

Church Profile for Director of Faith Formation  
Church: Mystic Congregational Church UCC  
Address: 43 East Main Street Mystic, CT 06355  
Date: April 1, 2019

1. *A one paragraph description of who you are as a church: We are a thoughtful and practical congregation dedicated to God's church and Christ's work in the world and to the passing on of the good news of Jesus Christ to our children and youth. We are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in us and among us. We value tradition while at the same time remain eager to see what "new thing" God may be doing (and calling us to do!) in the radically changing institution of the church. We are part of the Mystic Area Ecumenical Society and the CTUCC. We have vibrant programs for our children and Youth, and an active Women's Fellowship Organization.*
  
2. *One paragraph summary of the church's history: In 1852, the Congregational Church of Mystic Bridge was organized. Our Church was built in 1860. There were 42 original members. As membership grew, the Church built a large two story Parish Hall across the street from the Church. In the seventies, the Parish Hall was moved to be next door to the Church, and in the 1980s, after the acquisition of the building which now houses the Church offices, a connector was built to tie all three structures together. Our Church Library was also built at that time. Membership has continued to grow. Our Members want to remain a vital part of our community through the ministries we offer and our outreach programs to many areas of need locally, and throughout the world. We joined the UCC in 1966. We became partners with Dongbu Sunlin Church in South Korea in 1997. In 2002, we celebrated our 150th year and look forward with "faith in our future" (our sesquicentennial fundraising campaign motto) to how God will use us so that future generations may benefit from what we are doing today. We have been working towards Green Church certification, and have completed level II. In May 2016 we voted to become an Open and Affirming Congregation.*
  
3. *Statistical Summary:*
  - Active Membership: 460
  - Total Reported Membership: 860 approx. We don't have complete records of inactive members.
  - Sunday Morning average attendance: 143
  - Church School registrants: 71
  - Average Church School Attendance: 35
  - Members serving on Boards and Committees (not including ad hoc committees or small groups): 73
  - Missions Giving, average over 5 years: 12% of annual pledges, split as individual members designate between UCC and Local Charities.
  - Results of most recent stewardship campaign compared with previous year: +3.8%

4. *Volunteer Ministries of the Church (including music, fellowship, service): We engage in mission and outreach beyond our church walls at many levels, including an annual youth mission trip, the ongoing donation of food, blankets and clothing to local agencies, preparing and serving meals at local shelters, supporting about 30 local agencies through annual contribution and by hosting an annual "Mission Fair" every January where the congregation learns of the agencies' good work. We participate in Church World Service Projects and have had an active Hispanic Education tutoring and scholarship program for over twenty years. We have a biweekly volunteer reading program at the Riverfront Childcare center- the Nancy Peterson Story hour. "Hands-on" mission has become a priority for us and we are always listening for new opportunities. We also conduct Worship services at a number of local senior housing centers.*
  
5. *Staff Members (include full time vs. part time):*  
*Full time Pastor: Rev Christa Swenson.*  
*Full time Administrative Assistant: Leni Pomeroy*  
*Halftime Director of Music: Andrew Howell*  
*Interim Halftime Director of Children's Ministries: Beth Manning*
  
6. *Describe the mission and or purpose of your church (1 paragraph): Our church's mission is "to joyfully bring the Christian principles of faith, hope and love to all through quality worship, education, fellowship and outreach." We offer two Sunday worship services. Our faith formation efforts include special Advent and Lenten studies for adults who are seeking more opportunities for study. Our fellowship events are fun, varied and well-attended and, given the size of our congregation, we are open to different ways to connect with each other more deeply as we journey together toward a closer walk with God.*

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