Name of Church
Community Congregational UCC

Address
1300 E. 9th
Cleveland, OH 44114

Conference:
MESA

Title
Senior Pastor

Start Date
May 13, 2024

Description
Community Congregational UCC is seeking a Senior Pastor who will oversee staff, support lay leadership, lead inspiring worship, and engage the wider community.

Church Contact Information

(123) 456-7890 (Church Primary Phone)
nelsonj@ucc.org (Email Address)

Listing Information

Web Presences

http://www.ucc.org

Type: Professional

Additional Formal Ecumenical Affiliations

No response

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person

Name:
Rev. Jeff Nelson

Title:
Minister for Ministerial Calls and Transitions

Phone:
123-456-7890

Email:
nelsonj@ucc.org
Summary Ministry Description

Community Congregational Church is a thriving congregation located in the suburbs of Cleveland wishing to continue its legacy of community engagement, mission, and justice. We are committed to our designations as an Open and Affirming and WISE for Mental Health church, and seek to expand our message of welcome in the name of Christ to our neighborhood and beyond.

We are seeking a Senior Pastor who will inspire us to continue this work in several ways. First, our successful candidate will oversee a staff that includes an Associate for Faith Formation, a Director of Music, and several support staff. Second, they will support our ministry groups in their work. Third, they will be an engaged member of the community, making connections with those outside our walls. Finally, they will lead engaging worship with powerful sermons that connect faith to everyday life.

Church pictures

What we value about living in our area.

Our surrounding community is ever-expanding, with new allotments going up regularly. Our church is within driving distance to the downtown Cleveland area, which boasts many attractions.

Current size of membership

400

Average in person attendance

140

Does your church hold virtual worship services?

Yes

Choose platform type(s) and number for virtual worship.

Video Hosting Platform

On average, how many views are received per service?

50

Languages used in ministry

English

Position Title

Senior Pastor

Position Duration

Settled

Compensation Level

Full Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

Yes

Link to current Conference guidelines

http://www.heartlanducc.org

Scope of Work

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Some fields reference The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ.

The United Church of Christ recognizes The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers in the formation of ministers, in the practice of active ministry, and throughout life. For the purposes of completing a denominational Profile, ministers are asked to spend some time with the Marks.

The Scope of Work developed by our church using the Call Agreement Workbook.

No response

3 core competencies that we imagine could be foundational in our next minister's relationship with the church.

First:
Senior Pastor
Community Congregational UCC
Cleveland, OH

Well-organized: our next Senior Pastor must be able to organize their time efficiently to stay connected with staff, committees, and community engagements.

Second:
Inspirational: we want our next Senior Pastor to move our ministries forward through uplifting worship and pastoral presence.

Third:
A strong administrator: our Senior Pastor is effectively the CEO of the church, and must know how to navigate administrative decision-making and oversight.

Compensation and Support

The salary basis comes from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/Housing Allowance. The Conference can assist in determining these amounts or provide a worksheet to be used to calculate these values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SALARY AND BENEFITS OFFERED: SALARY BASIS</th>
<th>ITEM OFFERED</th>
<th>AMOUNT OR PERCENTAGE (IF DETERMINED)</th>
<th>IS THIS NEGOTIABLE</th>
<th>PASTORAL CANDIDATE DETERMINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary (Cash basis determined from Conference/Association Guidelines)</td>
<td>48000</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Allowance</td>
<td>15000</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Experiential Difference (Related to years of experience)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension/Annuity</td>
<td>9000</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security and Medicare Offset</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical/Dental Insurance</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Insurance</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Insurance</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worker’s Compensation</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Salary Basis: 63000

The expected living situation for our next minister.
We will provide a housing allowance for our Senior Pastor to live in our community.

If a parsonage is provided, will the church offer a home equity allowance to the pastor? (The recommended guidelines for a home equity allowance is equal to 1.5% of the average home value in the community; this is considered taxable to the minister. The Housing Equity Offset should not be calculated into the Salary Basis upon which other Benefits are determined. Churches should consult a tax advisor prior to establishing any account for an equity allowance to ensure compliance with IRS rules on nonqualified deferred compensation plans.)
No
No response

How our church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment.
No response

Additional reimbursements the next Pastor can expect to receive as part of their employment:
Reimbursement for use of personal vehicle.
Cell Phone and/or Internet.
Conference and/or Association meeting registrations
Other meeting registrations (or educational requirement registrations).
Criminal background checks.
Community of Practice Participation.

Peer and professional supports available for ministers in our association/conferences.
The Living Water Association offers opportunities for ministers to join a Community of Practice.

Who Is God Calling to Minister with Us?

The ministry goals we envision our next minister collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

We want to continue our robust ministry to our members via a wide variety of education and fellowship activities. We also want to continue to be a strong presence of witness to our surrounding community that God's love is for everyone no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We expect that our new minister will provide guidance, support, inspiration, and oversight for those who provide leadership for these programs and activities, as well as envision ways to expand and improve upon them.

How our vision of the minister we are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.

Our position of senior pastor has a long history of providing witness to our surrounding community by being present and active in community faith and civic events. We hope that such a tradition will continue as our new minister seeks to integrate themselves to the neighborhood and give voice to matters of justice and equity in the name of Christ and as a representative of Community Congregational UCC.

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

No response

Based on what we have learned about who our church is, who our church's neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, these are four areas of excellence from The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry that our next minister will display to further equip the congregation's ministry in these areas.

- Empowering the Church to be faithful to God's call, reflective of Christ's mission, and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.
- Witnessing in the public square to God's redeeming power.
- Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching, and ecclesial and community leadership.
- Practicing the radical hospitality of God.

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 God is calling us to become as a congregation.

As strongly as we identify with matters of justice and radical inclusion, we recognize that we are still relatively mono-cultural in outlook and representation. We feel called to achieve greater understanding and sensitivity toward non-white populations, especially visitors and potential members, but also to our surrounding community which is becoming more diverse each year.

How God is calling us to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of our community and congregation.

Our governing board recently held a retreat that prioritized three areas for us to address: 1) striving for greater understanding of cultural diversity, 2) improvements to our building, parts of which are showing wear, and 3) increased support for ministry to families and youth. We are currently waiting for the calling of our next senior pastor to help shape the specifics of these needs.

Congregation Reflections

We would describe our congregation's life of faith as...

We being each worship service and committee meeting by reciting together, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Since we have been doing this for so long, it is often referenced unprompted by members during conversations about important matters. We are striving to embody that sense of God's welcome, and repeating this simple sentence has been a big part of that.
Strengths or positive qualities of our congregation.

We strive to be mindful of our commitment to be welcoming, and to live out our ONA and WISE commitments.

We have a dedicated core of lay leaders who organize many of our church's activities and groups.

Our building and grounds are well-kept, and our location makes our church a natural hub for hosting community groups and engaging in outreach.

A growing edge for our congregation and what we plan to strengthen as a congregation

We recognize that we are a fairly mono-cultural congregation, and the increased diversity of the neighborhood has caused us to evaluate how to be welcoming of people of other races and ethnicities.

What worship is like when our congregation gathers.

We offer two worship services. Our 9:00 a.m. service is named The Well, and takes place in our chapel. It features a small band, and people worship around tables. Our 11:00 a.m. service is our traditional worship featuring our pipe organ and choir in the sanctuary. We have a fellowship time in between so that members who attend either service can be together. Our Minister of Music is very careful about selecting songs for The Well, ensuring that they reflect our values of diversity and inclusivity. Communion is offered at both services on the first Sunday of every month, as well as during Easter and Christmas Eve worship.

The educational program/faith formation vision of our church.

Our Associate for Faith Formation coordinates activities with the help of our Christian Education Team. Junior Church is offered during our traditional service, and an adult class meets at 10:00 a.m. in our parlor. There is also a mid-week Bible study that meets on Tuesday evenings. Our Heaven's R.A.Z.E. youth group meets on Sunday evenings. Our Junior Church uses resources from Sparkhouse, and our adult classes choose their own resources.

How our congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

Announcements about activities are shared in weekly email blasts, on our Facebook page, and during Sunday announcements. Many of our committees make decisions via email or group text, but also meet about 6 times a year.

When it comes to decision-making, 10 hours are spent in meetings per month.

Is the pastor expected to attend all church meetings?

No

In times when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. These were the key leaders in taking this action and this was accomplished by...

On a Sunday morning, our custodian discovered that the heat didn't work in the sanctuary. He called our pastor to let her know, and she contacted other staff. She suggested that our traditional service be held in the fellowship hall, which others agreed to. Our Minister of Music and a few choir members wheeled in a piano while the custodian and a few others set up rows of chairs. The pastor and Elders decorated a table with some items from the sanctuary up front and everyone read or spoke from a music stand. All acted quickly to arrange this, and most found it an enjoyable morning.

A copy of an organization structure, by laws and/or annual report to further explain the patterns of the church’s activity and governance

11-Year Report

Download a copy of the 11-Year Report developed with the help of our conference staff and UCC Data Hub.

No response

Congregation Demographics
Describe those who participate in your church.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEMOGRAPHIC</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS:</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS:</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL OF CHURCH PARTICIPANTS (SUM OF THE NUMBERS ABOVE):</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?
No

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MORE THAN 10 YEARS:</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESS THAN 10, MORE THAN 5 YEARS:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESS THAN 5 YEARS:</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?
No

Number of total participants by age:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?
Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSEHOLD TYPE</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SINGLE ADULTS UNDER 35:</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSEHOLDS WITH MINORS:</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SINGLE ADULTS AGE 35-65:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOINT HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO MINORS:</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SINGLE ADULTS OVER 65:</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?
Yes
### Education level of adult participants by percentage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION LEVEL</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIGH SCHOOL</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADUATE SCHOOL</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIALTY TRAINING</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER EDUCATION LEVEL</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?**
Yes

### Percentage of adults in various employment types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMPLOYMENT TYPE</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADULTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADULTS WHO ARE RETIRED</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADULTS WHO ARE NOT FULLY EMPLOYED</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?**
Yes

### The range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

- Many in our congregation work office jobs in the city, and we also have a fair amount who teach K-12 or at area universities. Probably about 15-20% work manual jobs such as for the city or construction.

### The mix of ethnic heritages in our congregation, and the overall racial make-up.

- We are a mostly white congregation with one family of Hispanic background and one of East Asian background.

### What diversity means in our context?

- Some of our older members trace their heritage to immigrants from Eastern European countries that settled in the area decades ago. Many of our newer members come from Baptist traditions and a small number are former Catholics. The number of members who identify as LGBTQ+ is steadily growing.

### Has our congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do we plan to hold one on the near future

- No

**Participation and Staffing**
## Participation and Planning of Gatherings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ways of Church Gathering</th>
<th>Estimated Number of People Involved in Attendance</th>
<th>Who Plans Each of the Listed Gatherings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Groups or Classes (in person or online)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Scott Summers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms (number last year)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Groups or Classes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Associate for Faith Formation, Christian Education Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve and Easter Worship</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church-wide Meals</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Mission Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choirs and Music Groups</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Minister of Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church-based Bible Study</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hank McCoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion (served how often?)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Senior Pastor and Elders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Meals</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Mission Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation (number confirmed last year)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals (number last year)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Advocacy Work</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Advocacy Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weddings (number last year)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship (digital / online / livestream)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Senior Pastor, Minister of Music, Worship Team, Digital Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Groups or Classes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Minister of Faith Formation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Worship Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worship (Time Slot)</th>
<th>Estimated Number of People Involved in Attendance</th>
<th>Who Plans Each of the Listed Gatherings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. ET</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Senior Pastor, Music Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. ET</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Senior Pastor, Music Director</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Additional comments:

No response

## List of all members or regular participants in our congregation who are ordained or commissioned ministers, or who hold Lay Ministerial Standing. Additionally the names of Members in Discernment in our congregation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Three-Way or Four-Way Covenant</th>
<th>Ministry Setting</th>
<th>Type of Ministry Role</th>
<th>Retired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jean Grey</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cleveland Clinic</td>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Xavier</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>Pulpit Supply</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Previous pastors or retired ministers who currently hold membership in the church and their role(s) in the life of the congregation:

No response
List of all current staff:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAFF POSITION</th>
<th>HEAD OF STAFF</th>
<th>COMPENSATION</th>
<th>SUPERVISED BY</th>
<th>LENGTH OF TENURE FOR CURRENT PERSON IN THIS POSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate for Faith</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>full</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Director</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>part</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>full</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custodian</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>part</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reflection: What this information reflect about our congregation’s overall ministry:

We have much to treasure about our spirit of welcome, but could always be striving to do more.

Church Finances

Current Annual Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving</td>
<td>290000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Proceeds (as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)</td>
<td>175000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Events</td>
<td>15000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose</td>
<td>20000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rentals of Church Building</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>503000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year):

550000

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.

No response

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

16

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
- Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered?

It is a line item in our annual budget.

If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, this is the percentage?
Total amount of loan debt:
  No response

Reason for debt:
  No response

Are capital and other payments current?
  No

Capital Campaigns
Capital campaign or building project file
  No Response

Pictures

Does your church have an endowment?
  Yes
  What is the market value of the assets?
    3500000

  Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances?
    Regularly from the interest

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

  Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years:
    0

  At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last?
    No response

  Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:
    5% has been our practice, although our endowment policy allows us to draw up to 8% if needed.

Other Assets
  No response

Reserves (savings):
  200000

Investments (other than endowment):
  No response

Does the church have a parsonage?
  No

Description of all buildings owned by the church:
  Our main church building has a sanctuary that seats 500, a Christian Education wing with 8 classrooms, a fellowship hall that seats 200, a gymnasium that is used regularly by area teams for practices in the evenings, and an office suite.

Description of non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church:
  No response

Accessibility features of our building(s):
Senior Pastor  
Community Congregational UCC  
Cleveland, OH

Exterior access such as ramps for wheelchair users or people requiring other mobility assistance
Accessible parking spaces
Interior access to different floors for wheelchair users or others with mobility aids (elevator, chair lift, ramps)
Access to worship spaces, including chancel and pulpit, for wheelchair users and people with other mobility aids
Listening devices in the sanctuary, or wireless technology to connect to hearing aids
Large print bulletins

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs:

No response

Policies regarding financial practices of the church:

Our treasurer works with our Stewardship and Finance Team to set and manage the budget each year, including paying expenses. A rotating group of counters meets after worship to count the offerings, which are deposited Monday morning. Expenses over $5,000 must be voted on by the congregation.

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what this information reflects about our congregation's mission and ministry:

Like most churches these days, we are not without our struggles to meet our current level of expenses. We are always brainstorming new possibilities for income, and the prospect of drawing an increased amount from our endowment has been a cause for anxiety among our membership.

Historical Information

Significant happenings in the history of our church that have shaped the identity of our congregation.

The construction of our Christian Education wing and gymnasium in 2004.
The congregational vote to become Open and Affirming in 2009.
The adjustments that we had to make in response to the COVID pandemic in 2020, including pivoting to online worship.

A specific change our church has managed in the recent past.

When Ohio announced the shutdowns in March 2020, our ministry staff and Church Council met to talk about the best ways to respond. This resulted in the formation of a Tech Team to help oversee the shift to online worship and adjustments to our music ministry to continue contributing to this new format. Most of the congregation was very receptive and understanding to these changes, and our online worship has endured even after we've resumed in-person services.

Every church has conflict, some minor, some larger. "Where two or three are gathered, there will be disagreement....". These are our congregation's values and practices when it comes to conflict.

We have copies of a Behavioral Covenant posted throughout our building, including in rooms where meetings take place. They include guidelines for how to respond to each other in Christian love when disagreements arise. It took a while for members to get used to, but it has made a positive difference when we discuss difficult topics.

The most recent major conflict through which our church has navigated.

The further the pandemic stretched, the more anxious some members were to return to in-person activities. Some who were on the Church Council wanted to take a vote to return, and there was a lengthy conversation at one of their meetings. Council leaders had to remind the group of our Behavioral Covenant several times, and Robert's Rules were carefully used to keep order. The vote ended up being postponed, but it was still an important discussion for us to have.
Ministerial History:

Name: Kurt Wagner  Years of service: 8  UCC Standing

Name: Lucas Bishop  Years of service: 6  UCC Standing

Name: Erik Lehnsherr  Years of service: 5  UCC Standing

Name: Emma Frost  Years of service: 7  UCC Standing

Name: Remy LeBeau  Years of service: 4  UCC Standing

What our church has learned about itself and its relationship with people who provided ministerial leadership.

All in all, we have had strong relationships with our ministers. These relationships have not been without disagreements, but we strive to honor their leadership and expertise.

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?
No

Has a previous minister been a contributor to conflict following their tenure as pastor?
No

Community Vision

How the relationships and activities of our congregation extend outward in service and advocacy.

We host many groups in our building each week, including chapters of GLAAD and AA. We regularly participate in marches and have set up booths in local festivals such as Cleveland Pride. Our youth group and some inter-generational member groups have taken part in city cleanups. We host a community meal on Thursday evenings and usually get about 100 visitors who take part.

Our congregation's participation in meetings, relationships and activities connecting the wider United Church of Christ.

We have regularly had members attend Conference and Association meetings. Our youth group usually attends the youth activities at General Synod. We have had several members serve on our Association's Committee on Ministry and Association Council.

How our church engages with the community organizing movements in our community.

We are deeply involved in activities concerning the LGBTQ community, including Cleveland Pride and hosting a chapter of GLAAD in our building. We also assist the local chapter of NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) to plan activities related to mental health and wellness.

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, through Just World Covenants or affiliations with other groups. Check any of the following partnerships which your congregation has formally adopted, or movements which otherwise apply to your congregation.

- Open and Affirming (ONA).
- WISE Congregation for Mental Health.

What the above statement(s) mean(s) to our community. How our congregation plans to work toward the above statements of witness in the future.

We have had some early talks about A2A, but we are waiting for our next minister to continue exploring it.

Our congregation's participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities (with other denominations and religious groups, local and regional).
We have participated in some events with the Greater Cleveland Interfaith Alliance in the past.

How our mission statement compares to the actual time spent engaging in different activities.

No response

The scope of work assigned to our pastor(s). How their community ministry and their ministry in and on behalf of the wider church accounted for in the congregation’s expectations on their time.

Our Senior Pastor has always had a strong presence in the wider community, which we encourage and acknowledge.

The ARDA or MissionInsight Reflection

From looking at our congregation’s The ARDA or MissionInsight report, these trends and opportunities are what stood out to us.

We are situated in an increasingly diverse area in terms of race and ethnicity. We have an opportunity to reach out to those of other backgrounds but need guidance as to how to do that.

How our congregation’s internal demographics compare or contrast to a) the neighborhoods adjacent to our church, and b) other neighborhoods with which our church connects.

We are increasingly looking less like our surrounding community. We are fairly well-connected with the neighborhood but it seems like we may need to change to keep doing so.

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

Our building serves as a hub of activity for the community and we are able to interact with people of many different backgrounds as a result.

What we hear when we talk to community leaders and ask them what our church is known for.

They talk about our commitments to justice, advocacy, and inclusion.

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

They often mention how visible we are in local events and how welcome they felt when they first visited.

References

Elizabeth Dilley
Completed: Friday, May 10, 2024
I am a former parishioner at Community Congregational UCC. I attended for 15 years and was active in worship and stewardship.

Email Address: dilleye@ucc.org
Business: (216) 736-3841
Mobile Phone: 7127899253

Reference Response

This congregation is lively, full of wise and wonderful people. They truly care about the community, which is made clear through their food pantry and clothing library. They have provided assistance to refugees and migrants who come to town, helping them find a place to live and secure clothing, furniture and food.

The music program at this church is also wonderful!

Darrell Ludwig
Completed: Friday, May 10, 2024
Closing Prayer

Words to the hymn “In the Midst of New Dimensions:”

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways. Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

[Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair, Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.

Statement of Consent

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.
   
   Our Transition Team compiled this profile with the guidance of our interim minister.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:
   
   No response