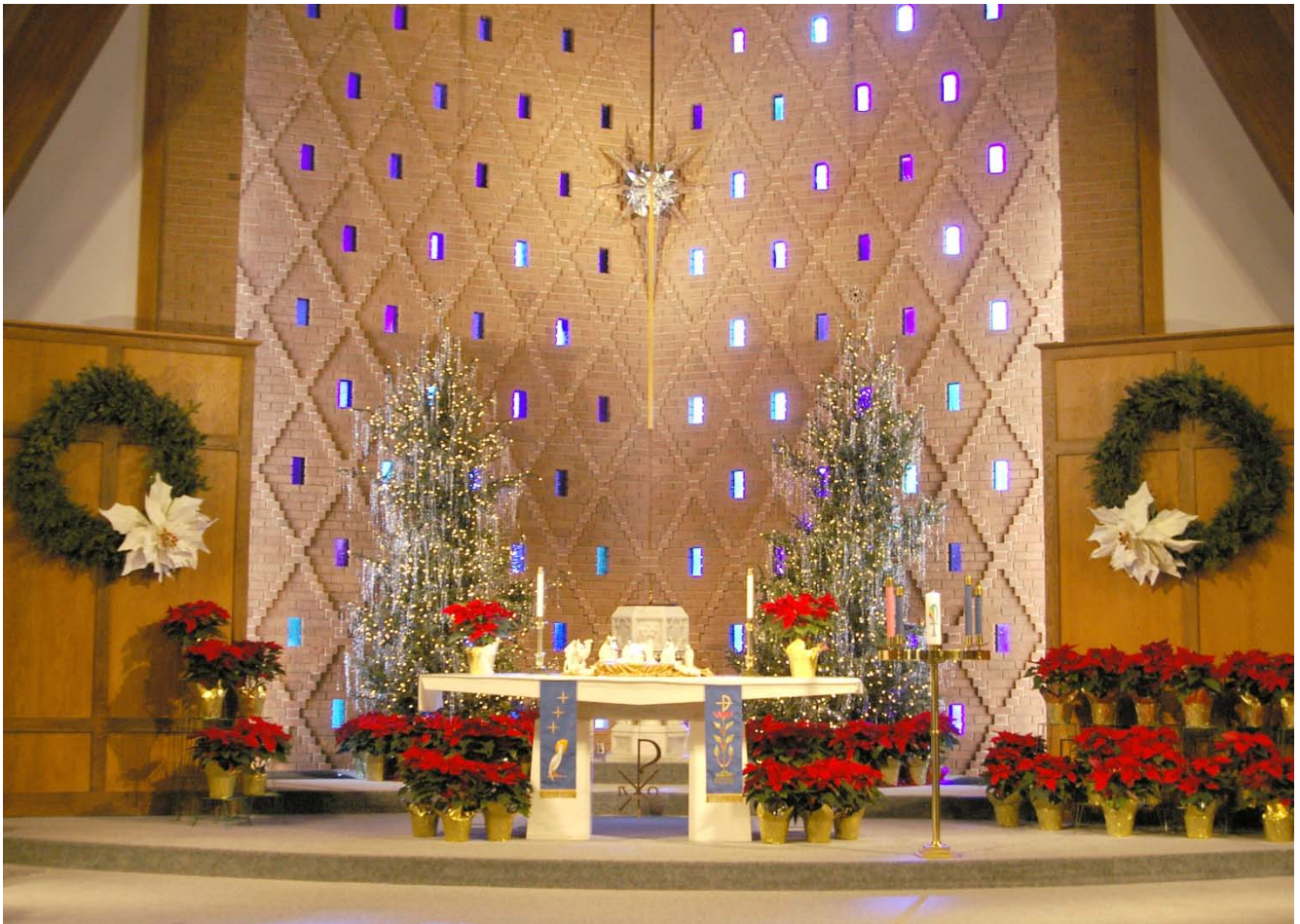


St. Peter's United Church of Christ

Is in Search of an Associate Pastor

For the inspirational leadership for our Youth, Young Adult & Family
Ministries



WHO WE ARE!

For over 165 years, St. Peter's UCC has made its presence felt in the community, country, and world through a powerful Christian witness.

Our Congregation's Mission is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ by word and deed through providing meaningful worship experiences, delivering effective mission outreach, shepherding families and friends, providing primary groups of sharing and caring, offering spiritual life and educational opportunities, and continually seeking to grow in God's grace and understanding of everyday life in light of the Christian Faith.

Our theology is individual in nature. We believe in the Triune God, the Risen Christ, the forgiveness of sin through God's grace and mercy, the power of prayer, and the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. We value the freedom to follow God's word according to each person's own conscience. We have not participated in establishing rigid or defining doctrine on contemporary social issues. The result is a congregation whose style is tolerant in nature, where members accept the views of others even though they may disagree. We welcome all to our communion table, regardless of age or religious affiliation.

Our values include helping each other in times of trouble, giving all members the opportunity to use their God-given talents and hold key leadership positions, and welcoming our Pastors' input in all areas of church life.

Our history is a rich heritage of caring, accomplishment, stability, and serving those in need. From its beginnings in 1843, St. Peter's has demonstrated a strong sense of mission. We have been instrumental in establishing numerous Christian institutions in the St. Louis area including Deaconess Hospital (now sold), the establishment of the Deaconess Sisters which was the fore-runner to Deaconess Parish Nurse Ministry, Every Child's Hope (formerly Evangelical Children's Home), Caroline Mission (the first of the Neighborhood Houses), and Eden Theological Seminary.

St. Peter's, a *5 for 5 Church*, is a recognized leader in mission giving and participation in the United Church of Christ. The Congregation has set up a number of college scholarship opportunities to encourage members to pursue a career in ministry.

Our Congregation's priorities are to provide Christian education, worship that deepens members' experience of God and the Christian tradition in today's language and forms, and acts of caring and service to those in need in our congregation, local community and the world-at-large.

Our Congregation's hopes are to continue to strengthen worship that deepens our faith in a variety of forms; strengthen our caring ministry for members who are sick, shut-in, in crisis, or bereaved as well as reaching out to a hurting world with all those same needs; and provide opportunities for Christian education for people of all ages. We also hope to increase the number of young families in our congregation to develop future leadership and to be accepting of persons of diverse ethnic heritage in our effort to welcome our local neighbors into our midst.

Our Congregation's challenge is to find innovative ways to realize our hope to effectively evangelize to our local community since it is racially and economically different from the majority of our membership; and continue to focus our energies outward to demonstrate the love of Christ to the world-at-large.

Our Congregation is composed of approximately 200 dedicated Christians. The majority of our members are college educated and represent a wide diversity of talents and abilities. The congregation is led by a Consistory, comprised of five officers, seven ministry leaders, and the Senior Pastor. As the "board of directors" for St. Peter's UCC, our Consistory is responsible for the overall administration and management of the church, establishes all standing committees, and appoints chairpersons. The Senior Pastor is responsible for the supervision of the Associate Pastor and the paid staff at the church.

WHO WE HOPE YOU ARE!

- **on fire** for Jesus Christ and God's mission to a hurting world
- spiritually strong
- mission oriented
- creative / innovative
- a leader
- organized
- responsible
- extroverted
- personable
- team player
- contagiously energetic
- schedule flexibility

This call is to a pastorate which inspires, creates, and leads the St. Peter's ministries to youth, young adults and families. The responsibilities include:

- commitment to enriching the faith journey of youth, young adults and families
- provide strong and caring Christian leadership which will include being a resource and support to our youth, families, and adult leadership
- recruit and train volunteers in support of youth and family related programming
- serve on, and be a resource to, the Spiritual Growth and Evangelism Ministries
- plan, participate and lead a variety of worship services
- develop relevant programming for current and prospective youth and families in our neighborhood
- be willing to engage and build rapport within a diverse neighborhood
- take a primary leadership role in continuing the open gym
- coordinate and lead Vacation Bible School in cooperation with the Spiritual Growth Ministry
- work in cooperation with and attend Missouri Mid-South Conference and UCC sponsored programs as related to youth and family ministry
- evaluate feasibility and coordinate an after school program

St. Peter's offers an exciting opportunity for pastoral teamwork. We have outstanding lay leadership, financial resources, and a strong commitment to mission outreach. We have meaningful worship experiences provided in diverse formats, to spread the gospel to a wide range of people. We are seeking an Associate Pastor who: is committed to our mission; caring and compassionate; leads by personal example; has expertise in Biblical and theological matters; and can cooperate with our lay leadership to help spread the Word throughout our community.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES REQUIRED:

- Spiritually and emotionally mature
- Effective administrator and leader
- Flexible schedule to include evenings and weekends

Education and / or Experience: Ordained or approved for ordination or licensure with preference given to candidates with 3 to 5 years experience in youth and family ministry.

Interpersonal Skills: Effective oral and written communication skills.

Commitment: Requires a minimum of 40 hours per week, although during certain times of the church year, additional time will be required to integrate the needs of the youth and family programming into other ministries or initiatives such as Vacation Bible School, Easter, Christmas, special services, youth and family events, etc.

Other Abilities: Fluent in reading, writing, and speaking English. Proficient in the use of personal computers and the Microsoft Office Suite of software.

Salary and Benefits: Compensation will be based on experience, qualifications, and capabilities. The package will be within the Missouri Mid-South Conference guidelines and include: base salary, housing allowance, contributions to the UCC pension fund, medical and life insurance, auto allowance, continuing education, and annual vacation.

WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL!

ACTIVE, COMMITTED, AND COMPETENT LAY LEADERSHIP

...Proclaim the message; be persistent, whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. 2Timothy 2:2

The lay leaders at St. Peter's are the pacesetters for all aspects of congregational life. Worship, Christian education, missions, administration, fellowship, stewardship, evangelism – the lay leaders at St. Peter's make it happen!

OUTSTANDING MISSION OUTREACH

Whatever you do unto the least of these, you do unto me. Matthew 25:40

St. Peter's has always been a mission-minded church. We take our mission responsibilities seriously, committing not only financial resources, but also time and personal involvement to make a real benevolent impact on the local community and the world at large. UCC ministries, Habitat for Humanity, local food pantries, St. John's Community Service, Ferguson Caring League, and numerous other organizations who serve those in need depend on St. Peter's for assistance. Members of all ages regularly participate in efforts to help those in need.

MEANINGFUL WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! Psalm 95:6

Recognizing the diversity of what constitutes a meaningful worship experience, St. Peter's currently offers two distinct styles of worship – traditional and contemporary. These services are augmented with special music, dramas, and a variety of other modalities designed to enhance the worship experience.

MULTI-FACETED CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:31-32

Christian education is available for persons of all ages through Sunday School, Confirmation classes, Vacation Bible School, mission trips, youth conferences, fellowship, youth-led worship, and a host of other activities designed to actively involve congregants in church and Christian life.

INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; Psalm 98:4

St. Peter's has a rich tradition of bringing quality music to many areas of ministry. We currently have a Worship Choir and a Hand Bell Choir. The Celebration and Praise Band provides music for the Contemporary Service.

OUR MINISTRIES

St. Peter's is organized in seven ministries: Worship, Spiritual Growth, Missions, Evangelism, Congregational Care, Stewardship, and Operations. The efforts of each ministry are coordinated by a team of lay leaders and one of the seven members of the Consistory who are not officers of the Congregation. In addition, the Congregation employs a full-time staff, consisting of the Senior Pastor, an Associate Pastor (to be filled), a Director of Music, a Parish Nurse, and an Office Manager, to fulfill our church mission.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The Worship Ministry provides joy-filled opportunities to praise and glorify God as the community called by Jesus Christ.

St. Peter's strives to provide a meaningful worship experience to everyone who graces our sanctuary. Approximately 125 members attend worship on Sunday. Traditional and Contemporary services are offered each Sunday morning. The sermon serves as the focus of both services. The members of St. Peter's put a high value on sermons that focus on how scripture addresses the issues of daily life. Communion is given at both services the first and third Sundays of every month.

The traditional service (9:00 a.m.) is celebrated with scripture being read from the lectern and the sermon being offered from the pulpit. The service contains formal religious symbolism and rituals. Hymns are sung from the *Chalice Hymnal*. The Worship Choir, soloists, Hand Bell Choir, and instrumentalists enrich the worship experience with anthems.

The contemporary service (11:15 a.m.) is presented in an informal atmosphere with scripture readings and the message being presented in a conversational style from the Chancel. Lay people lead the service as Worship Leaders while the Pastor provides the sermon and prayers. Contemporary Christian music is played by the *Celebration and Praise Band*. A children's message and drama presentation complete the format.

Youth-directed services are celebrated periodically. These services are a special treat for St. Peter's. The youth lead and perform all aspects of the service, including the sermon, giving the Congregation the opportunity to see the spiritual development of our youth in action.

In addition to Sunday morning worship, other special worship opportunities are conducted throughout the year. These include Wednesday evening services during Lent, two services on Good Friday, and Christmas Eve services. Palm Sunday evening has become our Soul Food & Song community event involving a variety of local musical talent.

Special musical presentations occur on a regular basis at St. Peter's. St. Peter's has placed a high value on music as a way to proclaim the Word. In addition to the music offered at worship, special events showcasing the musical talents of the youth and adults at St. Peter's inspire members as well as the local community. Our Director of Music stages holiday musical events as well as musical productions for our youth. *Godspell Junior*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, are two productions the youth have performed in recent years. St. Peter's also hosts performances by local musicians.

The sanctuary seats approximately 250 people after it was renovated in 2001. It is adorned with beautiful, stained glass windows, oak pews, and a marble table. The organ is housed in the choir loft at the rear of the sanctuary. The quality of the worship experience in the sanctuary is enhanced by a state-of-the-art, 32-channel sound system.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRY

We strive to provide to all within the congregation the information, instruction and guidance that will enable us to grow spiritually and to mature as Christians.

The Spiritual Growth Ministry has programs for all ages. The Christian Education Committee oversees the Sunday school and Christian education programs. Each Sunday, between the two worship services, classes are held for preschool through adult. The teachers are volunteers from the lay leadership of the congregation. The curriculum is designed for the specific age groups and is generally followed from September through May.

The Christian Education Committee has also historically conducted Vacation Bible School for one week each summer. This summer of 2010, we were part of a community wide VBS program. Another event held each year is Rally Day, which kicks off the Sunday school year with an all-church picnic and provides food,

games and fellowship for all ages. Other sponsored activities consist of the "Share-A-Toy" program in October, collecting donated items for the Every Child's Hope Christmas store in November, and the White Gift stockings for collecting money for charitable groups in December.

The youth of St. Peter's has always been a central focus of our membership. For the eight of the last ten years a full-time Director of Youth Ministries was employed to oversee youth groups who generally met once a month during the school year for mission projects, community outreach, field trips, fund raising and fellowship to broaden their Christian life. Several of the events include youth from other churches in the area.

In order to reach out to our community, the "Open Gym" program was started to invite youth of the area to enjoy recreational activities in a safe environment. It has been very successful as it attracts approximately 35 youth each week.

Each summer, youth and adults of all ages attend various Church camps to enhance their Christian development in an outdoor environment. St. Peter's provides financial assistance to insure all youth have the opportunity to attend Camp Mo-Val or a similar camp to deepen their faith.

In 2007, a "Christian Education Scholarship" was established to assist those members who are studying for a degree related to Christian service. St. Peter's also offers the "Faith-Salem Scholarship" to assist college students, members and non-members, who are pursuing a degree in Christian service.

In 2006, a Safe Church Policy was adopted by the Consistory in order to reduce the risk of child abuse in our church programs for children and youth. Our Director of Youth Ministry developed and taught the classes in church safety to everyone who engages in activities involving youth. Our new Associate Pastor will take over these responsibilities.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

As people of God, we reach out in love to meet the needs of others, both inside and outside the church, in the name of Christ.

The Benevolence Committee sets an annual budget and meets about four times a year to designate the disbursements of benevolent giving from the congregation. Local giving may include support to groups, such as: PAKT, Ferguson Caring League, Care & Counseling, etc.

UCC missions that we support include: Eden Seminary, Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Lydia's House, Emmaus Homes, Every Child's Hope, St. John's Community Services, UCC St. Louis Association, Strengthen the Church, OCWM, Christmas Fund, and UCC camps including Camp Mo-Val and Shannondale.

The annual benevolence budget is slightly over \$50,000 and this budget is met primarily through membership offering with additional funds received through the cemetery and investment endowment funds. In addition to the budgeted amount, the congregation also contributes money that is designated to go directly to the missions of their choice.

The Benevolence Committee pledges an amount each year to the UCC Habitat House Build, and the current annual pledge is \$4,000. There is also a day designated during the summer in which we supply manpower to assist in the construction of an inner city home.

Every Christmas the members of St. Peter's adopt approximately 20 families served by St. John's UCC in the St. Louis inner-city area. Members shop for Christmas gifts and Christmas dinner, providing a traditional Christmas experience for families who are struggling financially.

For over 27 years St. Peter's has participated in the collection and distribution of food for the needy. We collect and provide supplies to three (3) local neighborhood and a north city food pantries for distribution.

Room at the Inn is a community-based program that provides emergency shelter to those in need. St. Peter's serves as an overnight site on the second Monday of each month and has participated in this program since 1995. We host up to ten clients each month, this includes transportation to the church, dinner, evening fellowship, and a place to sleep, then breakfast the next morning, and transportation back to the day site.

Sheltered Reality is a national organization of mission-minded youth who use choreography and drumming to share a message of faith and inspiration to young people, encouraging them to make a difference

in the world. The group performs at schools, churches, and community events. They also engage in 12 mission projects per year. The local chapter is housed, facilitated, and funded by St. Peter's.

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

The church exists to communicate God's word. We are to be ambassadors for Christ by fulfilling our mission to 'Go and make disciples'.

Even though the job of Evangelism is reflected in the activities of all of our ministries, St. Peter's has a committee that works on ways to create within our local community an awareness about our church and our Christian values. We submit articles and pictures to our community newspapers. Attractive mailings detailing Advent and Lenten programming are distributed to households in the area around the Church. We also participate in local parades and fairs. St. Peter's is active in the Ferguson Partnership of Churches. Annual events include a Pulpit Exchange, Mass Choir Event, Outdoor Easter Sunrise Service, and Community Thanksgiving Service. All of which increase our visibility in the community.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

Seeking to be faithful to the example and teachings of Jesus, we take seriously the call to be servants to those within the Body of Christ and fellowship with them in all aspects of life.

The Congregational Care Ministry is responsible for identifying and implementing efforts to care for the needs of the congregation, including fellowship events, visitation of shut-ins, pastoral care, and support for funerals, etc.

Our members care for each other and help each other in times of need. Our prayer chain is available to raise a united petition to our Lord when a member requests it. The Caring Ministry Team offers to provide a meal or other refreshments on the day of a funeral or memorial service. In addition, St. Peter's has a Parish Nurse and Health Team to assist the Senior Pastor with providing assistance to those in need.

We believe we are a friendly congregation and we love to socialize! There is a fellowship group or activity to engage all members whatever their interests.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Helping others to identify their God-given talents, we follow the apostle Paul's teaching to use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure in service for God.

The Stewardship Ministry is responsible for enlisting the time and talents of our membership to sustain the volunteer activities of our St. Peter's family. The Ministry is also responsible for requesting our members' financial support to meet the needs of St. Peter's and preparing budgets for review by the Consistory and subsequent approval by the congregation.

OUR CHURCH PROPERTY

St. Peter's is located on 7+ acres in Ferguson, a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. The church building includes a sanctuary, a choir loft and music practice room, a fellowship hall with kitchen and stage, an administrative wing with offices, library, and copy room, two nurseries, a Christian Education wing, and a gymnasium. The grounds include a softball diamond. The facilities are also used by a number of local community groups.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

St. Peter's is a financially sound, north St. Louis County church blessed with endowment funds managed in an investment account. Financial guidance is provided by a local financial investing firm. The annual operating expenses for the Church are fully supported by envelope giving, special donations, Cemetery support and endowments.

COMMUNITY AND LOCATION

St. Louis, the Gateway to the West, is a big metropolitan city with a small town feel. With more than 2.5 million people in the region, covering 6,375 square miles on both sides of the Mississippi River, St. Louis is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States. We enjoy experiencing all four seasons, from snow in the winter to hot summer days.

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

Metropolitan St. Louis has been rated one of the top places to live in the United States, according to *Sperling's Best Places*. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine ranked St. Louis among the "50 Smart Places to Live" in 2006. With a remarkably low cost of living for all the comforts and attractions it affords, St. Louis has a small-town feel, but offers all the amenities you'd expect in a major metropolitan area, including top-notch health care, outstanding entertainment venues, and friendly neighborhoods. St. Louis also offers a sense of community and a connectedness among its people that arises from its Midwestern personality, manageable scale, and deep history.

A GREAT PLACE FOR EDUCATION

Education is very strong in the St. Louis area. The region offers 115 public school districts ranging from outstanding urban magnet schools to excellent suburban systems, over 300 of the finest private schools in the nation and 80 technical and vocational schools. For advanced education, we offer 12 universities and four-year colleges, eight two-year institutions and numerous professional schools to enhance the quality and skills of the region's work force. In addition, the area is home to several theological seminaries and Bible colleges, including Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves.

A GREAT PLACE FOR ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Metropolitan St. Louis offers a wide array of world-class arts and entertainment. Venues include the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, great musical and drama productions at the historic Fox Theatre, productions at The Muny in Forest Park, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, The St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre Company, Dance St. Louis, Riverport Amphitheatre and many more. St. Louis is home to the top zoo in the country, as well as several museums and a beautiful botanical garden. There are also Six Flags, the St. Louis Science Center and Forest Park, the fifth largest urban park in the nation covering over 1,300 acres. No list would be complete, however, without our signature structure, the Gateway Arch.

A GREAT PLACE FOR SPORTS

St. Louis is a baseball town, home to the St. Louis Cardinals, 2006 World Champions. We are also home to the St. Louis Rams Football and St. Louis Blues Hockey teams. In addition to our professional teams, we have numerous minor league and college sports teams. Whatever your taste in sports, St. Louis has a team for you. We also like to participate in sports. Youth leagues are found throughout the St. Louis area including soccer, baseball, football, basketball, hockey, swimming, volleyball, and lacrosse. Golf is also very popular in St. Louis with many private and public courses.

A GREAT PLACE TO GET AROUND

Most residents travel by car since our convenient highway system can take you to virtually any area destination in 30 minutes. St. Louis also has a growing light rail system and comprehensive bus system which

help ease traffic congestion. St. Louis has an international airport. With our Midwest location, travel to other cities within the United States and the world is very convenient.

LOCATION

St. Peter's is located in north St. Louis County, an ethnically diverse area of the region. Easily accessible from Highway I-270 via West Florissant Road, St. Peter's is within 30 minutes from most homes in the St. Louis metropolitan area. In fact, over 50% of the congregation travels more than 15 minutes to get to church, an indication of our attractiveness to people beyond the immediate vicinity.

REFERENCES

Candidates may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinion 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. Contact us for further information or assistance with reference contact information.

Our mission is sound...Our commitment is real...

Our resources are strong...

Above all else, our faith in our Lord is unwavering.

We trust that God will touch the heart of our new Associate Pastor and call you to our congregation.

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors, teachers and other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by the 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 a suitable new Associate Pastor for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates.

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