Search and Call Tools for Congregations

Advancing the Spirit's guidance into God's future

INTRODUCING THE NEW

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE



The new Local Church Profile is not just for congregations in search of a pastor. *All* congregations are encouraged to engage in its process of discovery every 3-5 years. The UCC Local Church Profile reflects valuable data, assesses ministry, clarifies change, and helps advance the calling of the congregation. Not just to be completed by a search committee – the more participation, the better!

MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE,
SUPPORT & AUTHORIZATION

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ
Huntingdon, Pa

Full-time Pastor

Penn West Conference, Juniata Association

January 16, 2022

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

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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)

INSTRUCTIONS

The new Local Church Profile supports the calling and discernment of United Church of Christ congregations with their current or future pastoral leadership.

For many congregations, the interim time between ministers is an intentional season that is guided in part by the preparation of a Local Church Profile. Using the Profile, the church can discover its data and express its story for the reliable discernment of a search committee and the beginning of a new pastorate. Searching ministers will want to see this document in its entirety.

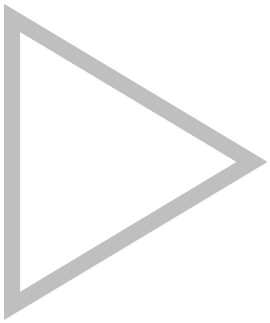
The interim season is not the only time in a church's life when it's valuable to give attention to explore a congregation's vocation. Three sections of the Local Church Profile – WHO ARE WE NOW, WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR, and WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME – are meant to be updated every 3-5 years. Known together as the "Discovery Document," these three sections can be completed by a visioning group, a governing body, a transition team, or other group – not just the search committee – in order to draw forward the gifts and imaginative possibilities of a congregation. The church's engagement with the "Discovery Document" might not have the same sequence as the completed Local Church Profile that is read by candidates.

Some questions are easy to answer. Some are not so easy. Prompts are provided to stimulate narrative response if needed; these italicized prompts are merely examples from which to choose or to inspire your own. Efforts to answer the questions will prompt conversations and explorations and story-tellings and many prayers. As the Spirit moves throughout the process, congregations will shape a collective articulation of Christ's leading (WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME). This last question to be answered becomes the first section to be read by searching ministers in the Local Church Profile, and it is boldest and most actionable piece for faithful leadership into the future.

Your conference can provide materials referenced in the Local Church Profile, such as the 11-Year Report containing data as reported by your congregation annually to the UCC Data Hub, and MissionInsite reports containing demographic information on your community. More information on types of pastorate in the United Church of Christ can be found in the Call Agreement Workbook. Be sure to use the Call Agreement Workbook's Scope of Work to describe in this Local Church Profile the position being sought.

When it is time for ministerial search, the conference can counsel you on posting the Local Church Profile together with your public listing at UCC Ministry Opportunities (http://oppsearch.ucc.org).

The last page of the Local Church Profile contains a statement that parallels the consent statement signed by ministers in the UCC Ministerial Profile. In keeping with the covenantal relationship between a church and those it seeks to call, this statement encourages an open, honest exchange of information. On behalf of the United Church of Christ, and on the basis of the best knowledge available to them, your conference staff will validate your completed Local Church Profile when it is ready to be shared in relationship with prospective new leaders.



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: Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ
Street address: 515 Sixth Street, Huntingdon, Pa 16652
Supplemental web links:
Abbey Website: www.abbeyreformed.org
Facebook Page: The Abbey Reformed UCC

We invite pastoral candidates to explore our website and Facebook platform.

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

Conference: Penn West Conference
Association: Juniata Association
UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person (Name, Title, Phone, Email):
David Ackerman, Conference Minister of Penn West Conference
(724) 834-0344 david@pennwest.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?

The members of the Abbey congregation are passionate about maintaining a vibrant and engaged commitment to doing the work we are called to do as Disciples of Christ. Our prayer is for a minister whose vision aligns with ours regarding long-term planning and strategizing of how best to integrate the invaluable experiences of in-person worship with the convenience and accessibility of on-line worship. We strive to find a spiritual balance of maintaining some "tradition" while recognizing the need to be a "hybrid church" which can adapt to the changing times and the way people worship and

serve. Our focus on missions and service, being a welcoming and accepting congregation, and willingness to explore new opportunities to put our faith into action are essential. We seek a pastor whose spiritual guidance will keep us grounded and focused on Christ and will help us grow in our faith.

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)*:

Huntingdon County is comprised of a beautiful combination of mountains, hiking trails, Raystown Lake and rural farmland. The beauty of God's creation is apparent in the scenic views no matter where you are; each season provides its own unique artistry which promotes an appreciation of nature. Our small towns are populated by people with a variety of occupations and interests and it's easy to get to know strangers in this area. We have a low crime rate and are fortunate to experience relative safety and security.

Current size of membership: 55 members; actively involved members approximately 30.

Languages used in ministry *(other than English)*: N/A

Position Title: Full-time Pastoral position

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)*:

Full Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? Yes

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

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

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.)

Caring, Communication and Cultivation.

Having a minister who demonstrates genuine care and compassion, not only for our congregation, but for our community at large, is extremely important. Through open communication and connection, we seek a pastor who will authentically model, and thereby lead us in our efforts to be a caring and compassionate congregation. We seek an individual who exhibits acceptance of our members and shows an intuitive awareness of the diverse spiritual development among our congregants. (Faith formation and vitality)

Effective communication, from the pulpit and with us as individuals, is of utmost importance. It is our prayer that the messages offered through sermons and preaching are congruent with the way our pastor cares for the congregation. We desire spiritual guidance which will keep us grounded and focused on Christ. Through motivation and inspiration, both in and out of the pulpit, we want to worship with a pastor who is comfortable in his or her own faith. We see our minister as someone who is the representative of our church within the community; therefore, we expect consistent demonstration of spiritual integrity while also helping us to do the same. (Community engagement)

We recognize that part of being a good communicator includes being an active listener and working well on a team. As a congregation, we are working on becoming more flexible and willing to make changes to enable us to move our ministry forward. We seek someone who will teach us and grow with us; we pray that our next pastor will embrace this and work with us in these efforts. Our congregation is invested in the process of cultivating and growing our ministry despite the challenges we face as a result of the COVID pandemic. We aspire to have a minister who will hear and acknowledge the gifts, strengths, and depths of what we can contribute. We desire encouragement

and instilled hopefulness which will lead us to be better disciples for Christ. (Strategic planning for current and new directions in ministry).

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis *(from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/Housing Allowance)*: $67,000 negotiable

Benefits *(choose one)*:

Salary plus Benefits

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)*?

Housing allowance for residence (preferably) within 10 miles of Huntingdon.

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

Ideally living within a 15-20 minute commute to the church.

State any incentives *(e.g. school debt reduction or retention bonus after a certain number of years in position)*: This is not something we have offered in the past. However, it is negotiable, and we are open to discussion/consideration of this option.

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

UCC support is offered and encouraged through the Penn West Conference and Juniata Association. In addition, within the Huntingdon community the Pastor is expected to participate in the Forum of Churches which includes pastors of the local churches.

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

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.

Our congregation is striving to create a more specific "mission identity" within our local community. Historically, we have been known to "rise to the occasion" when a crisis occurs and there are immediate/urgent needs to be met. However, we wish to establish a more purposeful mission presence in Huntingdon County. We pray that our minister will come with progressive thoughts and insights regarding how we can fulfill a calling of service to others. We would like to develop an "identifier" that lets the community know who the Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ is through our mission work. We will continue to maintain our eagerness to meet needs during times of urgent need, as well as our "traditional" mission projects (i.e. soup kitchen, providing Thanksgiving meals, Christmas gifting, etc.)

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

As the result of COVID and now utilizing online platforms to broaden our reach, we are craving a minister who can help us find the "balance" between promoting the church online while concurrently helping us bring people back to the church (in person). We recognize the challenges of these delicate and sensitive circumstances; however, we strongly desire to find a way to promote continued gathering in Christ's name. While we are grateful to be able to offer livestreaming and online "connections" we are grieving the loss of spiritual energy and communal worship in our sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Part of our Abbey identity is "We are family." Therefore, we wish to encourage others to join us to experience what it is like having a family broader than their own.

We hope to find ways to invite online viewers to consider attending in-person worship; we would like to learn how to better communicate with our online viewers, so they know we recognize their presence with us on Sunday mornings. We want to spread the message that "We are open, and all are welcome." Our next leader may need to prepare us for a post-modern approach to worship which includes a more progressive perspective than what we currently practice. Therefore, if we need to "promote and sell the church" more aggressively, may we have open hearts to accept and embrace this realism. It is our prayer that our next pastor has the skills and ambition to lead and guide us in these matters.

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

The population of Huntingdon County is primarily English-speaking.

Huntingdon County (historically) has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. Because of this, we often encounter issues with poverty, addiction/mental health issues, and limited resources. We acknowledge that there are numerous opportunities around these issues to identify and engage in

outreach programming. We welcome guidance, direction, and leadership toward these needs within our immediate neighborhood.

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.

1. **Exhibiting a spiritual foundation and ongoing spiritual practice.**
   All the descriptors in this area of excellence rank highly for us as a congregation. We believe one of the most effective ways for us to learn and grow in our faith is to witness, from our pastor, HOW to love God, follow Christ, and be guided by the Holy Spirit. We pray that our minister's faith is completely transparent, revealing the depths of their calling and ordination to work, serve, teach, and love as Christ did. By seeing Christ alive in our pastor, we hope to be spiritually motivated and inspired in our own faith journeys.
2. **Nurturing UCC Identity.**
   We value our identity through the United Church of Christ, especially as it pertains to all being welcome. We do value the advantages of being able to operate independently within our own congregation despite our affiliation with the National Church. While we do not have any specific disparities with the National office, we are grateful for the freedom to discern and make decisions based on the needs of our church within the parameters of UCC guidelines.
3. **Working together for justice and mercy.**
   We feel that this mark most closely aligns with our future-oriented focus on missions and outreach and establishing ourselves as a congregation that serves others. We desire a renewed spiritual energy around navigating change within our community, as well as building relationships of mutual trust and interdependence. Practicing the radical hospitality of God is at the heart of being open, welcoming, and giving, all of which we hope to cultivate together with our new minister.
4. **Strengthening inter- and intra-personal assets.**
   The concepts of covenantal accountability with God and the Church, strong moral character and personal integrity, and respecting the dignity of all God's people are of utmost importance to us as a congregation. Although our congregation is primarily an older group, we are a diverse group in many other ways. We seek a pastor who can recognize the various needs of our members and is able to relate to all age groups on a personal level by exhibiting respect, trust, and acceptance.

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?

One word summarizes this for us – *Disciples.* We wish to be a body of believers who can openly receive Christ, His teachings and his commandment to "*go and make disciples…"(Matthew 28: 19).* We desire to be faithful and spirit-filled servants who are obedient, not only through works and service to others, but also through our worship and witness; sharing our faith and helping others come to know Christ.

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

For example, describe two experiments your congregation has initiated or engaged in the past year, what were the results and where do you see your next steps? Has your church had a multi-year strategic plan or vision statement; if so, where do you see that plan/vision taking you?

1. We recognize that we are a "reactive and adaptive" congregation as opposed to engaging in consistent strategic planning. Several years ago, we attempted to initiate a Revitalization process, however, this effort didn't go far. We attribute this to having a smaller congregation and limited number of individuals who were willing to get involved in the process. It can be challenging to know how much we can ask of our congregation without being told it's too much; when it comes to "spiritual accountability" we tend to "tread lightly." We acknowledge that this is an area of growth and refinement for us as a congregation.
2. The Abbey had been in the early discussion phase of introducing "online worship" in 2018-2019. With the onset of COVID we immediately expedited this initiative to provide an almost seamless transition to livestreaming our worship services. In the beginning, our equipment was sufficient; however, we quickly realized that to grow and maintain an ideal online presence, our technology would need a significant upgrade. Our congregation, even amidst the challenges of isolation and social distancing, was fully supportive in approving the purchase of a new A/V system which has enabled us to provide creative worship services, special programming, and expanded outreach. This "experiment" has proven to be successful thus far, and we look forward to continued growth in this area.

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.

For example, what beliefs and commitments are stated in your congregation's purpose statement or membership vows? How is God most often described in worship liturgy? In what ways would you describe the Holy Spirit in your midst?

It feels most appropriate to begin with our *"Statement of Purpose"* which is found in our Bylaws. This statement reads as follows: "The purpose of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the Sacraments; to foster Christian education among its members; to help others and ourselves to know the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord; to be guided by the Holy Spirit in responding to His love, to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church universal; to exercise Christ's reconciling and redeeming love in service toward all humanity; to strive for righteousness, justice and peace among all persons; and to advance the will of God in our world."

Regarding our membership vows, it is also stated in our Bylaws that "membership in this church shall be open to any person who publicly confesses Jesus Christ as his/her Lord and Savior, is baptized, duly instructed and commits him/herself to participate in the work and worship of the church and share his/her time, talents and treasure in the service of this church." In order to maintain *active membership* in the church, our bylaws state that one must regularly attend worship services and participate in the life and work of the church; receive Holy Communion at least once a year; and contribute, as one sees fit and is best able, to the financial needs of the Abbey.

We acknowledge the triune God through Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is loving of everyone, forgiving and gracious, being omniscient and omnipresent; Christ is our savior, healer and model of compassion and acceptance of others; the Holy Spirit inspires all we do, including gathering for fellowship, creating connections, and going beyond the worship experience to serve others in the community. Although our worship focuses more on the teachings and parables of Christ, we are inspired by the Holy Spirit in our midst through the work we do and through the connections we make with others; the Holy Spirit is alive within us!

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

Our congregation has been blessed with a long history of an inspiring Music Ministry program. We have a core group of musicians (8-10) who have been faithfully dedicated to providing a variety of top-quality music which has sustained an inspiring presence within the context of our worship. There has been purposeful planning, rehearsal, and effort to offer a blend of "traditional and contemporary"

music. The Worship Planning committee works diligently to provide continuity of music and message to create a more meaningful worship experience for the congregants. We do recognize that there is room for improvement within the Music Ministry including more use of instruments, and perhaps a stronger focus on praise and worship style music on a consistent basis.

Our open and affirming statement of "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at the Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ" conveys the authentic and genuine acceptance and compassion we share as a church family. We are a "family of choice" and demonstrate care and compassion for one another. We have a strong belief in the power of prayer which is shown through congregants' willingness to ask for prayers and support from one another. Our members are affirming and willing to validate one another's struggles and trials, and ready to offer up love and support through the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Our focus on Christ-centered worship affirms our beliefs that everything is done through Him.

We are a "come as you are" congregation, meaning that we recognize the continuum and diversity of the spiritual journey. Therefore, whether a non-believer, a new believer, or a lifelong believer, there is room at the table for you at the Abbey. We strive to accept and meet individuals where they are on their walk of faith, relying on the Holy Spirit to work through us in a way that will reflect the teachings of Christ.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

For example, where does worship take place, and what is it based around? What was a recent baptism like? What are some words used to describe good preaching?

Our worship services primarily take place in the church sanctuary. The service format includes music and hymns, scripture readings, prayers, and the sermon. Worship, for the most part, is based on the teachings of Jesus, through the parables and related scriptures. We are accustomed to the lectionary format; however, we appreciate a diverse approach to sermons and preaching. Historically, you could describe us as "conservative" worshippers; however, we have been striving to be more open and outwardly engaged as we encourage more open displays of divine inspiration!

Regarding the specific preaching, this congregation likes to receive messages which can be readily applied to everyday living; we welcome being challenged in our faith and experiencing some "spiritual discomfort" which causes us to engage in self-reflection and discernment regarding spiritual growth. In addition, we also appreciate the assurance of grace and forgiveness as we work through our deficits as Christians. We seek effective preaching which is inspiring, faith and spirit-driven, and has a deep yet simple message. A powerful succinct message is more openly received as opposed to a lengthy message which is difficult to track and lacks applicability.

Baptisms are a service of welcoming into the family of Christ, and a promise among the baptized and the congregation to seek a life in Christ, making a covenant to help one another along that journey. In addition to baptisms, we have historically made a point to include and celebrate our youth when we can. We designate special Sundays for events such as "Blessing of the Backpacks", high school and college graduations, scouting achievements, etc. We feel it is important for the youth to experience the

love of Christ through the church family. We also work to include the youth as participants in the service through serving as acolyte, usher, reading of scripture, music, etc.

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

For example, how are young people in leadership? How do people continue to form their faith over a lifetime? Name a topic studied or curriculum used recently; what was the impact of this study on those who attended?

Generally speaking, we feel we are lacking in this area and would like to see increased time and resources focused on this vital component of our faith. Regarding our approach to worship, and ongoing faith formation, we do not provide consistent resources for spiritual development. We utilize our *Hymnal for Worship* and the *Holy Bible* within the context of our worship services. Beyond our weekly gatherings, the only other resource we provide is the devotional *The Upper Room*.

We have, in the past, had a substantial focus on Christian Education. However, as the demographics of our congregation have shifted, and the number of youths is notably lacking, we have strayed away from using preprinted materials/curriculum for the purpose of Christian education. When we do have youth, it has been up to the teacher to select whichever materials they are comfortable using.

The Abbey congregation recognizes the benefits of small groups and studies and has enlisted this means of spiritual development through the years. The materials are typically selected by the group leader and often follows the format of group participants taking turns as facilitator to lead discussion. When reminiscing with church members about previous small group experiences, the feedback is always positive and favorable. We do not feel it is the responsibility of the Pastor to form and/or lead all small groups; however, in the past several years this has typically been the case. We would like to see more congregants take the initiative to institute small group studies, knowing they would have support as needed from the pastor.

In addition to our awareness of the benefits of small groups, we strongly believe in the importance of group activities beyond the traditional gatherings on Sunday mornings. We have a rich history of successful group activities which promote and foster fellowship and spiritual connections, from mission-related activities like soup kitchens and food drives to simple activities like picnics, bowling or attending minor league baseball games as a group. Admittedly, COVID has caused a tremendous interruption in these opportunities. It is our prayer that we can resume this important part of our Abbey church culture together when the timing enables us to do so. We acknowledge that we feel ill-prepared regarding our knowledge of ways to contribute to increased learning and faith development over a lifetime.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

For example, how are decisions communicated in your church? How are teams or committees organized? Where does your church struggle for vision?

- When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month?

The governing body of the Abbey Reformed is comprised of eight committees which each have designated decision-making responsibilities within the operations of the church. Ideally, the members of each committee serve on a volunteer basis, although there are occasions when individuals may be recruited to fill a vacant seat. The number of hours spent in meetings per month has gradually diminished over the years. Currently, the average number of hours per month is approximately 4-5. In addition, not every committee is currently engaged. For example, we do not have an active Christian Education committee because of lack of youth and limited gathering due to COVID. Likewise, our Fellowship Committee is on hiatus from planning refreshments or social gatherings, also as a result of COVID.

- Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished?

Approximately a year and a half ago there was a devastating fire in a residential building in our local community which left many people homeless, including a young woman who was regularly attending our church. Within 24 hours of this tragedy, our church moderator contacted all members of the Executive Council committee and received unanimous approval to provide a monetary gift which enabled her to secure temporary housing and allowed us to determine how we could further assist in her efforts to re-establish residence and work toward replacing some of her basic needs. The Abbey members are responsive and generous which is consistently demonstrated in their willingness to "rise to the occasion" through the giving of time, talents, and resources.

- 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

The Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ operates under a set of Bylaws which are readily available. In addition, the Chair of each committee is required to provide a yearly report of activity which is then compiled into an Annual Report. This report is disseminated churchwide in January of each year for the previous calendar year.

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

(add here the 11-Year Report developed with the help of your conference staff, UCC Data Hub, and MissionInsite)

Church#: 621050

Assoc: 648 Schedule: 0 The Abbey Reformed UCC Huntingdon PA 16652

YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION	CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR REAFFIRM	DEATHS OR TRANS OUT	OTHER LOSSES	NET MEMBS ADDS-REMOVED
2010	261	60	42	0	2	5	1	0	6
2011	247	60	50	0	0	0	10	4	-14
2012	246	60	34	3	0	0	4	0	-1
2013	249	57	107	9	0	0	6	0	3
2014	248	50	18	0	0	1	2	0	-1
2015	245	45	16	0	0	0	3	0	-3
2016	240	55	13	0	0	0	5	0	-5
2017	246	45	12	7	0	1	2	0	6
2018	246	45	10	0	0	1	1	0	0
2019	249	50	8	0	5	1	3	0	3
2020	248	20	5	0	0	0	1	0	-1

YEAR	CURRENT EXPENSES	CAPITAL PAYMENTS	BASIC SUPPORT	TOT OTHER UCC GIVING	TOTAL OCWM	OTHER GIFTS	WIDER MISSION	BASIC SUPP% CURR LOCAL	TOTAL EXPEND	PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS
2010	$123,700	$22,100	$1,000	$1,562	$2,562	$1,900	$4,462	0.81	$150,262	$0
2011	$158,450	$7,000	$1,064	$1,311	$2,375	$2,000	$4,375	0.67	$169,825	$147,049
2012	$162,000	$16,000	$1,419	$2,169	$3,588	$2,000	$5,588	0.88	$183,588	$0
2013	$176,993	$0	$1,224	$790	$2,014	$0	$2,014	0.69	$179,007	$116,552
2014	$112,567	$11,714	$1,367	$879	$2,246	$0	$2,246	1.21	$126,527	$124,925
2015	$72,791	$6,429	$1,007	$2,688	$3,695	$2,600	$6,295	1.38	$85,515	$104,043
2016	$114,538	$22,000	$1,364	$2,512	$3,876	$656	$4,532	1.19	$141,070	$99,580
2017	$153,342	$0	$1,035	$1,975	$3,010	$245	$3,255	0.67	$156,597	$107,970
2018	$153,342	$0	$1,129	$1,931	$3,060	$2,947	$6,007	0.74	$159,349	$127,256
2019	$165,363	$0	$1,265	$748	$2,013	$2,385	$4,398	0.76	$169,761	$123,901
2020	$163,285	$44,500	$1,519	$3,434	$4,953	$5,218	$10,171	0.93	$173,456	$127,210

% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
2015-2020	1.22	-55.56	-68.75	0.00	-66.67	124.32	34.05	102.84
2010-2020	-4.98	-66.67	-88.10	-100.00	0.00	32.00	93.33	15.44

Please note: Zero values ("0" or "$0") may reflect missing information in some years. Christian Education/Faith Formation refers to Church School Enrollment for all figures before 2007.

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church. ***Please Note – these numbers are Pre-COVID**

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
Number of active members:	55	✓
Number of active non-members:	5	✓
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	60	✓

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
More than 10 years:	80%	✓
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	10%	✓
Less than 5 years:	10%	✓

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	*Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)*
3	4	7	3	3	7	8	15	10	✓

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
Single adults under 35:	6	✓
Households with minors:	4	✓
Single adults age 35-65:	5	✓
Joint households with no minors:	15	✓
Single adults over 65:	7	✓

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
High school:	40%	✓

College:	45%	✓
Graduate School:	15%	✓
Specialty Training:		
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
Adults who are employed:	40%	✓
Adults who are retired:	49%	✓
Adults who are not fully employed:	11%	✓

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

The Abbey congregation represents a variety of employment types including both blue- and white-collar professions. If listed by category the primary occupations include construction, food service, office administration, healthcare professionals, teaching, self-employed business owners, and managerial executives.

Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation, and the overall racial make-up. 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?

The Abbey cannot make a claim to be an ethnically diverse congregation as all our church members are white. This is generally representative of our immediate area which is reflected in the demographics of our InSite Report. Within a five-mile radius of our church the ethnic trends are 82% white and 13% Black/African American, leaving 5% representing the remaining ethnic groups. This statistic does not indicate that we are not open to exploring ways to welcome a more diverse church population; however, we have not made this topic a priority. Diversity is represented in our congregation through various types of employment, socioeconomic status and varying political views. In addition, we are a spiritually diverse congregation recognizing that individuals are in different places on their faith journeys.

Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one on the near future (perhaps using, for example, the Welcoming Diversity Inventory)? Please note the date. Comment after the exercise:

We have not explored this, nor do we have plans to do so in the near future. We can foresee this being included as a point of inquiry as part of a long-term strategic plan.

3d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

Complete the following chart. Please leave blank any fields that are not applicable to your congregation. ****Please note – these numbers are pre-COVID**

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings? *(list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff)*
Adult Groups or Classes	10	Pastor, Christian Education, Adult Sunday School Leader
Baptisms *(number last year)*	2	Pastor
Children's Groups or Classes	5	Christian Education
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	60	Pastor, Organist, Choir Director Worship Planning Committee
Church-wide Meals	35	Fellowship Committee
Choirs and Music Groups	15	Choir Director, Organist
Church-based Bible Study	5	Pastor
Communion *(served how often?)*	60	Pastor; Spiritual Council Served 12 times/year (pre-COVID)
Community Meals	N/A	
Confirmation *(number confirmed last year)*	5-7	Pastor, Lay Leaders Classes offered every few years dependent on the number of youth.
Drama or Dance Program	10	Lay Leader
Funerals (*number last year*)	3	Pastor, Organist
Intergenerational Groups	N/A	

Outdoor Worship	20	Pastor, Lay Leaders
Prayer or Meditation Groups	N/A	
Public Advocacy Work	N/A	
Retreats	N/A	
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	N/A	
Weddings (*number last year*)	3	Pastor, Organist
Worship (time slot:10:30am)	40	Pastor, Organist, Choir Director Worship Planning Committee
Worship (time slot: _____)	N/A	
Young Adult Groups or Classes	N/A	
Youth Groups or Classes	N/A	
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). N/A We have no members who meet these criteria.

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

Church Secretary	No	Part time	Trustees	Nine years
Janitor	No	Part time	Trustees	Three years
Organist Choir Director	No No	Part time Part time	Spiritual Council	26 years 26 years

REFLECTION

Reflection: After reviewing the congregational demographics and activities above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's overall ministry?

While our current ministry primarily aligns with the older demographic of the church (i.e. decreased Christian Education, fewer activities, etc), we maintain hope that we can once again return to a more active and engaged, family-centered place of worship. Although our "numbers are down" we continue to have a dedicated group of congregants who are praying and seeking guidance on how to create a spiritual renewal both within our church and in the community. Being able to support the staffing (positions listed above) in addition to a full-time pastor is reflective of this congregation's commitment to the life and vitality of the Abbey.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	$120,000
Endowment Proceeds *(as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)*	$20,000
Endowment Draw *(beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal")*	$3,000
Fundraising Events	$6000
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	$2000
Grants	$1500
Rentals of Church Building	$5850
Rentals of Church Parsonage	$0
Support from Related Organizations *(e.g. Women's Group)*	$0

Transfers from Special Accounts	$2000
Other (specify):	$0
Other (specify):	$0
TOTAL	$160,350

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): $163,748
Attach most recent church budget, spending plan, operating statement, or annual treasurer's report as shared publicly with the congregation, or – if your church does not pass an annual budget – list current budgeted expenses here.

Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ Treasurer's 2020 Annual Report Jan 2021

The Abbey was able to continue on solid financial footing, through 2020. Giving levels matched 2019 for the operating fund, and additional offerings were received during the year for local missions including support for the Blair House Fire families. Our investments performed well, and allowed us to fund a new A/V (Audio Visual) system to support live streaming, and much needed organ repairs. Information below provides a comparison of 2019 and 2020 for both income and expenses. Thank you for your continued support of the Abbey and its missions/facilities and staff.

Detailed activity reports are available in the church office for 2020.

2020 Financial Report		2020	2019	Notes
Expenses				
	Staff Payroll	$64,937	$66,144	*Less Hourly work in 2020*
	Pastor Insurance/Pension/Housing & Fees	$46,119	$48,844	*2019 had 13 months of payments*
	Property and Workers Comp	$16,626	$16,205	
	Utilities	$11,526	$14,445	*2019 had gas catchup payments*
	Copier	$1,544	$2,281	*New lease*
	Church Maint	$38,327	$9,133	*28K for Sound/Video*
	Advertising	$1,073	$1,243	
	Worship/Pastor Support	$19,773	$7,068	*16.2K organ repair*
	UCC Missions	$2,544	$2,013	
	Global Missions	$940	$980	
	Local Missions	$3,148	$1,405	*Blair House Support*
	VBS/Christian Ed	$570	$1,057	
	MISC	$660	$1,577	
	Total Expenses	**$207,785**	**$172,395**	
Income				
	Offering – General Fund	$119,448	$120,170	
	UCC/Penn West Offerings	$2,544	$2,000	
	Good Samaritan Offerings/Food Bank	$1,128	$637	
	Building Fund Offerings	$2,290	$1,094	
	Blair House Fire	$1,800		
	Jack and Jill Rent	$5,850	$6,760	
	Insurance Reimbursement	$11,928	$11,928	
	Fund Raising – Basement Sales	$2,861	$3,280	
	Fund Raising – Gift Card Profits	$3,297	$4,116	
	Fellowship – Sand Tart Sale		$1,785	
	Misc Income	$921	$2,779	
	Internal Account Transfers			
	Payments from Savings Accounts, Investment Distributions and Memorial Funds	$55,718	$17,846	*28.3K for Video/sound & 16.2K for Organ repair from Memorial funds and Investments*
	Total Income	**$207,785**	**$172,395**	
		-$44,500		
	2020 total minus Organ and AV	$163,285		

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Wenner

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? 52%

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

year? *(indicate those included during the most recent fiscal year)* Yes

- ✓ __ Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)
- ✓ __ One Great Hour of Sharing
- ✓ __ Strengthen the Church

- ✓ __ Neighbors in Need
- ✓ __ Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage? *(recommended 10%)*

OCWM is received through quarterly offerings 1% of operating budget

What is the church's current indebtedness? We have no current debt.

Total amount of loan debt: N/A
Reason for debt: N/A
Are capital and other payments current? N/A

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.

We recently had furnace repairs done. In addition, we had mini-split heating/cooling units installed throughout the building to supplement the heat and add air conditioning in the summer months. This project was started in October and completed in November (2021). Total expenditure = $45,000

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: N/A

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
		$	$	
		$	$	

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

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
		$	$	
		$	$	

Describe the prominent mission component(s) involved in the most recent (or current) capital campaign. N/A

Does your church have an endowment? Yes

What is the market value of the assets? $530,000

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances? As needed

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)?
10% last year compared to 5% five years ago.

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years: Interest from the endowment has covered the housing allowance, organ and piano maintenance and tuning, and building projects over the past three years.

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last?
$300K is restricted and cannot be drawn.
$230K is available and should last 10-15 years with no additional funds and investment performance at 5-7%.

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates: The expectation is that the church will receive estate distributions every 2-3 years; therefore, the life of spendable endowment likely exceeds the 10-15 year estimate.

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): $10,000

Investments (other than endowment): $0

Does your church have a parsonage? No

Describe all buildings owned by the church: The church, built in the style of Westminster Abbey, was completed in 1929. It has a large sanctuary and attached 3-story structure on a corner lot in the borough of Huntingdon, Pa. There is a small fenced-in play area at the rear of the church which is utilized by the preschool. We have a paved parking lot on the rear corner of the block across the street from the church.

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

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? *(worship space, pulpit, fellowship space, facilities, etc.)* The sanctuary, parlor, church office and pastor's study are all readily accessible to wheelchairs. Access from exterior side doors is not completely barrier-free. Both sides of the double doors, which are heavy, need to be opened to accommodate the width of a wheelchair.

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's mission and ministry?

For example, when was a time the church made a major budget change? How is the budgeting process done? What new ministry initiative has your church financed?

The church is in a strong and healthy financial position to support our ongoing mission/vision being developed through the search and call process.
Our annual budgets are voted on and approved by the congregation in December of each year for the upcoming fiscal year.
As a result of COVID we invested $25K to upgrade our Audio/Visual equipment to accommodate the need for livestreaming. This has enabled us to develop an online presence through various social media platforms.

3f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Name one to three significant happenings in the history of your church that have shaped the identity of your congregation. Add the most important event in the life of your church in the past 10 years.

Regarding "happenings" shaping the identity of our congregation, approximately 30 years ago we began a transformation to the welcoming, friendly Abbey family of today. This occurred through the introduction of greeting one another before worship and welcoming visitors; we added a coffee hour after church for extended time of fellowship. The pastor at the time repeatedly encouraged the consideration and thoughtfulness toward members who were sick, grieving, homebound or lonely. A *Lay Visitation Ministry* was begun along with regular phone calls and sending cards. In addition, our choir began to mirror our church family by including opening prayer and devotions as part of the weekly rehearsals, as well as taking time for fellowship and forming deeper spiritual connections.

Other things which have shaped our identity have included the physical building through the sharing of its space and the awareness of the beauty of the structure. The stained-glass windows are rich in history and tell the story of the evolvement of our church; most of the windows were given in memory of church members. Our pipe organ is a "gem" and one of only three such instruments in the area which adds to the rich tradition of worship at the Abbey. We are also well known as being the church

which houses the “Jack and Jill” Preschool, a staple provider of quality childcare in the Huntingdon Borough.

Numerous events in society have undoubtedly contributed to adaptations in our identity. The unfortunate mass shootings resulted in the addition of a surveillance system, a doorbell, and keeping our doors locked (other than during times of worship). We felt the need to become more vigilant and aware of safety and security, especially with housing a preschool. We have also become more intentional regarding what signage we choose to post outside our church.

The most impactful event within the last 10 years has been COVID; it has transformed us in ways we couldn’t have anticipated. The use of technology, livestreaming and social media platforms; how we worship including contactless offerings (using electronic giving/tithing) and communion (using prepackaged sacraments). In addition, we have yet to resume choir and we limit the amount of singing which has been difficult, as music has historically been a deeply valued part of the Abbey worship experience. Although we feel we have managed it well (generally speaking), we recognize that it may have adversely affected our overall worship experience and our identity.

Describe a specific change your church has managed in the recent past.

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic we were in the “discussion phase” of offering livestream services. Therefore, we weren’t caught as off guard as we could have been! We were able to make a fairly seamless transition to online worship, certainly making improvements along the way. We didn’t miss any services during the initial shutdown of COVID and have continued to evolve and improve during these times of uncertainty. We were “strictly online” from March – July 2020; we began offering in-person worship in July 2020 while maintaining the protocols of wearing masks, social distancing, and having a contactless service. We continue to offer the hybrid worship opportunities and accept that this will need to be part of our new identity moving forward.

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.

> *For example, what is an example of a recent conflict and something your congregation learned from it? Describe an occasion when your church experienced conflict without being able to resolve it well. Does your church have policies, protocols or structures for dealing with conflict?)*

Our congregation manages disagreement and conflict through committee (Spiritual Council) and board (Executive Council) discussion, congregational surveys and pastoral input where appropriate. We acknowledge that having difficult conversations can be met with hesitation and there likely have been situations where issues have gone unresolved as a result, although we aren’t able to identify a specific

example of this. We function by majority rule but listen to and value all opinions; we strive to maintain a culture of being able to "agree to disagree" and this has served us well.

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

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing *(Y/N)*
Reverend Donna Jarrell	4 years, 9 months 12/16 – 8/21	Yes
Reverend Todd Snyder	9 years 2006 - 2015	Yes
Reverend Nelson J. Wenner (Interim)	2 years 2004-2006	Yes
Reverend Gary Marcy	15 years 1989-2004	Yes
Reverend Robert Moyer	5 years 1983 - 1988	Yes

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

Through the years much has been learned regarding the church and its relationship with our different ministers. Pertaining to the church, we have come to understand that we are part of a "bigger picture" regarding having ongoing support and resources made available to us through our Penn West Conference and Juniata Association; we have learned the importance of acknowledging and seeking insight from the regional office. We are aware that we may seek assistance and guidance at any time regarding any issue relating to the church, whether it concerns strategic planning, Christian Education, staffing concerns, etc.

Within the last few years, we have learned the importance of evaluating and critiquing a pastor in an attitude of respect for their position as our spiritual leader. When pastoral concerns are identified it is important to address them in a timely manner. We have been enlightened pertaining to pastors' experiences being called by God, and how to avoid treating/labeling our pastor as an "employee" of the church. We have learned we need to clearly define our expectations for the pastor, and that we

need to be open to change. We believe our church has learned how to operate with minimal divisive issues; we strive to settle differences openly, with concern rather than with conflict.

Our church has evolved over the years into becoming a more friendly and welcoming church, working to more effectively practice caring for others. We are striving to learn to extend Christ's compassion to those who are in need of support as a reflection of being a "God-centered" church which serves others.

Regarding our relationships with our pastors, we acknowledge that each pastor brings his or her own unique "self" to our congregation; therefore, we have learned a great deal from our pastors over time. We have learned things such as the value and power of prayer; the importance of reaching out to the community and "present day lepers" in our ministry; and the value of lay people, including youth, in assisting with worship. In addition, we have come to appreciate when our pastors are authentic and are able to strike a good balance between self-disclosure/lived experience and what the scriptures tell us and are able to "connect the dots" for us. We have also learned that worship and service can be fun!

We are grateful when our pastors have an "open door policy" being available 24/7; we understand that this is a demanding, and exhausting, schedule to maintain and have tried to become more aware how we as a congregation can care more for our pastors. We know that pastors can get lonely in their work, and they need to be cared for also as "carrying the load of many can get pretty heavy at times". We recognize that the emotional, spiritual, and mental burdens faced by a pastor can be very taxing and need to be relieved. We understand the need for self-care, and we would encourage and support our pastor's access to such resources. We have also learned the value of having a pastor who represents the Abbey with integrity as the "public face" of our congregation within the community.

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

Yes. We had a pastor who was declining in his ability to fulfill his duties effectively. There was a consensus among the congregation that it was appropriate to ask him to retire from our church. The concerns were brought to the pastor's attention, and, after several discussions, he agreed that this was the best decision for everyone involved. Penn West Conference supported the Abbey in making this difficult decision to request the pastor's departure.

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

No, we did not utilize this formal resource; the above-mentioned situation was handled through our Executive Council. Although we had the support of Penn West Conference, we did not seek a specific Situational Support Consultation regarding this incident.

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church?

To the best of our knowledge this has not occurred at the Abbey; we are not aware of any disciplinary actions taken against any previous minister who has served here.

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?

For example, which service activities has your church participated in this past year? Where has the church participated in global connections of care and justice? What is currently transformational in your church's engagement with neighbors near or far?

The Abbey congregation has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to outreach and activities within our local community. We are consistent participants in working the local Soup Kitchen (three times a year); Salvation Army Bell Ringing; Toys for Tots campaign at Christmastime; providing Christmas gifts/donations for families through the Salvation Army and residents of Homewood in Martinsburg. We hold an annual "Turkey Challenge" which provides food for families at Thanksgiving, and we have participated in the *Samaritan's Purse Program* through gifting of shoeboxes for children at Christmas. We have sponsored a Fall Festival to invite our neighbors for food, games, and fellowship in an effort to create connections, and we hand out candy on Trick-or-Treat night. In addition, we have held several Benefit Concerts to raise funds for our local fire department (Huntingdon Regional Fire and Rescue, HRFR), as well as *Chaplains in the Park,* to support the Chaplain program at Raystown Lake. We have provided space for weekly AA meetings, and we have been pleased to have the "Jack and Jill Preschool" housed in our church for many years. We have also participated in the PennDot *Adopt a Highway* program with annual road clean-up days.

We strive to be responsive when tragedies or local disasters occur. We held a special Service of Grieving following the Sandy Hook tragedy. We provided a community-wide Active Shooter training in January, 2018 following the tragic mass shooting in Las Vegas; and more recently, our pastor participated in the postvention grief counseling services in our local school district following a student suicide. We provided funding to support victims of a local fire which left numerous people homeless. In addition, we had a team participate in the local Walk for Domestic Violence to raise funds for the local Abuse Shelter.

We acknowledge that "advocacy" is not necessarily a strong part of our identity, at least not pertaining to a specific issue; however, we are committed to identifying and responding to local needs. We feel we can grow in this area and would be open to exploring this further.

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

Our pastors, for many years, have attended the National Conference of the UCC; however, we have not had any church members participate at this level. We have a history of having 1-2 members represent the Abbey as "members at large" to the Juniata Association. In addition, we currently have a member who serves on the Committee on Ministry. We have a positive working relationship both with the Juniata Association and Penn West Conference and feel they have provided invaluable resources. We have utilized these resources for various purposes such as Christian Education, strategic planning, and more recently, developing our Pastoral Support Committee. We feel comfortable reaching out to the Juniata Association and Penn West Conference if we are seeking guidance and support, and we would expect that our next pastor be actively involved in each of these levels of affiliation through the United Church of Christ.

Financially, through the Global Mission Church, we sponsor two young girls, one from the Philippines and one from India. In addition, the Abbey has been a "Five for Five" contributing congregation. We are committed to giving annually to *Neighbors in Need; OCWM (Our Churches Wider Mission); One Great Hour of Sharing; Strengthen the Church; and Veterans of the Cross.*

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)
__ Creation Justice
__ Economic Justice
__ Faithful and Welcoming
__ God Is Still Speaking (GISS)
__ Border and Immigrant Justice
__ Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M)
__ Just Peace
__ Global Mission Church
__ Open and Affirming (ONA)
__ WISE Congregation for Mental Health
__ Other UCC designations:
__ Designations from other denominations
__ None

The Abbey has not completed the formal process of becoming a "Global Mission Church". However, we do sponsor two children through Global Ministries Child and Elder Sponsorship program. We recognize the importance of Global missions and are not opposed to exploring further opportunities to expand in this area of our ministry. To the best of our knowledge, we have not embarked on any of the other initiatives listed through the UCC.

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?

There is an expressed interest in exploring two of the initiatives listed: *Creation Justice* and *WISE Congregation for Mental Health*. We believe these align with needs in our local community as well as the interests of many of our congregants. Participating in these initiatives and utilizing the resources would enable us to bridge the gap and create a stronger connection between our church and the National church. We do have a concern about the size of our congregation and not having the "manpower" to sustain specific programs (such as these) long-term, which is why we would likely limit the number of choices. We feel it is more important to focus on "quality not quantity" when it comes to participating in these types of programs.

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

Our church participates in the local *Forum of Churches* which is a gathering of pastors and lay members of the congregations in the local Huntingdon area. Joint community worship services are planned for Thanksgiving, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday. In the past, the Abbey has hosted several Lenten Luncheon series with a brief devotion and light meal over the lunch hour. There have also been combined study series during the Lenten season offered through the Forum of Churches. The Abbey has worked jointly with the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches to provide Vacation Bible School (VBS). We have also participated in several Joint Hand Bell Festivals and Choir Festivals to raise funds for various local needs such as the Emergency Fuel Fund.

The Abbey has participated in the Juniata College Church Visitation program which encourages Juniata College students to visit various churches in Huntingdon if they are seeking a church home while at Juniata. In the past, we have also recruited Juniata College students to help with our nursery and Youth Group activities when the need arises.

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.

Our congregation spends less time in governance than in worship and in service. We focus on our service being "outgoing" and strive to sustain activities such as lay visitation to shut-ins; providing food for families in need (during times of loss, new baby, sickness in family, etc.) sending cards and flowers; and weekly updates on the prayer list. If there is an urgent need for prayer during the week, our secretary is efficient in getting the word out through email.

Through activities such as our Fall Festivals, held in our parking lot, we focus on connecting with our neighbors by offering food, games, music, and support through prayer. Our annual "Turkey Challenge" helps raise funds and provide food for numerous families in our community.

We have created opportunities to gather in various settings to engage in different worship experiences. For example, we typically kick off our summer schedule with a church picnic following the worship service; we hold our annual Father's Day service at Lake Raystown each year. For many years in the fall, we have held a church picnic at the home of one of our congregants; this time together includes prayer, music, fellowship, food, and games.

We share enthusiasm when it comes to planning outings! We have attended annual "Altoona Curve Baseball" games for several years; the last two years the Abbey Vocal Trio has even sung the National Anthem and God Bless America at the games! And each year, for many years, between Christmas and New Years, we have a night of family ice skating! In the past, we have organized bus trips to "Sight and Sound" music theater in Lancaster, Pa and we have had several groups attend "Women of Faith" conferences.

With the recent addition of technology and our livestreaming opportunities we recognize the need to explore new ways to utilize our online platforms to share our messages of service and missions.

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 recognize that this is an area which we need to identify/clarify for our pastor as we have no "formal" written expectations. Currently, we expect monthly pastoral reports reflecting time spent on various activities (i.e. worship planning/preparations; phone calls/visits with members; meetings; continuing education/spiritual development, etc.); these reports are shared with our Spiritual Council committee. We also expect that our pastor is actively involved in the Huntingdon Forum of Churches for the purpose of developing collaborative worship opportunities as well as pastoral networking and support with other local ministers. We do not have a formal reporting process regarding participation in the Forum of Churches but believe this is something which can easily be put into place.

4b. MISSION InSite

Comment on your congregation's MissionInsite report with data for your neighborhood(s) or area. What trends and opportunities are shown?

An overview summary of the Mission InSite report indicates the following:

- ***Racial/Ethnic trends***: Primary race/ethnicity is White (82%); second is Black/Af. Am. (13%) with no significant projected changes over the next five years.
- ***Age trends:*** Average age has been rising and projected to continue rising over the next five years.
- ***Phase of Life Age Trends***: three populations rising → before formal schooling (0-4), families and empty nesters (35-54) and Retirement (65+); ↓ Enrichment years sing/couples (55-64).
- ***School Aged Children Trends***: early elementary (5-9) ↑; high school (15-17) ↓.
- ***Household/family income trends***: six income categories ($35K - $200K or more) all ↑ over the next five years.
- ***Median Income by race/ethnicity***: (2021 only) White = $49,612; Black/Af. Am. = $54,399
- ***Household and children trends***: married couples ↓ (3.7%); single parent ↑ (3.7%)
- ***Marital Status trends:*** two populations rising → Never married (17.2%); Widowed (2.1%); ↓married, divorced and separated
- ***Adult education attainment:*** slight increase only Associate Degree or higher (1.5%); Huntingdon County has a higher than the state avg. of HS Dipl/GED (45.4% compared to 34.7%)
- ***Population by employment:*** Blue collar (41.6%); White collar (58.4%)

Of these highlights there were three specific areas we identified as possible opportunities for new ministry and programming. They are 1) an increase in single parent households 2) an increase in early elementary-aged children and 3) an increase in the "never married" and widowed population. We recognize the potential need for Christian Education and other faith-based programming (in addition to Sunday worship) geared toward these populations. We are also very aware of the lack of diversity within our congregation and would welcome opportunities to explore ways to become a more diversified congregation.

In addition to the Mission InSite Report, the Search Committee requested a more refined report on the demographics solely for our congregation (Comparative Insite Report). We wish to provide the highlights of this report as a comparison for consideration.

Highlights of Comparative Insite Report: (based on 37 active members from the Abbey)

- ***Head of household age:*** 32.7% (age 51-65); 15.8% (Age 76+); 15.3% (age 66-76); 12.8% (age 36-45)
    - ***Average age Head of household = 50***
- ***Married Households:*** 54.6%
- ***Household by type w/children:*** 23.8%
- ***Household by type w/o children:*** 76.2%

- ***Estimated household income:*** 21.2% = $50K - $74,999K; 16.8% = $35K - $49,999K
    - ***Average household income = $55,329***
    - ***Median household income = $38,496***
- ***Estimated Head of household occupation:*** Retired (28.5%); Sales/Service (26.2%); Blue Collar (21.4%) Professional/Technical (17.8%)

One can see from this data that our congregation is an older congregation, having few families with children.

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?

Within the five-mile radius of the Mission InSite Report we are comparatively similar with a smaller congregational population. Huntingdon County is comprised of small towns resulting in numerous churches with relatively small congregations. In contrast, the median income for our church is below the median income for the community. An additional contrast is that we have a relatively aging population, but the immediate area does not.

How are the demographics of the community currently shaping ministry, or not?

We recognize there are missed opportunities here in that we are currently not serving many families with children, or single people. Social events, daycare, and latchkey style events may be opportunities for community bonding and gathering. We are a bit stagnant regarding Christian Education at all age levels and do not offer any programming opportunities beyond what takes place on Sunday mornings.

Demographics are shaping ministry in that younger people seem to have a strong reaction to Christianity, either for or against. People in general tend to frame worship and fellowship as something that is burdensome rather than invigorating and restorative. There seems to be a general need for social gathering that could complement worship but is more based in friendship and community building (i.e. activity at the park, community service and other types of social gatherings).

Our older congregation likely plays a role in continuance of traditional worship, although there has been receptivity and support of changes such as integration of newer music, and the necessary technological changes to adapt to COVID. We do not consider the age of our congregation to be a detriment but are aware that the trajectory of the technological age may put us at a slight disadvantage regarding generational differences. We consider diversity within our congregation as being found in various forms of occupation, socioeconomic status and political views.

We believe that our statement of inclusion promotes acceptance, warmth and welcome of all – "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at the Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ". This statement is an important declaration in our weekly worship, as well as a representation of our vision/mission moving forward.

What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for?

Historically, the Abbey has been known to host Vacation Bible School (VBS) which has been well received and appreciated by the community and our neighboring churches. We have hosted on our own, as well as worked collaboratively with other churches through the years to offer a memorable VBS experience. We are also known as "the church where Jack and Jill Nursery School is located".

The physical structure of our church has resulted in the Abbey being known as "one of the most beautiful churches in town"; the stained-glass windows, vaulted wooden ceiling, and pipe organ are just a few of the features which people admire. The Abbey has been known for its Music Ministry program and the variety of music offered through the years. We have also developed a reputation for several creative fundraising events which typically take place each year; these include our "Abbey Basement Sale" and the baking of sand tarts (by the tens of dozens!!) These activities attract numerous people from the community and have been a tradition for many years.

In addition to this list of experiential and physical attributes, we frequently hear that we are a warm and welcoming congregation. Of all the things listed here, this may have the most meaning to us, as we feel this is an important part of our identity, and our calling.

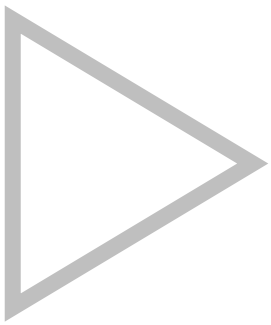
What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved?

"I got involved with the church because I wanted to develop more connections with my community. I was drawn to spiritual growth that is only available through fellowship (you can only go so far alone), and I felt it was important to cultivate spiritual wellness to be a better father, husband, and neighbor in my community."

"…We felt very welcomed, and the Pastor made us feel very welcome…it has more to do with the feeling or "vibe" of the congregation than the appeal of the organization's constitution and bylaws. However, the contractual language of what the church is about DOES appeal to us. It doesn't espouse division, judgement, exclusion, damnation, and exile. It feels like a church, it feels like fellowship, forgiveness and salvation, and it feels like home, and we'll be just fine as long as the terms of membership don't undergo some radical revision in the future."

These are direct quotes from several of our newest members, and we feel they are adequately reflective of what we hear about why people join our church. There is typically an expression of wanting to be more connected and involved in faith and community; wanting to belong to a group that is warm, welcoming, spirit-filled and willing to engage in service to others; and belonging to a church where different perspectives, opinions and beliefs are not barriers to learning and growing in faith.

5. 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.”

Make sure they are not members of your church but are persons who know your church well enough to be helpful to candidates seeking more information. Request a letter from each reference in answer to the four prompts below. Attach the letters (up to three) as desired.

REFERENCE 1
Name / Position / Setting
(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

Janice Y. Yelnosky/Director/Jack and Jill Nursery School
(814) 251-3337
yelnosky@comcast.net
Professional relationship with the Abbey

August 19, 2021

I am the director/lead teacher of Jack and Jill Nursery School which is located on the 2nd floor of Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ. Ihave worked at this school for 20 years in several capacities.

The Abbey is located in an area of town with low housing costs, many rental units and subsidized housing. The Abbey maintains its building andgrounds, providing beauty and stability to the neighborhood. Signage on the property welcomes all to the church and congregation.

In recent years the Abbey congregation has opened its doors for several community groups providing valuable meeting space. Some examples are Boy Scouts, AA groups, support groups for families living with chemical dependence, religious choral groups, and Huntingdon Forum of Churches ecumenical holiday worship. They participate in weekly food bank donations and hold several basement rummage sales that not only bring the community indoors but offer needed household goods at a very affordable price. In the past VBS has been offered and more recently, small neighborhood festivals have been held in the parking area as well asmovie nights in the church basement. The congregation seems to be veryopen to new ideas to reach out to the community and bring people into the Church.

An example of a significant interaction I experienced as director of the nursery school was several years ago when we experienced a need for greatly increased security for our school and students. The church moved quickly to add locks and doorbells. This change wasn't popular with some members of the congregation who appreciated the traditional look and feel of the open doors, but it was done to ensure the safety of our children. I greatly appreciated that. I am often asked if our school needs anything or ifthey can help us in any way. During the early days of the pandemic our rent was forgiven due to our lack of tuition income. I feel comfortable in seeking out the help of the church leadership when situations arise.

Our staff, students and their parents feel very welcome in The Abbey. Everyone is friendly and courteous and the atmosphere is warm and inviting.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or further discussion.



Janice Y. Yelnosky
Director
Jack and Jill Nursery School
814-251-3337
yelnosky@comcast.net

REFERENCE 2

Name / Position / Setting
(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

Mrs. Toni Bucynski/Teacher/Huntingdon Area High School
(814) 641-7237
tbucynski@huntsd.org
Community member and neighbor

August 28, 2021

RE: Church Profile Reference

To Whom It May Concern:

As a community member who has had many interactions with the Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ, I was honored to be asked by the Search Committee to provide a reference for this congregation.

By way of introduction, my name is Mrs. Toni Bucynski, and I have lived in the Huntingdon community my entire life. I was born and raised in Huntingdon, and returned home after college to teach high school, reside, and raise a family in the area as well. My interactions with the church as well as its members are from varying experiences including participation in community events, fellow teachers and friends, as well as my son's music involvement by invitation from the church leadership. In developing this reference, I was asked to comment on three key areas of experiences as well as perceptions: ministry strengths, areas for improvement, and significant experiences.

Ministry Strengths:

1. **Community mindedness and involvement** -- This congregation although small does not use its small congregation size as an excuse to stray away from the call for generous action in the community. Examples of community involvement include the following: benefit concert for local fire department, food bank contributions, soup kitchen work, involvement in the local Forum of Churches holiday celebrations, mission contributions, block parties hosted for the neighborhood, and involvement in local fundraisers when there are tragedies that affect community members.
2. **Kind and caring members** – Every time I have been to an event at the Abbey Reformed UCC, I have been welcomed lovingly and with an encouraging spirit. Some of those occasions were because my son was invited to be a musician in a church service, block party, or community

event. On other occasions, it was simply because I attended a service where I knew that I would be loved and accepted when I walked in. This summer in particular was a stressful time for our family given some health and other issues. At the Abbey, I was able to connect with friends and people who I knew would be sincere when they said that they were praying for my situations and who have always loved our family.

3. **Beautiful Atmosphere** – Aesthetically, the Abbey church is beautiful. Lovely stained glass adorns the windows without being overly showy or over the top. They create a peaceful and spirit-filled atmosphere to worship in. They may not have the "latest and greatest" or even have air conditioning, but the surroundings are well-kept and God honoring. If worshipers are looking for a traditional feel from a church, this one is a lovely choice.
4. **Kind hearted leadership** – I realize that I am writing this recommendation because of the recent pastor's departure. However, I feel I would be remiss in not mentioning a few items about Pastor Donna's character that drew me to attend a few services this summer as well as feel so comfortable attending events in the past. Prior to COVID, our family had recently changed churches. Then, when COVID hit, the church we had been attending merged with a conglomerate which led to some changes that we did not feel were done in a correct or honoring manner. We found ourselves without a church for many months. Unfortunately with a rural area, church choices are limited, and we just did not know where we fit anymore. In addition, many churches in our area as well as across the nation had become too political in my opinion instead of focusing only on the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Other churches had turned mask wearing into a political statement instead of simply an act of kindness. All of that being said, I knew that when I attended the Abbey, the main focus would still remain the main focus. I knew that I could trust Pastor Donna to be kind, loving, not political, and stick to God's Word…. She did not disappoint.

<u>Areas For Improvement</u>:

1. **Youth Ministry** – The congregation as a whole is of a relatively older compilation. This is not outside of the norm from many other churches in the area as well as many churches across the nation unfortunately. It is my understanding that, at one time, the Abbey had a thriving teen and youth ministry. Those children have now grown up and found their lives led in other areas outside of Huntingdon or even the state of PA. Unfortunately, young families have not been drawn to the Abbey for one unknown reason or another. When there are already a lack of young families, it is difficult for a congregation to attract new ones. It is also a reason that our family has not attended regularly as a whole unit. Having a teenager who is still in the home and one at college, it is not feasible to have our daughter in a church where there are few other teens with which to fellowship. This is not an easy issue nor an easy one to fix.
2. **Community Perception of Progressive or Liberal Views** -- Amongst the community, a perception has grown regarding the biblical teaching of the Abbey Reformed UCC that places it in a category of what might be called "liberal churches." The Huntingdon area seems to have a large majority of two types of people: strong-opinioned conservatives and non-churchgoers. Those who would fall into the conservative category may be of the opinion that the Abbey is simply too "liberal" in their views on things that typically become rather hot topics in the Christian community. It is the perception that the Abbey may not have the solid Bible presentation and teaching that may be expected. Non-churchgoers simply remain non-

churchgoers in our community. This may be from their perception of being frowned upon by some very ultraconservative congregations in the area, or it may simply be a generational issue that is passed down. Either way, it is difficult to attract such people into a different mindset that includes making time and room for Jesus in their lives.

Significant Experiences with the Abbey Reformed UCC:

1. **Funeral Service for Teen Church Member** – The passing of Mitchell Smith was a difficult blow for our high school community as well as members of the Abbey. A suicide is never an easy death to handle. However, I appreciated the love and care that the Abbey took to make all feelwelcome as Mitchell's funeral was held at the church. Some teens who had maybe never reallystepped into a church could feel welcome as they mourned the passing of a friend. That day – just like every day – all were welcome at the Abbey.
2. **Block Parties** – As previously stated, my son was asked to perform music at the block parties hosted by the Abbey Church. It was always a fun time with lots of activities for kids as well asfood and games. It was a simple reach out to the homes in the area … to many who do not attend a church. It was a way of saying to the local community, you are welcome here.
3. **Bible Study Group** – In order to keep members involved as well as provide an opportunity to reach out to community members who may not attend on a Sunday morning, the Abbey offereda Bible study style of service on Tuesday evenings several years ago. My son was hired to lead the worship and then Pastor Donna would lead a nice Bible study with a meal to follow. The group was small and eventually disbanded due to lack of attendance. However, I think the concept was a great attempt to draw new people to the church.

These represent my experiences and perceptions of the Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. I am happy to answer any follow-up questions or provide any further inputas it is needed.

Mrs. Toni Bucynski

625 Seventh Street

Huntingdon, PA 16652

814-641-7237

REFERENCE 3

Name / Position / Setting
(Telephone / Email / Relationship to the Congregation)

D. Anthony Bullet/Church Organist/Local Huntingdon Churches
(814) 386-5500
dabber79@gmail.com
Friend of the Abbey

D. ANTHONY BULLETT
(friend of The Abbey)
416 CHURCH STREET
HUNTINGDON, PENNSYLVANIA 16652
814 386-5500
dabber79@gmail.com

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

What has impressed me over the last few years is the Abbey's movement beyond the four walls of their building. There are mini festivals held in their parking lot which make it more accessible to the surrounding community. Abbey has once again joined the rotation of churches preparing meals for the community soup kitchen (now Hometown Hearts, Inc.). They remain the anchor for the community's Good Friday Cross Walk. And, this year with the addition of their video equipment they have showcased their music ministry through special offerings during Advent and Lent. My participation in providing this material is a testament to the new and old relationships I have with members of the Abbey. And, I am always touched by the church's welcoming statement during worship.

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

This is a somewhat difficult response to write as I am not intimately familiar with all that goes on at the Abbey. I would say that my ideas for improvement pertain to all the churches in town. First, I would like more attention paid to our teenagers. Our teenagers today are facing a plethora of issues from sexual orientation, gender identity, suicide, mental stability, etc. I would like to see the Abbey showcase its openness and inclusiveness much more for the community to see. We are currently planning at some time in the future to do a community choral cantata for Advent, so there may be opportunities for more church collaborations. And, on a very personal note, the church could possibly showcase its wonderful organ more for the community to see and hear.

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

The Abbey's doors have seemed to always be open to the community. As a youngster growing up in Huntingdon, I attended Vacation Bible School several times at the Abbey. My Cub Scout Troop met there, and my piano teacher held her student recitals there including my solo recital when I was a senior in high school. More recently, Carol Wenner and I have collaborated on several community programs including the borough's sesquicentennial program a few years ago. Whenever we want to organize a community choir for an event Carol has become our go-to person to get things going. As a "newbie" church organist, Mim Slicker has been a valuable resource as a person I can watch and learn from. No matter what occasion may bring me to the Abbey, I always feel very welcome and leave with a big smile on my face.

Anything else you wish to share.

Here I would direct this comment not just to the Abbey, but to all the churches in the area. The comment is simply that we all must do more to become more diverse. Playing lip service to diversity is not sufficient now or ever. It is a great challenge in a small town. But, if we want to continue to put people

in our pews, we have to appeal to a wider cross-section of people and be willing to really welcome them and nurture them.

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:

The following individual contributions are from the members of the Search Committee:

- "We pray for someone who has a vision to help shape this place but is also willing to let this place shape them."
- "Church isn't a place for saints, it's a hospital for sinners."
- Psalm 118:24 "*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*
- Matthew 19:26 "*…but with God all things are possible*."
- Philippians 4:7 "*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*
- The Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi: "*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."*
- "*And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!" …*this is the refrain from the hymn "*For Everyone Born"* by Shirley Erena Murray. This hymn, which speaks to the issues of social justice, has become a recent (within the last three years) favorite at the Abbey. If you are unfamiliar with this hymn, we encourage you to check it out!

In addition to these thoughts, we wish to share with our future minister the words of a song which was written by one of our congregants several years ago and shared as part of our worship service during that time. We feel this is an authentic representation of who we are here, at the Abbey:

"This Special Place"

Written by Mel Woomer

Chorus: Oh, thank you Jesus, oh praise you Jesus,

Oh, thank you Jesus for this place.

Oh, thank you Jesus, oh praise you Jesus,

Oh, thank you Jesus for this place.

Verse 1: *Let me tell you of a place I know, that stands for love and is built with stone.*

It's on the corner of our hometown; it's a place where love and faith abound.

Verse 2: *We have people from all walks of life; the Holy Spirit helps us not to lose sight.*

Through these doors there are no saints, we're all just seeking the Lord's grace.

Verse 3: *You will not leave here empty, for in this special place*

The Holy Spirit gives us hope and offers His endless grace.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we firmly believe you have already begun to orchestrate the spiritual movement which will bring our next minister to us. We pray that you lead and guide their heart toward us with a vision that fulfills your plan for them. We pray that you give us open and obedient hearts and spirits to recognize and follow your guidance and your wisdom. We are believers and followers who seek to worship, serve, and grow in our faith journey, doing all things in a way that brings honor and glory to your Holy Name. Let us keep our eyes focused on you, our hearts open to receive you, and our feet firmly planted in our faith in you and bring us ever closer to you, so we know no separation between ourselves and all that you are. All these things we pray in your Holy Name, Amen.

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? *(for example, church council or consistory, transition team, etc.)*

   Search Committee Members: William Bressler; John Dickison; Jonathan Reveley-Cohen; Christopher Hindman; Linda Skipper; Chad States; Delta States; Carol Wenner; Loida Woomer; Mel Woomer.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile: We welcome any questions or need for clarification regarding any of the information we have provided.
3.

Signed:
Name / Title / Date:
Carol E. Wenner
Church Moderator and Chair of Search Committee
December 7, 2021

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

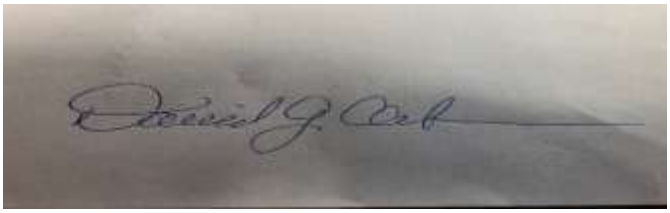
Staff Comment: **Yes**.

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

Staff Comment: **Yes.**

To the best of my knowledge, available church financial information is presented thoroughly.
Staff Comment: **Yes.**

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature: 

Name / Title: **David J. Ackerman / Conference Minister**
Email: **david@pennwest.org**
Phone: 724-834-0344
Date: January 16, 2022

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