

Search and Call Tools for Congregations

Advancing the Spirit's guidance into God's future

INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Who
are
we

Who
is our
neighbor

Who is
God
calling us
to become

?

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

Second Congregational Church, UCC
Wilton, NH

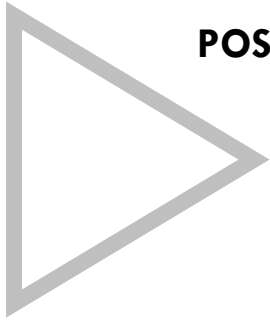
Settled Pastor
NHUCC Hillsborough Association

[Validation Date]

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

- Position Posting
- Who Is God Calling Us To Become?
- Who Are We Now?
- Who Is Our Neighbor?
- References
- Consent and Validation

*“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)*



POSITION POSTING

LISTING INFORMATION

SCOPE OF WORK

COMPENSATION & SUPPORT

WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: Second Congregational Church, UCC

Street address: 21-25 Gregg Street PO Box 246 Wilton, NH 03086

Supplemental web links: <https://2ccwilton.org>

<http://www.2ccwilton.org/>

Facebook: **Second Congregational Church Wilton NH**

Additional ecumenical affiliations

The Milford Area Clergy was a non-denominational group that met monthly to discuss local issues and concerns and organized ecumenical services and activities. It encompassed Milford, Wilton, Amherst, Lyndeborough, and Temple churches. At this time, the group is not meeting.

Conference: NH Conference UCC

Association: Hillsborough Association

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

Richard N. Slater

Associate Conference Minister

New Hampshire Conference

United Church of Christ

140 Sheep Davis Road

Pembroke, NH 03275-3711

888.642.8229 or 603.225.6647 ext. 1104

Direct Line - 603.715.9525

rslater@nhucc.org

Summary Ministry Description:

Second Congregational Church (2CC) seeks to increase our position as the community church. We hope for growth, either with younger families or by increasing membership from the aging population. As we strive for a wider community outreach, we need to find ways to interact with our community and let them know that 2CC believes in Jesus Christ and the Trinity and show it by our actions. We have recently voted to take the ONA designation that we believe supports our “All are welcome” stance, regardless of handicap, race, social or economic background, or LGBTQ status. We need a pastor that will support our faith journey by making the lessons of the scripture relatable to us in our day-to-day existence; and will support our designation of ONA. We hope for a pastor that will inspire and encourage participation in the congregation in working towards these.



What we value about living in our area:

Wilton is a rural community located in the Monadnock region of New Hampshire. We are within an hour drive of Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont. We can be at the seacoast, in the mountains and lakes region in an hour; Concord, Manchester and Nashua are less than an hour away, and Boston is 60-90 minutes away. The rural nature of the area allows for peace and respite, but is close to suburban and urban cultural and employment opportunities. Our community as a whole is caring and giving.

Current size of membership: 93 active members 12/31/21

Languages used in ministry English

Position Title: Settled Pastor

Position Duration

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: 1/2 Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? We believe so

SCOPE OF WORK

Scope of work for a half time SETTLED PASTORAL POSITION (20-25 hours weekly / 5-6 units)

- preparation and leadership of Sunday worship including scripture study, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, sermon preparation, guiding and sometimes finding lay liturgists, planning of music in coordination with musical staff or volunteers, preaching, offering of prayers, etc.
- **faith formation and vitality** through prayer, Bible study, service, identifying helpful resources and opportunities and helping lay persons take advantage of them
- **leadership development** by working with people in the church to create ministry and programs as time allows
- pastoral care in collaboration with lay people (at least to those who are sick, elderly, or grieving)
- **community engagement** and leading the way for the church to be an ambassador of God's love as time allows
- weddings and funerals for participants in the worshipping community

- availability to wider community for funerals, weddings, special worship programs, and as a representative of the church to local organizations
- **strategic planning for current and new directions in ministry**
- attend Church Council and Deacons meetings and give leadership as needed to church programs, in collaboration with lay leadership
- participate in wider church activities such as conference and association meetings
- study and prayer to increase faith and to improve skills so as to lead, teach, preach better
- energizing and deepening the spiritual connections and faith understandings of others in all they do

Core Competencies:

We are seeking a pastor who is Faithful, Caring and Sensitive.

COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis : \$37,600 plus pension

Benefits : No Medical or Dental Benefits; Pension only

What is the expected living situation for your next minister

Salary includes housing allowance

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

We hope to have a minister who lives within a thirty minute commute of our community

State any incentives:

We are offering a three month paid Sabbatical following five years of service. We also offer a Continuing Education allowance

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

There are several opportunities within the NHCUCC, as well as the Hillsborough Association. The Milford Area Clergy was an ecumenical group of ministers including the towns of Milford, Amherst, Wilton, Lyndeborough and Temple who met monthly, pre Covid. We would encourage our Pastor to be part of all these groups.

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

Our last seven Pastors have been part time (thirty to thirty five hours per week). We are familiar with the process and the availability of a part-time Pastor

WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

Goals will include meeting our budget, growth in membership, faith development, and working through ONA with us.

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

We are looking for a pastor who will engage with and become part of the community including but not limited to participation in ecumenical services and community outreach as time allows.

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

At this time our congregation is English speaking

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.

BUILDING TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- o Empowering the Church to be faithful to God's call, reflective of Christ's mission, and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.
- o Strategically creating the future of God's Church.
- o Witnessing in the public square to God's redeeming power.
- o Performing necessary and appropriate administrative tasks.
- o Working collaboratively with intercultural awareness and sensitivity.
- o Encouraging leadership development of self and others through continuing education and lifelong learning.

CARING FOR ALL CREATION

- o Nurturing care and compassion for God's creation.
- o Maintaining a basic understanding of mental health and wellness.
- o Practicing self-care and life balance.
- o Providing hope and healing to a hurting world.
- o Attending to one's own spiritual and pastoral care, including engagement in supervision as appropriate.
- o Stewarding the resources of the Church.

PARTICIPATING IN THEOLOGICAL PRAXIS

- o Practicing theological reflection and engagement as part of one's sense of ministerial identity.
- o Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching, and ecclesial and community leadership.
- o Articulating a theology and practice of ministry consistent with the UCC Manual on Ministry.
- o Demonstrating an appreciation for and participation in the ecumenical and interfaith partnerships of the UCC.
- o Experiencing and appreciating a variety of theological perspectives.
- o Embodying the UCC Ministerial Code.

ENGAGING SACRED STORIES AND TRADITIONS

- o Exhibiting knowledge, understanding, and continuing study of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament.
- o Maturing in effective proclamation and preaching.
- o Understanding the history of the Christian Church, from biblical times forward.
- o Bringing life to sacred stories and traditions in worship, proclamation, and witness.
- o Leading faith formation effectively across generations.
 - o Holding the Holy with integrity especially as represented in the Sacraments.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Easter Sunrise Service

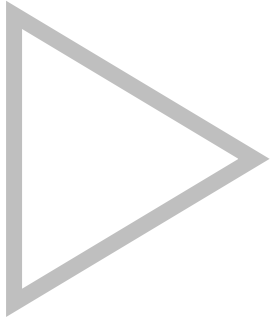


Sanctuary decorated for Pentecost



Sanctuary on a beautiful summer day, right after the new carpet was laid.

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?

Based on the surveys, God is calling us to be more visibly present in the community. We consider ourselves the town church but need to be more outspoken about who we are and what we stand for. We believe that each of us is created in God’s image. We celebrate everyone, including people of all ages, race, cultures, sexual orientation, gender identity, regardless of physical, cognitive or emotional abilities or economical circumstances. Toward that end, we have achieved our ONA designation. We are handicapped accessible. We are a resource in the community, and are open to support groups, blood drives, or working with the library for community discussions. We enjoy our events that bring people in to see what we do, such as the dinner plays and suppers and fairs. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey” you are indeed welcome here at Second Congregational Church.

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

Our Missions Committee started a Walk for the Open Cupboard Pantry. Along the lines of the Crop Walk that used to be held in Milford, but benefiting the local pantry which serves Wilton and surrounding towns. 2021 was the First Annual, and plans are in place to continue that.

The Community Christmas Store has provided in-need families with groceries and Christmas gift shopping for over thirty years. Second Congregational Church has provided a space to set up the store in our parish hall and provided gifts and food items for the shopping experience. Over 150 known families in Wilton and Lyndeborough were eligible this year. The congregation was instrumental in making this happen. The entire church, sanctuary included, was available for social distancing, plus our Missions Committee provided funds to support this year’s program of giving gift cards to each family for groceries and other needs.

We have several Rummage Sales throughout the year. These provide affordable goods to the general public and free goods in many circumstances: Clothing and coats to school nurses as needed; baby items and clothes to an emergency foster care situation; a relocating family from down South needing warm clothes and coats; families affected by fire losses; Bridges, a local organization which helps abused women and families; WLC high school Co-op Connection for students in need; people who came in and looked like they needed it were also provided with free goods.

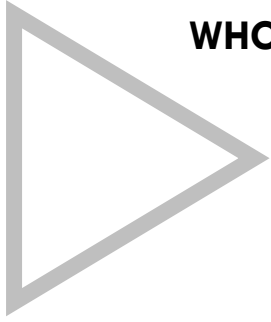
In 2021, we began a partnership with the Wilton Gregg Free Library to create a Community Space. Our parish hall is being used several times per week for meetings, community suppers, classes and workshops. We are committed to this joint venture through June 2023, and beyond.

During the pandemic, from April to June 2020, members joined with the local women's group to provide meals for those in quarantine. In our parish hall kitchen, the group prepared and served 789 people total, 2 meals (at least) a week for thirteen weeks, a total of 41 households average per week. The total for all weeks was 540 households served. This demonstrates our willingness to use our resources for the community.

We held a Vision Quest event in 2006, to plan what we wanted to achieve. There were many ideas, even some that were implemented. Nothing like that has been done since then.



Summer Brunch Church on a Communion Sunday



WHO ARE WE NOW?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

11-YEAR REPORT

CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

CHURCH FINANCES

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith.

Congregational Reflections Congregations Life of Faith:

At the Second Congregational Church (UCC), Wilton, NH our congregation’s purpose is founded in our belief in God, the Creator, infinite in wisdom, goodness, and love. We believe God’s Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lived and died for us and our salvation, and rose again and lives forevermore; and in the Holy Spirit, who takes all of the things of Christ and reveals them to us, renewing, comforting and inspiring the souls of all believers. Our purpose is the mission of God and the Church of Christ and is to proclaim the gospel to all the world, exalting the worship of the one true God and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace and the realization of human fellowship. With the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God. We look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and life everlasting.

Strengths to positive qualities of our congregation:

Our church has always been a faith filled welcoming place. The congregation is a loving group of people who are open to new ideas, new challenges, and new ways to help people. We deeply care for our local community. We believe in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We are open and accepting of others.

What worship is like when our congregation gathers:

Humor, warm and faith are found throughout our worship, activities and meetings. We gather in the sanctuary and our worship is based on the Scriptures. Good preaching is when our Pastor can help us apply our faith to daily life with down to earth sermons. It is so important to explain the Scriptures in a way we can apply to our life. Baptism is a holy sacrament with sprinkling or placing water on the forehead. We view baptism as a joining of God’s family and a symbol of Christ’s resurrection.

Good preaching:

Someone with listening skills and is compassionate and has a healthy sense of humor. Other words for good preaching include kindness, energetic and will join alongside us in this spiritual journey. A pastor who is friendly and welcoming.

Describe the educational program/ faith formation of our church.

From time to time, there have been adult studies and discussions based on the Bible, relevant book studies (usually Advent and Lent), and movies or films followed by discussions. There is a senior book group that meets twice each month currently via Zoom meetings. At one time we had an active Church School when there were enough children to support that. We have added a recent college graduate to our Board of Trustees.



Senior Book Study



Women's Retreat at Hallelujah Farm

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

Located in the picturesque town of Wilton New Hampshire the Second Congregational Church of Wilton has a small congregation comprised mainly of Seniors. Although we are a small congregation our members are very enthusiastic and hard working.

The membership has numerous committees that work hard on outreach to the larger Wilton communities. The focus of much of this work is to help those in need and bring more members into the Church.

We have an active Missions Committee, which lends support to both nearby and far away programs. During the height of the pandemic the Missions Committee joined forces with the Wilton Lyndeborough Women's Club to prepare dinners every Wednesday. The meals were prepared in the Church kitchen and delivered to high risk members of the community. The committee is also very involved in making prayer beads and shawls for people who have experienced challenging emotional events in their lives. They are also actively involved in the Linus Project which makes security blankets for young children who are experiencing very difficult times.



Souhegan Valley Crop Walk



Blessing of the Shoebox Ministry



Prayer Beads and Prayer Shawl Ministry



Habitat for Humanity

One of our Church members organizes and leads free, weekly yoga classes for Church members.

The Planning Committee has been involved in organizing Dinner plays, participating in Old Home Days and downtown festivals, and works at many other community activities. Rummage Sales and other fundraising falls under the Planning Committee, as do social events.



Old Home Days Parade - 2nd Prize!



Fall Dinner Plays



Christmas Fair

The Music Committee provides choir music at all services including summer services. During the Holidays. Members of the Congregation go caroling at the homes of Church members who are not able to attend services.



The choir at Cathedral of the Pines. Choir Director Pat Cauchon.

This is just an overview of some of the committees in our church, there are others committees available that keep our membership very busy.

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

The Pastor is an ex-Officio member of all Church Committees. The Church Council, the Deacons, the Planning Committee, and the Missions Committee each meet for one to two hours monthly. Other Committees, including the Music Committee and Trustees meet on an as-needed basis.

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

The Pastor has a discretionary fund that has been used as he/she deemed necessary. The Missions Committee is also available for immediate needs. In times of Congregational Polity Crisis that needed to be dealt with immediately the Church Clerk called an emergency all church meeting, the Moderator called an emergency Council meeting and/or the Church Clerk conducted a phone poll of Council members for approval to deal with the issue depending on the issue and timely need for response.

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?

All of the above will be provided



New Member Sunday 2015



Men's Group Field Trip to Manchester Monarchs

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ELEVEN YEAR CHURCH PROFILE BASED ON DATA REPORTED IN UCC YEARBOOKS



Church#: 441790

Assoc: 496 Schedule: 0 Second Congregational Church Wilton NH 03086

YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION	CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR REAFFIRM	DEATHS OR TRANS OUT	OTHER LOSSES	NET MEMBS ADDS-REMOVED
2011	135	65	10	3	3	0	0	0	6
2012	137	55	10	5	0	0	3	0	2
2013	137	55	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014	137	60	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	133	50	20	0	3	3	3	7	-4
2016	133	55	21	0	4	0	4	0	0
2017	133	60	20	3	1	0	4	0	0
2018	104	65	18	0	2	2	2	31	-29
2019	103	60	15	0	2	0	3	0	-1
2020	98	40	8	0	0	0	5	0	-5
2021	93	30	0	0	0	1	6	0	-5

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
2011	\$92,997	\$0	\$2,600	\$1,770	\$4,370	\$1,000	\$5,370	2.80	\$98,367	\$67,750
2012	\$90,550	\$0	\$3,000	\$1,064	\$4,064	\$204	\$4,268	3.31	\$94,818	\$71,143
2013	\$90,550	\$0	\$3,230	\$2,418	\$5,648	\$0	\$5,648	3.57	\$96,198	\$0
2014	\$104,784	\$0	\$3,275	\$1,202	\$4,477	\$0	\$4,477	3.13	\$109,261	\$74,766
2015	\$104,037	\$0	\$3,400	\$1,139	\$4,539	\$0	\$4,539	3.27	\$108,576	\$81,240
2016	\$105,164	\$0	\$3,600	\$3,670	\$7,270	\$0	\$7,270	3.42	\$112,434	\$83,384
2017	\$76,145	\$0	\$3,400	\$6,352	\$9,752	\$0	\$9,752	4.47	\$85,897	\$84,930
2018	\$91,352	\$0	\$3,400	\$2,165	\$5,565	\$0	\$5,565	3.72	\$96,917	\$82,054
2019	\$70,865	\$0	\$3,400	\$1,752	\$5,152	\$0	\$5,152	4.80	\$76,017	\$82,075
2020	\$75,955	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,441	\$6,441	\$0	\$6,441	3.95	\$82,396	\$75,936
2021	\$95,313	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,150	\$6,150	\$0	\$6,150	3.15	\$101,463	\$68,780

% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
2016-2021	-30.08	-45.45	-100.00	-75.00	50.00	-9.37	-15.41	-9.76
2011-2021	-31.11	-53.85	-100.00	-83.33	0.00	2.49	40.73	3.15

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.

CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	93	
Number of active non-members:	10	X
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	103	X

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	78%	X
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	12%	X
Less than 5 years:	10%	X

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
	2	8	2	3	3	17	48	30	X

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	11	X
Joint household with minors:	3	X
Single adults age 35-65:	3	X
Joint household with no minors:	22	X
Single adults over 65:	18	X

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	10%	X
College:	65%	X

Graduate School:	15%	X
Specialty Training:	10%	X
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	15%	X
Adults who are retired:	75%	X
Adults who are not fully employed:	10%	X

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

Our congregation is made up of craftsmen, tradesmen, blue collar workers, white collar workers, executives and retirees.

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?

Our congregation is predominately white middle class.

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 recently completed our discernment concerning ONA. A vote was held in June 2022 and it passed. We are now officially an Open and Affirming Congregation.



Fellowship at Cathedral of the Pines

PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings? <i>(list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff)</i>
Adult Groups or Classes	7	Pastor
Baptisms <i>(number last year)</i>	0	Pastor
Children's Groups or Classes	0	
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	65	Pastor
Church-wide Meals	65	Pastor
Choirs and Music Groups	15	Organist/Choir Director
Church-based Bible Study	10	Pastor
Communion <i>(served how often?)</i>	Monthly on the first Sunday	Pastor and Deacons
Community Meals		
Confirmation <i>(number confirmed last year)</i>	1	Pastor
Drama or Dance Program		
Funerals <i>(number last year)</i>	2	Pastor
Intergenerational Groups		
Outdoor Worship	25-30	Pastor and Deacons
Prayer or Meditation Groups		
Public Advocacy Work		
Retreats		
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community		
Weddings <i>(number last year)</i>		
Worship (time slot: 10:15)	35	Pastor

Worship (time slot: _____)		
Young Adult Groups or Classes	0	
Youth Groups or Classes	0	
Other		

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).

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
The Reverend Larry Smith	ordained		n/a	Y
The Reverend Gerald Scribner	ordained		n/a	Y

If one or more previous pastors or retired ministers currently hold membership in the church, describe their role(s) in the life of the congregation:

Both are members, although only one currently attends services and has been available for pulpit supply as part of their stewardship

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
Custodian	n/a	Part time	The Trustees	More than 5 years
Administrative Assistant	n/a	Part time	The Pastor	.2 Years
Organist/Choir Director	n/a	Part time	The Music Committee	More than 5 years

Budget Proposal - 2022

	2021	2021	Proposed	NOTE
INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL	2022	
Pledges	\$70,819.00	\$70,544.89	\$68,180.00	A
Contributions identified donations not part of pledge	\$3,250.00	\$4,610.00	\$3,350.00	
Loose Offerings (donations not identified in offering plate)	\$800.00	\$658.34	\$800.00	
Special Offerings for community (Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve/Christmas)	\$500.00	\$492.00	\$250.00	
UCC Missions (Support the Church, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors In Need)	\$1,000.00	\$150.00	\$500.00	
Retail sales (thrift shop, rummage, yard sales)	\$2,500.00	\$1,379.50	\$1,250.00	
Food Events (community suppers, food auctions, food sales)	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
Community events (community theater, plays, community/town hall events)	\$500.00	\$2,860.00	\$250.00	
Fairs	\$1,100.00	\$3,150.62	\$1,500.00	
Unitarian Society Donation	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Hall / Property Rental	\$500.00	\$600.00	\$7,000.00	B
Organ repair project:	-			
Grant funds - Organ Repair		\$5,842.45		C
Investment disbursement for organ	-	-	\$6,000.00	D
Investment income (United Church Foundation monthly dispersment)	\$13,000.00	\$13,534.44	\$13,000.00	
AmazonSmile Income		\$104.23	\$100.00	
Miscellaneous Income (undesignated income)	\$1,000.00	\$1,041.05	\$1,000.00	
Total Budgeted Income	\$95,569.00	\$105,067.52	\$103,530.00	

A As of this printing

B Guarentee income for the first \$7000 only

C \$5000.00 Alma Anderson Grant and \$842.26

by closing O.Hutchinson Account

D \$6000.00 Disbursement from Investments

	2021	2021	Proposed	
EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL	2022	
Pastor: Salary	\$17,300.00	\$15,303.74	\$17,819	E
Pastor: Housing	\$17,300.00	\$15,303.74	\$17,819	E
Pastor: Professional Allowance	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
Pastor: Mileage reimbursement	\$3,000.00	\$2,653.97	\$3,090	
Pastor: Pension/Insurance	\$4,844.00	\$4,285.13	\$4,989	E
Pastor: Discretionary Fund	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
Pastor: Pulpit Supply	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	
Pastor: Sabbatical	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
Pastor: Pastoral Search expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
Music: Director Salary	\$12,480.00	\$10,560.00	\$12,480.00	
Music: Director FICA	\$955.00	\$807.84	\$955.00	
Music: Supplies	\$300.00	\$172.91	\$300.00	
Music: Organist Supply	\$1,000.00	\$875.00	\$1,350.00	F
Office Expense				
Office: Administrator Salary	\$7,800.00	\$6,310.95	\$10,000	G
Office: Administrator FICA	\$596.70	\$482.79	\$765.00	
Office: Supplies (paper, bulletins, worship supplies)	\$1,000.00	\$597.22	\$1,000.00	
Office: Postage	\$500.00	\$33.00	\$100.00	
Office: Copier and maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$210.33	\$1,000.00	
Office: Payroll Service	\$1,236.00	\$932.65	\$1,236.00	
Maintenance				

Budget Proposal - 2022

	2021	2021	Proposed	
EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL	2022	
Custodian Salary	\$10,000.00	\$3,553.25	\$10,000.00	
Custodian FICA	\$765.00	\$271.83	\$765.00	
Building Maintenance (equipment, pest controls, general maintenance)	\$2,500.00	\$1,338.73	\$2,500.00	
Building Supplies (paper products for kitchen and lavatories, cleaning supplies, etc)	\$500.00	\$614.88	\$500.00	
Plowing, Sanding (contractor)	\$3,000.00	\$2,750.00	\$3,000.00	
Organ and Piano Maintenance (contractor)	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	
2022 Organ repair project		\$1,000.00	\$11,000.00	
Service/Maintenance Contracts (fire alarms, sprinklers, etc)	\$1,000.00	\$822.50	\$1,000.00	
Insurance (building and employee coverage)	\$7,500.00	\$6,611.00	\$7,500.00	
Building Fund (major repair account; hold over unused funds each year)	\$4,000.00	\$10,750.00	\$4,000.00	
Utilities: Fuel (oil, propane)	\$6,000.00	\$3,285.09	\$6,000.00	
Utilities: Electricity	\$2,500.00	\$1,275.36	\$2,500.00	
Utilities: Telephone/Internet and Zoom	\$1,244.00	\$1,598.99	\$2,000.00	
Utilities: Water and Sewer	\$1,000.00	\$1,130.58	\$1,500.00	
Church Ministries				
Church Missions (community outreach)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Deacon's Fund (expenses of worship - candles, special programs etc)	\$300.00	\$453.34	\$300.00	
Church Retreat Expense	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
UCC: Fellowship Dues (Association cost per member)	\$1,300.00	\$1,249.50	\$1,200.00	
UCC: Pledge	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
UCC: Mission Offerings (STC, OGHS, NIN)	\$1,000.00	\$150.00	\$500.00	
UCC: Delegate Expense	\$360.00	\$0.00	\$360.00	H
Bank Fees	\$50.00	\$24.75	\$50.00	
Miscellaneous Expense		\$254.00		
Total Expense Budget	\$122,280.70	\$99,663.07	\$135,778.32	
Difference (projected income -projected expenses) Income =	\$103,530.00	Difference	(\$32,248.32)	

- E Recommend increase 3% for Pastor Salary
- F Increase to \$150 for 9 weeks (4 vaca + 5 5th Sundays)
- G Recommend move position to salaried at \$10k
- H Attendance for 3 to Conference meetings

REFLECTION

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

We are an aging congregation, in a community with an aging population. We are an integral part of our community and are looking to grow our membership and further increase involvement in the community.

CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$79,430
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$13,000
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	\$
Fundraising Events	\$4,250
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$
Grants	\$5,000
Rentals of Church Building	\$700
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$n/a
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women's Group</i>)	\$
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$
Other (specify):	\$
Other (specify):	\$
TOTAL	\$102,380

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$135,778

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

34%

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church?

No

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year? (indicate those included during the most recent fiscal year)

- 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?

We budget a fixed amount of \$3,400 annually

What is the church’s current indebtedness?

- Total amount of loan debt: \$0
- 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. n/a

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

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
n/a		\$	\$	
		\$	\$	

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe:

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

n/a		\$	\$	
		\$	\$	

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

Does your church have an endowment? Yes, investments with the UCC funds

What is the market value of the assets? 12/31/2021 \$550,759

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

Funds are drawn monthly. Total annual withdrawal is \$13,000 with difference between that and current interest earned taken from principal

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

Same withdrawal, affected only by interest earned

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years:

Principal funds were withdrawn to cover the expense of a new roof on the Parish Hall above the grant that was awarded by Ella Anderson Trust (approximately \$5,000). Recent projects have included removing an underground heating oil storage tank and replaced it with a tank in the basement of the Parish Hall. We received a \$6,000 grant from the Ella Anderson Trust to cover the expense. Currently our 150 year old Steere and Turner pipe organ is being repaired. We received a grant from the Ella Anderson Trust for \$5,000 – approximately ½ the cost. A fund raiser is currently under way for the balance of the costs. Additional principal funds above the annual draw are only used in the event of a major required repair. Most maintenance projects are absorbed into the budgeted maintenance expense.

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last? Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

It all depends on how the investments perform. It is possible that the principal would be exhausted in 42 years if we earned no interest and continued to withdraw \$13,000 annually.

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): Cash on hand in checking account in excess of \$25,000

Investments (other than endowment): No

Does your church have a parsonage? No

Describe all buildings owned by the church:

The church building is located close to downtown Wilton on .8 acres of land, tax map J lot 17.

The building is built of wood with a granite foundation with an asphalt shingle roof. The sanctuary and the church hall are connected by the link.

The building is protected by a sprinkler system and there are fire extinguishers placed according to the fire inspector. These fire protections are inspected annually and tagged.

The water and sewer are provided by the town and paid by the church. TDS provides phone service and internet. Eversource provides electrical service.

Ciardelli Fuel delivers fuel oil and propane. They also inspect and clean the furnaces every year.

The parking lot is paved and striped. There are 28 parking places on site with two handicapped spots. We have an unwritten agreement with the library to use their fourteen parking spaces when they are closed. On road parking is used along with public parking a short walk away.

The sanctuary is carpeted. The pews can seat 240 people and the altar and choir area can have up to 32 people. Handicapped access is through the link door in the back of the parking lot. There is no handicapped access to the altar or the choir loft. There is no air conditioning however there are ceiling fans that work quite well. We are equipped with an audio PA system. We have a working bell in the belfry, a Steere and Turner Pipe organ, a baby grand piano and wall mounted chimes. Heating is forced hot air from a new oil-fired furnace installed in 2020. Hot water is supplied by an electric hot water heater.

The Parish Hall is handicapped accessible, entered through the link the same as the church. It is heated by a forced hot air furnace on the first floor and another on the second floor. The first-floor meeting room can have 159 people standing or 74 seated at the folding tables and chairs. There is a stage for plays etc. with small rooms right and left. There are two rest rooms in the front hall/link, with handicap access.



Parish Hall set up for dinner



Inside our beautiful kitchen

The Kitchen is well equipped with a large commercial gas range with two ovens. There is hood with a fan and a fire suppression system. A three stainless-steel sink set up with garbage disposal provides professional grade working space. There is also a high-speed commercial dishwasher. A work island and plenty of counter and cupboard space along with a large pantry room off the kitchen make for a good work area. The second floor has no handicapped access. There are two offices; one large for the minister and a smaller one for the administrative assistant. There are two closets and three rooms partitioned off for varied uses.

There is no Parsonage. Refer to the compensation article. There are no major projects in the immediate future. Repairs, updates and maintenance are performed as needed.

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church: n/a

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs?

Most areas are wheelchair accessible with these exceptions: in the church the altar/pulpit area, the choir /organ loft, and the balcony; in the Parrish hall building the second floor and stage areas are not accessible. The main hall, kitchen and bathrooms are all accessible.



Inside "The Link" which joins our two buildings and provides handicapped accessibility.

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

We are an aging population in an aging community. We spiritually support our community and reach out financially as we can. We work hard to maintain our buildings, and address issues as they arise. Our budget is prepared in November by the Budget Committee. The Budget is approved by the Church Council and voted on by the whole church at Annual Meeting in January. A congregant once observed "God looks after this church" and we have always been able to meet our obligations and commitments.



Communion Table - Ready for all.

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.

The Second Congregational Church of Wilton, NH was organized July 18, 1823 when 17 members broke away from the First Congregational Church as the First Church was leaning toward Unitarianism and met on the second floor of the old brick store at Wilton Center. They purchased a plot of land and built a new meeting house in Wilton Center. This building was dedicated January 1, 1830, and in December of that year Rev. William Richardson was ordained to be the first minister. In 1851 the congregation had outgrown their building and was invited to move their place of worship to East Wilton. The present church building was dedicated on June 10, 1852. Reverend Adams was a furniture maker by trade and the three

piece pulpit set used today was built and given by him. During this time, the parish house was built, the pipe organ was purchased, the choir loft was added and the church celebrated its 50th anniversary.

In 1920, the Liberal Christian Church joined the preaching services of the Second Congregational Church, which has lasted through the years. In 1966 Rev John Barber became pastor and plans were made for the renovation of the church sanctuary. Rev Barber went on a part time ministry and offered much of his salary to the church for a building fund to be established.

In the 1970's the church sanctuary underwent a major remodel, opening up the second story loft at the rear of the church, erecting a wall in front of the organ bench and redesigning the chancel area at the front of the church. In 2002, the congregation voted to "link" the two buildings creating handicapped accessible entry and adding handicapped restrooms to the facility. A sprinkler system was installed throughout all the buildings.

Today as people worship in the church program as a congregation, we believe we are fortunate for our history and to be able to call this church a spiritual home. The church continues to be a vital part of the community.

We hold one worship service each summer at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH.

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

COVID 19 affected our congregation in many ways. Initially in-person worship was replaced by "Zoom Church", with a brief period of in person worship for several weeks in the late summer, and return to fully remote services as the surge progressed. We are back to in-person services with Zoom access for those unable to attend. We are prepared for the future. Meetings for the most part continue to be held via the Zoom platform, although some committees are back to meeting in person.

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.

Over the years there have been minor conflicts, however the Deacons in concert with the Pastoral Relations Committee have been able to head off any issues before they became major problems. As with any small local church members come and go over time, but we have been able to maintain a core foundation within the community. Recently there was an honest mistake made with reported taxable income, which was corrected and resolved as soon as it was discovered.

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

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Pastor Kerry Richardson	24 months/Interim	Y
The Reverend Dr. Regina Kinney	5	Y
Reverend Mark Brockmeyer	18 months/Interim	Y
Reverend Cassie Emanuel	6	Y
Reverend Leonard Zecchini	18 months/Interim	Y
Reverend Jane Hawken	5 1/2	Y
The Reverend Dr. Leonard K. Nace	12 months/Interim	Deceased
Reverend Gerald Scribner	24	Y

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

We believe we have had good relationships with our Pastors. Interim pastors are obviously called for a short period of time. Our Settled Pastors have left our congregation for expanded career opportunities.

Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination? No

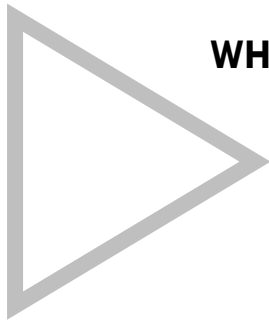
Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation? No

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

Not that we are aware of



Inter-Generational Nativity



WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

COMMUNITY VISION

MISSION InSite

COMMUNITY VISION

How do the relationships and activities of your congregation extend outward in service and advocacy?

Second Congregational Church strives to be a presence in the community.

- We support The Open Cupboard, the local food pantry, with donations throughout the year collecting paper goods and non-food items, as well as frequent cash donations via our Missions Committee. In 2021, we started an annual fundraising Walk to benefit the Open Cupboard. In 2022, we are engaging other community organizations to participate.
- We are in partnership with the Wilton Gregg Free Library and provide our parish hall facilities for a joint Collaborative Space program
- We provide the location and other resources for the Community Christmas Store, which serves in-need families in the community, as well as sponsor families with the community Giving Tree program.
- We provide scholarships for college-bound seniors.
- We participate in community and town activities, including Old Home Days and annual Main Street festivals.
- We have provided meals for workers at local Habitat for Humanity construction sites.
- For several years, we operated a thrift shop which provided low cost clothing and goods to the community at large, while also providing clothing to the local school nurses for their students. This project has been scaled back to a monthly rummage sale, to make sure this resource is available to the community.
- We have supported the elementary school PTO in their recent shoe drive and pledged support as they plan the next one.
- We hold the charter for the local Boy Scout troop, providing them with space for meetings, etc. We have provided a place for Girl Scout meetings as well.
- Our kitchen has been used for monthly Community Suppers, for our own Dinner Plays and during the early months of the coronavirus, we worked with other community organizations to provide weekly meals to quarantined individuals and families.

- We have made clean-up buckets and personal hygiene kits for Church World Services.
- We participate in the Souhegan Valley Crop Walk for Hunger.
- We support the Poor People's Campaign.
- We promote Fair Trade goods, have donated to the Heifer Project, make blankets the Linus Project, and made gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

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

- Until recently, we have had three active delegates that participated in annual and regional meetings, the general synod, and attended various ordination and installation events.
- Several members attend the NH UCC Prepared to Serve conference
- Pre-Covid we were a "Five for Five" supporter of the UCC ministries – Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Christmas Fund and Our Church's Wider Mission. We plan to be back on track in 2023.

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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible to All (A2A) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global Mission Church |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creation Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> WISE Congregation for Mental Health |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> Other UCC designations: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> God Is Still Speaking (GISS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Designations from other denominations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Border and Immigrant Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Just Peace | |

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?

- We recently completed our discernment regarding ONA, and successfully voted for the ONA designation. Everyone assumed that we were, but we didn't have that official designation until this year (2022). We are very proud of our members for recognizing the importance of being Open and Affirming.

- Our buildings, including bathrooms, are handicap-accessible and we have wheelchairs available if needed.

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

- A number of years ago, we participated in ecumenical services (pastor led) and would like to resume this practice in the future.
- We participated in the Souhegan Valley Crop Walk for Hunger with other area churches until that was discontinued. In its place we have started our own Hunger Walk, detailed elsewhere.
- We provide a place for worship for the Unitarian Church, which is closed in summer.

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 Mission Statement, as defined in our By-laws is this: ‘Our Mission is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through worship and Christian Education, and the promotion of justice, peace and human fellowship.’ The core of the job is this Mission Statement.

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 understand we have proposed a very broad scope of work. The primary focus of the Pastor is the worshipping congregation and members of the church. After that, it is left to the discretion of the Pastor to reach out to the wider community as time allows.



Building the Old Home Days parade float

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

A study was done by our previous Pastor in late 2018 early 2019. She found that the average age was 43 in 2018 and that was expected to rise to 46 by 2028. The number of people age 65 and older is projected to go up 9% in the next ten years. There has been a steady decrease in children aged 10 to 17 that will continue to decline. Seniors will be a sizable part of our community in the coming years.

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?

Our membership seems to match the demographics of our community

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

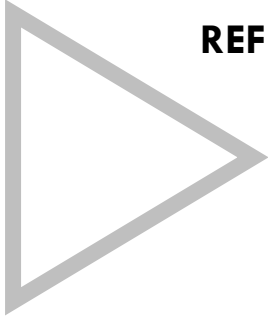
Based on the above demographics, we will focus more on adult bible studies and different types of adult community activities and outreach. We will not focus as much energy on child based missions but will not rule out still trying to get young families into the church.

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

We are known as the community church. People tend to think of us as their church even though they aren't members and only seek us out when needed. We extend our outreach into the community by offering our building to be used for community events and organizations and we participate in town-wide functions.

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

Newer people have expressed the feeling of friendship and community when they come to our church. They have all said how welcomed they were and that made them want to stay. Most agreed that when asked to join an activity we are respectful of their time and are not pushy if they say no. We don't give up asking, which usually translates into them getting involved at some point.



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

Joan and David Jones

603-494-7873

Dj4jhj@yahoo.com

9316 E. Posada Ave
Mesa, AZ 85212
November 17, 2020

The Second Congregational Church, UCC
PO Box 246
Attn: Leslie A. Tuttle
Wilton, NH 03086

Dear Leslie:

In 2013 we were invited to attend a service at the Second Congregational Church, UCC in Wilton, New Hampshire by two friends who are parishioners at the church. Our first impression was one of a very caring and welcoming community.

That year was a very challenging year. My 88 year old mother who lives in Massachusetts had her open heart surgery in Boston. I was diagnosed with breast cancer. We attended services on a regular basis throughout that Summer and Fall before we returned to Arizona. During this difficult time we found a great deal of support and encouragement at the church.

One of the most positive aspects of a service is the time set aside for personal prayer requests and concerns. This is an enlightening time for the congregation. Anyone sitting in a pew realizes very quickly the deep concern the parishioners have for each other. As they share their difficult situations in their lives but also joyful news of trips, new family members and in my case-healing for my mother and myself.

We witnessed genuine concern and outreach to those in need with offers of rides, meals, and communion to those who are homebound. The Deacons were aware and anticipated those who needed a wheelchair upon arrival. Everyone is welcome.

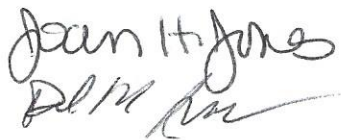
Community outreach and community missions are a priority. The Church offers it's space to others for meetings and town gatherings. They participate in annual town events and the Christmas Fair is well attended by church members and the community. It offers something for everyone of all ages.

My husband, Dave, participated multiple times in the Santa Shoot. No one was turned away-every child could have a memory of a picture with Santa.

Dave was confirmed and raised in a UCC Church in Pennsylvania. He was grateful that the church in Wilton was similar to his childhood church. The experiences in Wilton brought back good memories.

We now live in Arizona. When we return to New Hampshire we try to make it a priority to attend the Second Congregational Church. It is always a welcoming place that provides encouragement and comfort.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Joan H. Jones and David M. Jones. The signature for Joan H. Jones is written in a cursive style, and the signature for David M. Jones is written in a more stylized, cursive script below it.

Joan H Jones

David M Jones

Ph 603-494-7873

Email dj4jhj@yahoo.com

REFERENCE 2

Linda Stowe-LaDoucer

603-809-9505

Stowe.LaDouceur@gmail.com

Manages the Open Cupboard Food Pantry

Leslie Tuttle
Second Congregational Church, UCC
Dale and Gregg Streets
P.O. Box 246
Wilton, NH 03086

November 28, 2020

Dear Leslie Tuttle, Chair of Settled Pastor Search Committee:

Thank-you for reaching out to us, concerning a reference letter to the NH Conference United Church of Christ. I certainly *would* be willing to correspond with any prospective pastor on the phone, by USPS or by email. Although my husband Roger and I are not active members, we have been connected to this church since moving here from Keene in 1983. We still live five houses up from the church, and through the years have attended services, weddings, funerals, celebrations of life, Wilton Old Home Day convocations, community suppers, dinner theatres, musical programs, etc. This little church has been, and is, a vital part of the community. Roger and I have run the Open Cupboard Pantry for 22 years – a food source for those residents of Temple, Wilton, Lyndeborough and Greenfield. The Second Congregational Church has strongly supported this community endeavor by regularly contributing financially, as well as contributing food.

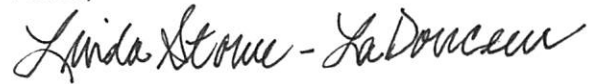
The Second Congregational Church is much more than its walls. The church has a strong sense of outreach. For years they have supported the Souhegan Valley CROP Walk for Hunger, and by doing this, supported the Open Cupboard Food Pantry and those families in need in the area. They have given support to Heifer Project International's educational projects. Women's groups have knit prayer shawls, and created prayer bead bracelets, gestures of caring for those who are vulnerable. They have invited the community to twice-yearly dinner theatres. They have a lending library for those who want to further their understanding of human injustices, green burials, etc.. I was present on that Sunday in July, 1988 when a time capsule was filled by congregation members, and buried in the ground in front of the church – to be dug up on Easter 2050. I remember the letter I wrote for the capsule, expressing how grateful I was for this small village church, and that my children could go to Sunday school there.

This little town of Wilton is a town where people care about each other. A small example of this is: Our Food Pantry put on free monthly dinners on Sunday afternoons for seniors. After one such dinner an elderly man, known and liked by all in the town, fell over the curb, breaking his nose as well as his eyeglasses. Immediately, the woman presently washing dishes in the kitchen (and happened to be a nurse on the ambulance squad) rushed to his side. *The next day the Wilton Lions Club made sure that he had new glasses.* A larger example is: For two months during the Covid, families could sign up for food boxes to be delivered to their door on Saturday

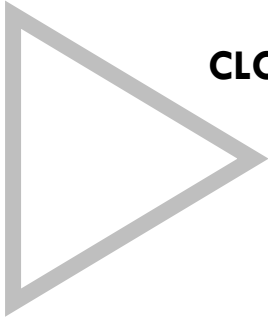
morning by members of the Fire Department. This meant that they could stay safely at home. Funds and food had been collected by a group of very committed women. The project was aptly called "Wilton Cares." Wilton does.

I would be glad to speak further. Please do not hesitate to call me at (603)809-9505, or email me at stowe.ladouceur@gmail.com. Thank-you.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Stowe-LaDouceur".

Linda Stowe-LaDouceur



CLOSING THOUGHTS

CLOSING PRAYER

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

CLOSING PRAYER

O God in Whom All Life Begins

O God in whom all life begins,
who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives;
here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts
of patience, joy, and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear,
and grant our faith increase.

Unite in mutual ministry
our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek
the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine
to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed
we may your love proclaim.

Through tears and laughter, grief and joy,
enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community
that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here
to worship, sing, and pray,
then send us forth in power and faith
to live the words we say.

-Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Proverbs 11:14

Where there is no guidance a people fails; but in an abundance of counselors there is safety

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?

Settled Pastor Search Committee

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

This profile was created by a Committee consisting of 8 members of the Church with counsel from our Interim Pastor. Each member of the Committee contributed to the profile through sharing, discussion, and prayer. At the encouragement of the Conference, we held in-person and Zoom meetings to solicit the input of the members of our congregation and discuss “wants and needs” in a Pastor and in the life of our church. We divided up the sections of the profile, with all members of the committee contributing sections of the “discussions”. This is a true group effort, and you will find evidence of that in the styles of our answers to the questions posed. We look forward to finding a Settled Pastor to lead us as we move into our future.

Signed:

Name / Title / Date:

Leslie A. Tuttle
Leslie A. Tuttle Church Clerk
Settled Pastor Search Committee, Chair
9/19/22

VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment:

Yes. The congregation exhibits a faithfulness to its covenant with the wider church, attending Association and Conference events.

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

Staff Comment:

Yes. The history as presented is accurate, to the best of my knowledge.

To the best of my knowledge, available church financial information is presented thoroughly.

Staff Comment:

Yes. The information is accurate, to the best of my knowledge.

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature: ***Richard N. Slater***

Name / Title: Richard N. Slater, Associate Conference Minister

Email: rslater@nhcucc.org

Phone: 603.715.9525

Date: January 20, 2021



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“Jesus answered God!” – Mark

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



them, ‘Have faith in 11:22