats and gloves, and Christmas gifts to children in a needy family in the WL school system.

Youth group does a food “scavenger hunt” to help collect items for West Liberty Cares.

Collect pajamas and books for local wards of the court and needy children in local counties

Collect snack items for Valentine bags and boxes for college students and military personnel from our church.

College freshmen receive handmade “quillows” which are a fleece pillow and blanket which fold together.

Hold a joint Vacation Bible School with the Methodist and Presbyterian churches of West Liberty, OH with a specific mission project sponsored each year, some for local needs and some for projects in developing countries such as well drilling, water donation, etc.

Do a hat and mitten tree each December and donate the items through Logan County Children’s Services in Bellefontaine and the homeless shelter in Bellefontaine

Donate movie gift cards to youth in the church at Christmas time.

LOVE OF NATURE

Youth group rakes leaves and cleans up yards annually for those who aren’t able to do so.

Replacing all lights in church building with LED lights.

Recycle regularly.

Control thermostats.

Use washable plates, cups, glasses, and utensils.

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. (Find more information as desired at ucc.org.)

Check any statements below that apply to your UCC faith community.

Accessible to All (A2A)

Just Peace

Creation Justice

Global Mission Church

Economic Justice

Open and Affirming (ONA)

Faithful and Welcoming

WISE Congregation for Mental Health

God Is Still Speaking (GISS)

Other UCC designations:

Border and Immigrant Justice

Designations from other denominations

Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I’M)

None

Reflect on what the above statement(s) mean(s) to your community. Is your congregation interested in working toward any of the above statements of witness in the near future?

Yes, our congregation is interested in working toward all of the above statements of witness.

Describe your congregation's participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities (with other denominations and religious groups, local and regional).

Within Logan and Champaign Counties we do not have the opportunity to participate with other religious groups but we do participate regularly with other Protestant denominations, Methodist, Presbyterian, and others within West Liberty to do ice cream socials and other benefit dinners. Churches within West Liberty come together to provide support to the Green Hills Care Center.

If your congregation has a mission statement, how does that mission statement compare to the actual time spent engaging in different activities? Think of the range of activities from time spent gathering, to governance, to time spent going out.

WL UCC Mission Statement: The mission of the West Liberty United Church of Christ is to respond to the Word of God revealed in scripture and through God's Holy Spirit, so that we may embody Christ's new life of peace and justice by providing a faith community for people to worship God, to serve God and people, and to grow in faith and wisdom.

In a month's time we spend 80 people hours at least on taking care of church business.

In a month's time we spend 1000+ people hours working to grow in faith and wisdom.

Reflect on the scope of work assigned to your pastor(s). How is their community ministry and their ministry in and on behalf of the wider church accounted for in the congregation's expectations on their time?

We encourage our pastor to participate in UCC's wider missions and bring back knowledge to share with our congregation.

4b. MISSIONInSite

Comment on your congregation's MissionInSite report with data for your neighborhood(s) or area. What trends and opportunities are shown? This is a tool we have not used at this time.

How do your congregation's internal demographics compare or contrast to a) the neighborhoods adjacent to your church, and b) other neighborhoods with which your church connects? We are in rural Ohio that is Protestant and Catholic.

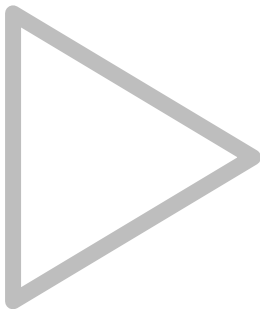
How are the demographics of the community currently shaping ministry, or not? The demographics of the West Liberty area are typical of a Midwest community. All of the churches in our area are facing the same questions and concerns for their congregations but UCC churches are more open to welcoming everyone.

What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for? In the past 10 years we are the only church in the area who has not only 1 but 2 different female pastors. We collaborate with neighboring churches to meet the spiritual needs of the greater community (Vacation Bible School, ice cream social, benefit dinners). We are a caring, loving church where God continues to speak in an ever changing world - God is still speaking in our church.

What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved? (Comments below are from our self-review, Your Church Our Future)

- One family still remembers their first day at church and are now active members.
- One person is a member of a church in Bellefontaine with 600+ people but is now coming here because he likes the size. People at the bigger church don't know each other. Pastor didn't know everyone in the bigger church.
- Bigger churches are not as connected. People come and go and minister doesn't know them. Our minister knows who we are.
- Support for each other, we practice what we believe – we are supportive/giving/caring people.

REFERENCES



Name up to three people who have agreed to serve as phone and written references. Advise the three references: “The contact information you provide may be shared publicly. Please use contact information that you feel comfortable giving to candidates so they can reach you with their questions.”

Attached are three letters of reference.

REFERENCE 1

Avery Sledge

Name / Position / Setting

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

REFERENCE 2

Rose Michael

Name / Position / Setting

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

REFERENCE 3

Becky Grakowski

Name / Position / Setting

(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

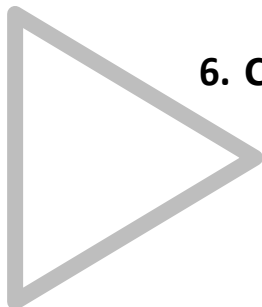
PROMPTS FOR REFERENCES

Describe some areas of strength in this church's ministry.

Describe some areas for improvement in this church's ministry.

Describe a significant experience you have had of this church's ministry.

Anything else you wish to share.



6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

a. CLOSING PRAYER

b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

c. CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

Include here any prayer or dream for the minister you imagine journeying toward you... a poem, for example, or a Scripture passage or a piece of music that is meaningful to your Search Committee:

⁸Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹²I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates.

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates. We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinions about our church. We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile?

Members of the Pastoral Search Group and the Church Board were the main contributors to this profile. The profile was also printed and made available to congregation members who were interested in reading the profile prior to the Congregation Meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2018.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile: All candidates are welcome to interpret the profile but asking questions is always better.

Signed:

Penny Higgins

Pastoral Search Group Representative, West Liberty United Church of Christ

09/26/2018

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

The congregation is currently in good standing with the association / conference named.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, ministerial history information is complete.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, available church financial information is presented thoroughly.

Staff Comment:

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:
Name / Title:
Email:
Phone:
Date:

This document is created through support to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and is only possible through the covenantal relationships of all settings of the United Church of Christ.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



"Jesus answered them, 'Have faith in God!'" – Mark 11:22