



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER

FULL-TIME INTERIM ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Qualities

We are looking for an Associate Minister with a heart for congregational ministry, who is either ordained or in the final stages of discernment for ordination, and who has significant experience working in a local church. Christian faith, spiritual depth, emotional maturity, authenticity, a team spirit, and the ability to communicate and embody a theology of love are essential characteristics. We are looking for a pastor who demonstrates a ministry of presence and empathy, a passion for social justice, strong interpersonal skills, strong administrative skills, and a commitment to collaboration, as well as the ability to inspire from the pulpit and foster worship moments that invite participants into an encounter with the divine.

We anticipate that this person will serve as our Interim/Designated Associate Minister for a year to eighteen months while our congregation engages in an intentional visioning and planning process to discern priorities as we emerge from the pandemic and enter our next season of ministry with energy and enthusiasm.

Compensation

This is a full-time position with salary and housing allowance in keeping with compensation guidelines of the Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC, including Social Security offset allowance, medical and dental insurance, life and disability insurance, contribution to the UCC Annuity Plan (403(b) pension plan), and a professional expense allowance.

Five Priorities

Working closely with the church's Board of Missions and Christian Social Action to sustain and strengthen the congregation's commitments to social justice, direct service, advocacy and action.

Working closely with the Board of Community Life to sustain and strengthen a network of congregational care and community, and supporting and expanding the Ministry of Visitation.

Collaborating with the Senior Minister and Director of Music to plan and lead spiritually vibrant worship services and seasons.

Working closely with our Ministries of Mental Health/Accessible to All, Climate Action, Gun Violence Prevention, Last Things, and our mission partnership with Mindful Works, a local nonprofit that works with those experiencing mental health challenges.

Supporting, leading, and expanding a robust program of small groups for adults for learning, service, and community building.

Church Narrative

First Congregational UCC, founded by pioneers in 1864, was the first church built in Boulder when it was a fledging community, but destined to be a center of business and commerce and the county seat. Church members, including our first pastor, played an active role in the establishment of the University of Colorado, the largest educational institution in the state.

We are a regional church, drawing 850 members and friends from more than half a dozen surrounding cities and towns. We are known for our warm and extravagant welcome, progressive commitments to social justice, generous giving to people in need, and our music and visual arts ministries.

Six covenants, in addition to our membership covenant, inform our life together. Serving as expressions of our commitments to faith as a journey, compassionate service, and inclusion of all, they are: Inclusive Language, Just Peace, Creation Justice, Open and Affirming (full inclusion of LGBTQ persons), A2A (Accessible to All), and WISE (welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged in mental health). These commitments bring a cohesiveness to our life together, forming both our identity and our aspirations as a people of faith. They also guide our decision-making as a congregation.

Our church buildings serve as vital center of life in the city of Boulder. We offer our facilities as a resource for the whole community, and share our meeting rooms with as many as forty non-profit organizations, including several Twelve Step Groups, the Boulder County Chapter of the NAACP, the Boulder Bach Festival, and Mindful Works, a social enterprise nonprofit that provides job training and support to individuals recovering from mental health challenges through the production and sale of home décor and other handcrafted products.

As a community of practicing Christians, we understand that our faith is not just about believing particular things, but more profoundly about pursuing a particular kind of life. Being of service, making a difference, translating our concerns for justice and compassion into action, embodying a community of love that serves as a witness – these are among the ways members of our congregation speak about their faith and callings. In our life together, we lean on God and one another for the support, courage, and wisdom we need to stay centered and to live out, in every facet our lives, our love for God and neighbor.

The pandemic has been a time of lamentation and grief for us, but also a time of remarkable creativity, enhanced by our being selected by the Collegeville Institute as one of thirteen congregations to explore what it means to be a Community of Calling. In the last two years, we have developed a digital presence, livestreaming worship services from our sanctuary and sustaining a variety of online small groups, and we have launched four significant new ministries in Climate Action, Racial Justice, Gun Violence Prevention, and Human Rights for Palestinians. As we emerge from the pandemic and come back together in person, we have hired a consultant to work with us to help us explore intentionally all that we have learned in this unusual season and all that we are now being called to as our life continues to unfold in new ways.

As a congregation we long for our every gift – our talents and skills and money, our hearts and minds and voices, our hands and feet – to be put to use for God’s good purposes, so that both individually and collectively we can serve as witnesses of God’s great hope for the world and God’s expansive mercy.

Context

Boulder is a small city of 100,000 residents, 25 miles northwest of Denver, at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Boulder's population, including educators, students, and recently retired seniors who move here for the mild climate, mountain vistas, and quality of life, is reflected in the membership of our congregation. As a small city in the circle of a large metropolitan area, and the home of the University of Colorado, Boulder holds all the gifts of urban life - music, art, intellectual inquiry, and progressive politics, but also the problems of economic disparity and racial tensions, newly acknowledged. Even in the midst of challenges that don't have easy answers, the vibrancy of community engagement, the shared commitments of good citizenship and stewardship, the opportunities for outdoor recreation, and the beauty of the landscape make Boulder an exhilarating place to live and serve in ministry.