

SUMMARY CHURCH PROFILE

Belchertown United Church of Christ (BUCC)
P.O. Box 603
18 Park Street
Belchertown, MA 01007

413-323-7442

Settled Pastor (quarter time)

Southern New England United Church of Christ
Hampshire Association

June 1, 2020

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: Belchertown United Church of Christ (BUCC)

Street address: 18 Park Street, Belchertown MA 01007

Supplemental web links:

Website: <http://belchertownucc.org>

Facebook: Belchertown UCC:

<https://www.facebook.com/BelchertownUnitedChurchOfChrist>

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

None

Conference: Southern New England United Church of Christ

Association: Hampshire Association

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

Rev. Jill Graham

Association Area Minister

Mobile: 413-441-1618

grahamj@sneucc.org

Summary Ministry Description:

In a short paragraph, reflect on where your church is going and what it might look like when you get there. What do you need to get there? Who are you seeking to join you on this part of your church's faith journey?

These questions are best answered by our church's mission statement – “We resolve to be a church that seeks to: Identify, Equip, Encourage and Evaluate Christian Discipleship, Anytime, Anywhere, by Anyone, for the purpose of nurturing an individual's gifts and visions, thereby strengthening and glorifying the Body of Christ as it realizes itself in the world” is in our constitution and in the hearts of our members.

Our mission is yet to be accomplished, as it is a journey. Pastoral leadership partnered with the congregation, to identify the spiritual needs of our church- and wider-communities, will enable us to fill the voids in lives and to fill each with joy, hope, peace, and love.

Photographs:

Insert 1 – 3 images of your church, its people, its parsonage or building or gathering space, etc.





What we value about living in our area (2 – 3 sentences):

- Belchertown and surrounding communities are family oriented as demonstrated in support given toward education, extra-curricular activities such as school music programs and athletics, and library summer reading programs.
- This is a safe community in which to live and prosper with the community-wide support of the local government e.g., fire and police departments, Council on Aging, etc.
- Opportunities abound for individuals and families, with five nationally known colleges (Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke, Smith College, and UMass Amherst) and outdoor activities e.g., hiking, bicycling, snow skiing, water sports, etc.

Current size of membership:

Active members: 30; Active non-members: 68; Total participants: 98

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

None

Position Title:

Minister

Position Duration (*choose one, delete the other options listed*):

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 (*choose one, delete the other options listed*):

Part-time, 10 to 12 hours per week.

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

Yes, depending on the experience of the pastor.

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

(add here the Scope of Work developed by your church using the Call Agreement Workbook)

- Prepare for and lead, in partnership with the Deacons, Sunday worship including scripture study, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, sermon preparation,

- guiding and sometimes finding lay liturgists, planning of music in collaboration with the musical staff or volunteers, preaching, offering of prayers
- Provide guidance in planning the development and execution of Christian Education for children, in collaboration with the Christian Education Committee
 - Provide pastoral care in collaboration with lay people to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of the congregation
 - Perform weddings, funerals and baptisms for participants in the worshipping community and the wider community

Core Competencies:

(List three core competencies that you imagine could be foundational in your next minister's relationship with the church. For example, a church seeking a pastoral care minister might hope to call someone who is caring, sensitive and sociable, while a church seeking an executive minister might want an organized, detail-oriented and time-conscious person.)

We envision that our next pastor will exude a warm and welcoming demeanor with all people worshipping, new and longstanding, young and old.

We are interested in partnering with our new pastor to increase congregational diversity by reaching out to our underrepresented demographic. However, our congregation reflects the racial-ethnic makeup of the community. For example, demographic groups that are underrepresented in our congregation include: Ages 19-35 (Millennials) and those adults with some college education, high school education, or some high school.

We are committed to growing the faith of our members. We are seeking a pastor who has a passion for Christian Education and will help guide the Christian Education Committee and teachers in refining the current youth education program and developing an adult program.

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

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

\$24K total package per year

Benefits (*choose one*): To be negotiated between the prospective candidate and the Search Committee/Church Council.

What is the expected living situation for your next minister (*e.g. parsonage, living nearby with a housing allowance, living elsewhere to commute as needed*)?

Living nearby with a housing allowance being determined from the total compensation listed above.

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

We expect the minister to live in or near to the community.

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

None.

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

- Clergy Communities of Practice meet regularly. All clergy are encouraged to participate. (<http://www.sneucc.org/clergycommunitiesofpractice>) The conference holds "Super Saturday" programs twice a year. These events offer workshops on pertinent and practical ministerial matters. (<http://www.macucc.org/supersaturday>).
- Hampshire Association of SNEUCC meets monthly.
- Given the presence of the five colleges and several community colleges there are many opportunities available for continuing education.
- There is an informal monthly gathering of local clergy.

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

Given that we, as a church, have been running with lay leadership since December 2018, we have become aware of and have adjusted to many of the challenges of part time leadership. Therefore, we believe that we are well positioned to support a bi-vocational pastor.

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 shall:

- Continue the exploration of who we are as a congregation
- Foster mindful growth in the church in number and in faith
- Develop increased connections in the community
- Continue to grow in our welcome for all and as a place for those who are marginalized
- Build a community that reflects our unique value and impact in our town, and offer a variety of thriving social and spiritual programs
- Increase the richness and value of Members' and Friends' church experience by evaluating their needs from physical plant to worship concerns and striving to meet the needs
- Learn how to care for ourselves and one another

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

While honoring the time constraints of the position, our new minister will work with us to develop fresh ideas, inspiring resources, and bring a visionary energy that will capitalize on the talents of our congregation, allowing us to be more responsive to the changing needs of our community and ourselves.

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

Belchertown is a community that is growing and changing. Currently, our services are offered in English and we have had no requests for services in additional languages. Our congregation isn't culturally diverse at present, but as our outreach continues that will change. We (the congregation and minister) will work together to adjust and adapt to cultural and language needs as necessary.

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 commitment to lifelong spiritual development and faithful personal Stewardship* through inclusion of all people as expressed in our open and affirming statement and also the warm fellowship and strong sense of community that flourishes at BUCC
- *Developing and maintaining a healthy sense of self as shaped by God, community, and life experiences* by fostering the open structure and expression of our faith, both in our worship services and in our day-to-day actions
- *Stewarding the resources of the Church*, fostering the continued hope of the church to its members and the wider community
- *Living in relationships of covenantal accountability with God and the Church* through uplifting sacred stories and messages enabling all to leave worship services "knowing that I can make a difference"