

Request for Interim Leadership

Church Name: United Church of Acworth
Church Location: Acworth, NH
Vacant Position: Minister (½ time)
Date of Vacancy: 11/10/2019

No. of Current Members: 43
No. of Members 5 yrs. ago: about the same
No. of Members 10 yrs ago: about the same
No. Attending Weekly Worship Services: 35
No. Participating in Weekly Education: 10
No. Participating in Youth Ministries: n/a

BUDGET

Current Expense Budget: \$87,929
Our Church's Wider Mission: \$3264
Number of Pledges: N/A - our church does not use the pledging system

MAIN MISSION EMPHASIS

- Our main mission emphasis is to share the love of God within our local community by supporting community groups and needs (food shelf, domestic violence support network, etc.)

Examples of being in relationship (covenant) with other local churches of the United Church of Christ:

- Shared worship service with Alstead
- Relationship with Alstead church is such that Pastor Maureen is providing emergency coverage
- Connection with Rev. Mark Koyama in Jaffrey, and Rev. Kurt Shaffert in Bellows Falls

No. Participating in Association Activities in the past year: 2

No. Participating in New Hampshire Conference Activities in the past year: 4

GOALS & AREAS FOR EXPLORATION

During the interim period, the interim minister explores five Focus Points with the congregation:

- HERITAGE – Reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed

- LEADERSHIP – Reviewing the member needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership
- MISSION – Defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction
- CONNECTIONS– Discovering all the relationships a faith community builds outside of itself
- FUTURE – Developing congregational and pastoral profiles

In addition to these areas, what else might your congregation want to explore during this time of transition:

- How do we remain spiritually and temporally relevant in our community
- How do become (and the communicate) that we are a safe and welcoming place to be
- How do we deal with our loss of our Pastor, who also has dual roles within our community. Many have expressed that this has been the hardest Pastoral loss for decades.

Primary Goals for Interim Time:

- To see our church with new eyes, and to help us see ourselves with those new eyes
- Help us understand not only what we want, but also what we need in a next minister.

COMPENSATION

Cash Salary: \$18,210
 Housing Allowance: \$7,200
 Pension Contribution: \$2,352
 Social Sec. Offset: \$1,393
 Health / Dental: None

Vacation: 1 week per quarter
 Mileage: \$2320 budgeted

TERM

Term of the Covenant: Part-time Interim Ministry (½ time)
 Number of hours/days per week: 20
 Interim Selected by: Search Committee, then approved by Council.
 We may also choose to have a full church meeting to vote on the decision.

CONFLICT & ISSUES

Is there unresolved Conflict? Yes
 Level of Conflict (Low 1 - 5 High): 2
 Do you perceive that your previous pastor was a contributor to the conflict? Yes

If yes, please explain:

- Children in church - the role of young children in church, and where the boundaries are
- How do you pastor (and preach) in a politically polarized world to a pretty small politically diverse town. Even when attempting to be politically neutral, aspects of the gospel message have been viewed with red and blue lenses, and there have been accusations of preaching politics (by a very small minority)
- Visitation - there have been concerns of needing more visitation

What are the perceived issues in your congregation now:

- Buildings - three buildings, which strain not only our (small) finances but also our energies in keeping up with them.
- Committees - too few people for too many committees
- Aging congregation - average age of 65, and we're not growing

NHCUCC Staff Person Related to this Search: Rev. Gordon Rankin

Local Church Contact Person:

Name: Linda Brenneman, Clerk
Address: PO Box 2010, Acworth, NH 03601
E-Mail: lbrenneman1@yahoo.com

Name and Address to which Interim Ministry Profiles are to be Mailed:

Name: Same as Above (Linda Brenneman, Clerk)