

Name of Church

Mount Laurel UCC

Address1209 Keysertown Rd
Boswell, PA 15531**Conference:**

Penn West

Association:

Somerset

Title

Minister

Start Date

n/a

Description

Mt. Laurel UCC in Boswell PA is seeking a full-time settled pastor.

Church Contact Information

No contact information has been added to this profile.

Listing Information

Web Presences

<https://www.facebook.com/mtlaurelucc>

Type: Professional

Additional Formal Ecumenical Affiliations*No response***UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person****Name:**

Rev. David Ackerman

Title:

Conference Minister

Phone:

724-834-0344

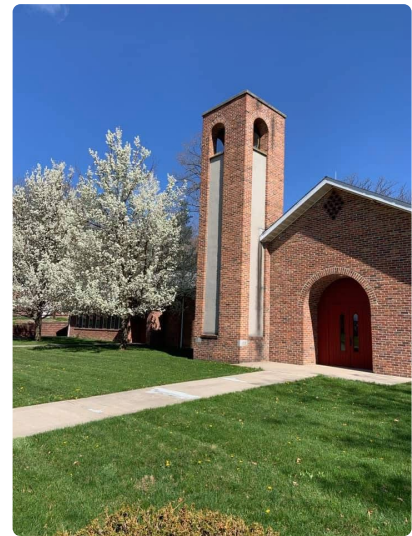
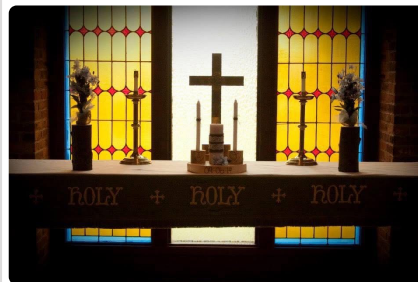
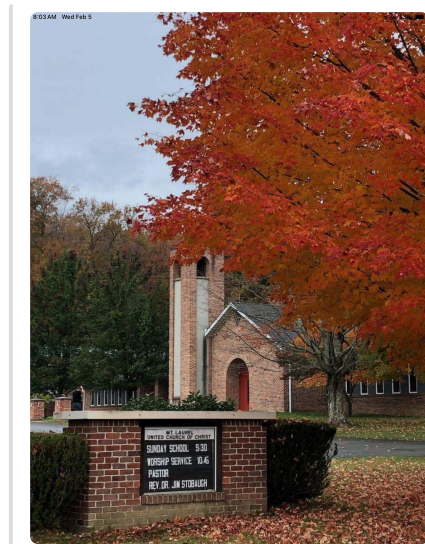
Email:

david@pennwest.org

Summary Ministry Description

We at Mt. Laurel United Church of Christ are a conservative, traditional, biblically based church family. Our roots here run deep. Many of the families in our congregation have been members for five generations or more. Our aging congregation has dwindled significantly over the last few years. We want to bring young families back into the church and once again have picnics, bible school, Sunday school, and a youth group. We need community outreach and involvement to welcome more people to our congregation. We are seeking a vibrant and energetic minister to help us breathe new life into our beautiful church so that we may carry on our mission of spreading the Word of God for generations to come.

Church pictures



What we value about living in our area.

Mount Laurel United Church of Christ is nestled in the beautiful Laurel Highlands. Our church is located just 12 miles from the Pennsylvania Turnpike making for easy access to large cities and recreational areas. We are located only an hour from Pittsburgh, and centrally located near Somerset, Johnstown, Ligonier, and Bedford. We have both public and private schools to choose from for K-12 education and there are several community colleges as well as excellent universities within a short drive. The area offers extensive recreational and cultural opportunities, such as many state parks, farmer's markets, craft fairs, festivals, historic forts and other sites, and a wide range of outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, hunting, kayaking and boating, fishing, golf, swimming, and snow sports. You can visit Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Fallingwater as well as several of his other architectural wonders nearby. The Flight 93 Memorial site is only a few miles from the church as is the Quecreek Mine Rescue Site. Somerset County is also home to the second oldest Amish community in the world that still exists and was established in 1772. The area also offers incredible culinary diversity in the many restaurants surrounding us. It seems fitting that in May 2008, Somerset County was designated "America's County". It is a wonderful place to live!

Current size of membership

100

Average in person attendance

30

Does your church hold virtual worship services?

No

Languages used in ministry

English

Position Title

Minister

Position Duration

Settled

Compensation Level

Other

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

No

Scope of Work

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](#).

[Download scope of Work](#)

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

First:

We are seeking a "strong spiritual leader" to help us grow and strengthen our relationship with God and each other.

Second:

This leader should be vibrant, energetic, and enthusiastic about expanding our congregation and bringing more families into the church.

Third:

Our ideal minister would be passionate about community outreach and community involvement to further our mission of sharing God's love and God's Word far and wide.

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.

SALARY AND BENEFITS OFFERED: SALARY BASIS: ITEM OFFERED	AMOUNT OR PERCENTAGE(IF DETERMINED)	IS THIS NEGOTIABLE	PASTORAL CANDIDATE DETERMINES
Salary (Cash basis determined from Conference/ Association Guidelines)	40027	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing Allowance	10000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any Experiential Difference (Related to years of experience)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salary Basis: 50027			
Pension/Annuity	5604	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Security and Medicare Offset	3002	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical/Dental Insurance	2316	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Insurance	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability Insurance	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worker's Compensation	400	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If needed, please comment further on your church's salary and benefits for the minister.

We are open to a full-time or part-time minister. The salary and benefits package will be determined by agreed upon full-time or part-time position and experience.

The expected living situation for our next minister.

Living nearby with housing allowance.

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.

We have already had ministers that had other part-time vocations. Part-time adjustments will be negotiated.

Additional reimbursements the next Pastor can expect to receive as part of their employment:

Reimbursement for use of personal vehicle.

Conference and/or Association meeting registrations

Criminal background checks.

Peer and professional supports available for ministers in our association/conferences.

Consult with UCC Conference minister.

Who Is God Calling to Minister with Us?

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

Mt. Laurel UCC is primarily an older, mature congregation. We are quite good at ministering to our older population but we would like to re-engage the younger generations. We need to demonstrate that each of them has value simply because they were created by God. We desire to find ways to show them that God and Faith are relevant and essential to a full and satisfying life for all ages. We should demonstrate to the younger adults and youth that a life of faith can serve as a source of strength, direction, and peace, especially in times of difficulty.

We hope our new minister will come with ideas or strategies that will help us explore new ways to re-engage our younger members and families as well as ways to introduce ourselves to young people that have not experienced a church home in the past on a regular basis. Our new minister will work with us to continue to minister to our older population and help bridge the technology gap between the generations. Our hope is that our new minister will also recognize that there are differences between urban and rural churches.

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

We would like our minister to lead us as we reach out to the community to invite them to join us in our mission to spread the word of God and uplift those around us by sharing the promises and love of God.

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

Our congregation speaks English. And we are conservative, traditional, and love the Bible.

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.

Our next pastor will exhibit a spiritual foundation and ongoing spiritual practice, and will guide our own spiritual growth and discipleship. Our pastor will combine beloved traditions with new customs to facilitate a strong faith formation in all the generations. Our pastor will demonstrate caring for all creation through sincere compassion, fostering hope and healing to the world, and by modeling self-care and balance. Our pastor will strengthen the relationships inside and beyond our congregation. Our pastor will guide us to look farther outside our walls as we engage in mission and outreach, and as we work towards justice and mercy. Our pastor will raise our own awareness, understanding, and commitment to the UCC values of continuing testament, extravagant welcome, and changing lives.

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.

God is calling Mt. Laurel United Church of Christ to love all people as God loves each of us, without question. We do not judge the hearts of others as only God and Jesus Christ have the capacity and perspective to do so. We feel a strong commitment to be compassionate and tolerant. We will celebrate each soul that we encounter as an individual, wonderfully made by God in God's image. That does not imply that we are called to celebrate all individual decisions and choices, however, our respect for the individual will remain. We understand all too often our choices and decisions fall short of God's wishes for us but that redeeming love cleanses us of these short-comings. We celebrate the Grace that God desires for each of us to receive and that we do not have authority to grant or deny God's Grace to others.

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

We have not initiated any experiments nor do we have a multi year plan.

Congregation Reflections

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

We at Mt. Laurel UCC believe in the Holy Trinity. We believe in God, the creator of all things who dwells in Heaven. God who came down and lived among us, known as Jesus, who dwells in Heaven. And finally, God who dwells among us, known as the Holy Spirit. Each piece of God serves a different and important purpose for us: God is the creator who oversees ALL of creation; Jesus is our friend, guide, and mentor whom we can relate to and is our example to follow; The Holy Spirit is that part of God in each of us that points us to the ways of goodness and righteousness without force, thus respecting the free will God created us with.

Strengths or positive qualities of our congregation.

Our church is a caring church; we genuinely care about one another. Being located in a small community, most people know each other inside and outside of church. This makes the church family really feel like a family. We may not always agree, but we do always respect each other. We were ALL made by God and are part of the same family. Our members are proactive about caring for the buildings and grounds maintenance and they take those tasks upon themselves without being asked to.

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

Our youngest members in attendance on any given Sunday are usually in their 50's. We need to develop a plan to expand our congregation to include young families.

What worship is like when our congregation gathers.

Our Easter sunrise service is the favorite service of the year for most of our congregation. Our altar and the beautiful stained glass window featuring the cross in the front of the church, behind the alter, faces east. On Easter morning, we watch the sunrise through those windows during our service and it is one of the most uplifting and beautiful experiences one could ever have as they celebrate Christ rising and ascending to heaven. After a powerful message in that beautiful setting, we gather together for a wonderful breakfast.

We would use the words engaging, Christ centered, relatable, understandable, uplifting, and biblically accurate to describe good preaching.

The educational program/faith formation vision of our church.

Adult Sunday School is the only class that is currently held. That group studies the Bible through various programs. Most recently, the class did the Bible Study entitled, "God of Creation - A Study of the Genesis 1 - 11" by Jen Wilkin.

We look forward to a time when Youth Sunday School will return to our classrooms. And when Youth Bible School will take place during the summer.

How our congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

Decisions are made by our church council and communicated to the congregation in the announcements or congregational meetings. If committees are needed, people can volunteer for them. Our church struggles for vision in the areas of congregational growth and community outreach.

When it comes to decision-making, 2 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...

Council is gathered as needed.

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

[🔗 Mt. Laurel Revised UCC By-Laws.docx](#)

11-Year Report

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

[🔗 Download 11-Year Report](#)

Congregation Demographics

Describe those who participate in your church.

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS:	40
NUMBER OF ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS:	0
TOTAL OF CHURCH PARTICIPANTS (SUM OF THE NUMBERS ABOVE):	40

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

TIME	PERCENTAGE
MORE THAN 10 YEARS:	99%
LESS THAN 10, MORE THAN 5 YEARS:	0%
LESS THAN 5 YEARS:	1%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Number of total participants by age:

AGE	NUMBER
0-11	0
12-17	0
18-24	0
25-34	0
35-44	0
45-54	6
55-64	9
65-74	10
75+	15

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

HOUSEHOLD TYPE	PERCENTAGE
SINGLE ADULTS UNDER 35:	0%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH MINORS:	7%
SINGLE ADULTS AGE 35-65:	25%
JOINT HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO MINORS:	38%
SINGLE ADULTS OVER 65:	30%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

EDUCATION LEVEL	PERCENTAGE
HIGH SCHOOL:	59%
COLLEGE:	7%
GRADUATE SCHOOL:	2%
SPECIALTY TRAINING:	30%
OTHER EDUCATION LEVEL: Doctorate	2%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

EMPLOYMENT TYPE	PERCENTAGE
ADULTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED:	37%
ADULTS WHO ARE RETIRED:	60%
ADULTS WHO ARE NOT FULLY EMPLOYED:	3%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

The range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

Food service and musician
Transportation
Corrections, clerical
Nursing
Machinist
Assembler
Chiropractor
Small business owners
Restauranter
Miner
Instructors and Teachers
E-bay Retail
Construction
Retail
Farming

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

The members are predominantly of Western European descent.

What diversity means in our context?

We openly welcome anyone to worship and fellowship with us.

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

WAYS OF CHURCH GATHERING	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ATTENDANCE	WHO PLANS EACH OF THE LISTED GATHERINGS
Adult Groups or Classes (in person or online)	30	Women's Guild
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	120	Minister
Church-wide Meals	40	Congregation
Choirs and Music Groups	2	Musicians
Church-based Bible Study	8	Minister
Communion (served how often?)	16	Minister
Funerals (number last year)	4	Minister
Worship (digital / online / livestream)	3	Members/Minister

Worship Times

No Response

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.

No Response

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:

No Response

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

We are a conservative, mostly blue collar and retired congregation, who believe they can make a difference in our world by following the teachings of Jesus. The majority of our members have been with us for over a decade, so we see many familiar faces when we gather, although we are delighted to welcome new people to engage with us. We are an aging congregation, heading into an era where many are likely to need care. We are increasingly aware that we are an overwhelmingly white congregation, which reflects a strong white-dominant culture and bias, we will need to confront and transform this as time goes on in order to grow. Over the past several years, worship attendance has declined due to the pandemic, the passing of our aging members, and lack of interest of young families. This has had a financial impact as well. With these financial changes, it is becoming more difficult for us to support a full time minister and to support mission work outside the church. Finally, after a long period of clergy stability, the past 10 years have seen a higher-than-usual attrition and retirement of much-loved clergy and staff. This turnover, combined with the pandemic and other world events, has brought the congregation to a place of some grief as we process transition and seek new a new minister to lead us into the future.

Church Finances

Current Annual Income

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	105497
Fundraising Events	4211
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	1992
Rentals of Church Building	1677
Support from Related Organizations (e.g. Women's Group)	570
Total	113947

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

104750

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.

[Download church budget](#)

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

50

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)

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered?

Church members designate portions of their contributions to OCWM. The treasurer forwards those donations to the PennWest conference.

If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, this is the percentage?

1

Total amount of loan debt:

No response

Reason for debt:

No response

Are capital and other payments current?

Yes

Capital Campaigns

Description of any building programs projected or underway.

No response

Pictures

Description of any capital campaigns in the last ten years:

YEAR(S)	PURPOSE	GOAL	RESULT	IMPACT
0		0	0	
0		0	0	

Description of any capital campaigns underway or anticipated:

YEAR(S)	PURPOSE	GOAL	RESULT	IMPACT
0		0	0	
0		0	0	

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

No response

Does your church have an endowment?

No

Other Assets

Savings Account and 6 Certificates of Deposit

Reserves (savings):

93323

Investments (other than endowment):

88722

Does the church have a parsonage?

No

Description of all buildings owned by the church:

Church
Grove Building and Pavilion
Also other properties owned....Parking Lot, Farmland, Cemetery

Description of non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church:

Accessibility features of our building(s):

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 child care spaces for wheelchair users and people with other mobility aids
Large print bulletins
Wheelchair access in bathrooms
Sound system in sanctuary and other meeting places (fellowship hall, large meeting rooms, etc.)
Curb cuts

Accessible bathroom on each floor
Wheelchair areas in sanctuary (other than "front or back")

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs:

Both of our buildings are one story and have entrances at ground level. The church has wheelchair bathrooms. However, the chancel including the pulpit are one step up from floor level.

Policies regarding financial practices of the church:

Annually:

The church council prepares the annual budget. The congregation reviews and votes for the budget at their annual meeting on the 3rd Sunday of November each year.

Monthly:

The vice president prepares monthly finance reports. The council reviews the payments and financial reports at their monthly meetings. The council votes on items not in the budget that come up between annual meetings.

Weekly:

The treasurer pays the bills, collects the donations, and performs the banking duties.

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

The council makes certain that the church building is maintained. Many members volunteer to maintain the grounds and parking lot throughout the year. Our church building and grounds are well kept and inviting. Our bulletins say, "Every Member a Minister" on the cover.

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

Resurrecting our church from the embers of a fire in 1977, our congregation united in rebuilding our beautiful place of worship. Members used their vocations and talents to design, build, and establish the church. With God's help, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, laborers all from the congregation worked together. Amazingly, we were able to worship in our new church within just a year. This truly was an effort by loving hands and hard work. Since approximately 10 years ago, our church has struggled with the retirement of our settled minister who had been with us for 37 years. The search committee found an interim minister who was with us for three years while the another search committee found a settled minister. That settled minister retired after seven years. And now, a new search committee is tasked with finding another settled minister.

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

Our most recent settled minister retired suddenly due to medical issues at the end of last year. The council called a congregational meeting immediately. The current search committee formed from that meeting. Council members lined up substitute ministers to cover Sundays. The search committee continues with the process to find a settled minister.

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.

Our congregation is small enough that we know each other. If disagreements arise, we talk about the issues and come to a compromise.

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

Currently, we do not have major conflicts at our church.

Ministerial History:

Name: Rev Dr. Joseph Beer*Years of service:* 37

UCC Standing

Name: Rev Bruce Ashlock*Years of service:* 3

UCC Standing

Name: Rev Dr. James Stobaugh*Years of service:* 7

UCC Standing

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

We learned that we are unified in our quest to hold are church together and spread the word of God. Stated on our bulletin each week are the words, "Every member a minister".

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.

Facebook: We post part of each service, daily devotionals, and scripture on Facebook.
Donations: We donate to many local charities such as food banks, Birthright, community organizations, fire stations.
Samaritans Purse: We participate in Operation Christmas Child.

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

We look forward to expanding our input with wider United Church of Christ.

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

We are not currently engaged with the community organizing movements in our community.

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.

None.

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 are unfamiliar with these partnerships but would love to explore the possibilities as our congregation grows.

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

There are currently none. We are interested in resuming a shared Thanksgiving service.

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

Our mission is "Every member a minister". This has been our mission for decades.

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.

We do not understand this question.

The ARDA or MissionInsite Reflection

ARDA/MI File

[Download ARDA/MI File](#)

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

When comparing the statistics from 2015 to 2022, the household incomes are increasing, and fewer people are unemployed. The largest increases in population growth have been in young people aged 15-39 and in older people aged 67 & up. There has been a large increase in female single parent families and other blended families. This presents us a wonderful opportunity to minister to both young people who will most likely be having families in the near future, to be of support to single parent families, as well as to continue our ministry to our older population.

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.

Our congregation is comparable to our neighborhood in the composition of older people, but the younger people are not represented in our congregation.

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

The ministry is currently meeting the needs of the older population, but does not offer much to young families. We are very interested in bringing young families in, however, and would like to offer more programs to meet their needs.

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

Our church is known for its beauty and setting. Our church is known for our church picnics and wonderful food. We are also known for Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Beer's portrayals for Biblical characters to teach theology.

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

New people are brought in through their connections with members.

References



☒ Rev Mike Dunlap

Completed: Wednesday, Mar 12, 2025

I am a local pastor in an Evangelical Presbyterian Church. I have lived in this area for over 35 years.

Business: 814-445-5341

Reference Response

During my years of association with the pastors and members of this church there has been a good relationship between the pastors and the congregation. The church is valued in the community and has meant a lot to the members and their families who have worshipped there. Rev. Joe Beer served there for many years and still continues to be a very respected member of the community and is admired and respected by many. Many families have worshipped there for generations and that speaks a lot to the long term influence the church has had in our area.

☒ Chris Hoffman

Completed: Tuesday, Mar 11, 2025

My relationship with Mt Laurel UCC is that as a local funeral director. My family has performed many funerals for the parishioners through the years.

Business: 8146295550

Reference Response

The parishioners of Mt Laurel UCC have always been extremely kind and polite when I've had dealings with them. They are hard working and humble people who are extremely dedicated to their church, community and most importantly to advancing the gospel. Many of the parishioners helped with the construction of the current church building. I feel any pastor who was called to serve at this church would be blessed and extremely fortunate to have them as his or her parishioners.

☒ Rev. Matthew Deal

Completed: Thursday, Mar 13, 2025

I am the pastor at a neighboring UCC congregation. I am also the president of the Somerset Assoc. & have done limited pulpit supply at Mt. Laurel.

Personal Cell: 814-279-5504

Reference Response

I am honored to provide a reference for Mt. Laurel UCC! I have been familiar with the congregation for 20 years and have found them to be a welcoming community. The church is situated in a rural setting that is conveniently between 2 major towns, Somerset and Johnstown, PA and also benefits from some smaller surrounding communities. Historically, the congregation has been a strong supporter of various missions and benevolences, as well as the Somerset Assoc. and Penn West Conf. of the UCC. I have found them to be a caring community but not insular to the detriment of the needs of neighbors near & far. One of their strengths is a group of lay leaders that take seriously their role in helping the church to function well. They have quickly adapted to the challenges of an unanticipated pastoral vacancy (due to the previous pastor's health problems) and have kept the church moving forward.

Closing Prayer

We close each service with this verse:

"God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet 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.

This local church profile was completed by the 2025 pastoral search committee. Members include co-chairs Teresa Stoughton Marafino and Cindy Neri as well as secretary Allen Marker, Shari Stoppe, Butch Ott, and Dennis Shawley. Most of these individuals are on the church council as well.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

We are open to clarify any statements we have written.