

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE



First Congregational Church Wilmot, UCC  
Wilmot, New Hampshire

Pastor

New Hampshire Conference Merrimack Association  
November 10, 2024

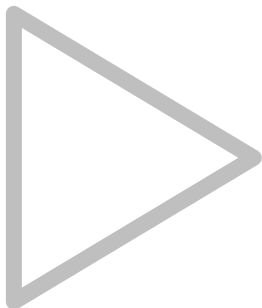
### LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

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*“God is able to provide you with every blessing, so that  
having all sufficiency in all things at all times,  
you may abound in every good work.”*

*(2 Corinthians 9:8)*

## POSITION POSTING



LISTING INFORMATION

SCOPE OF WORK

COMPENSATION & SUPPORT

WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

### LISTING INFORMATION

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Church name: **First Congregational Church Wilmot UCC**

Street address: **19 North Wilmot Road, Wilmot, NH 03287**

Supplemental web links:

<https://www.wilmotucc.org/>

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

Conference: **New Hampshire**

Association: **Merrimack**

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person:

**Rev. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister, [grankin@nhucc.org](mailto:grankin@nhucc.org), (603)225-6647**

#### Summary Ministry Description:

We are an Open & Affirming church and one of the first to be recognized as a Racial Justice Church in the New Hampshire UCC Conference. However, we consider this more of a first step. We engage in a wide range of activities that aim to support and nurture the people of the congregation and reach out to the wider community while working closely with the church's general leadership to set goals and make plans. Our church is made up predominantly of seniors, and we hope to attract the younger generation as we move forward. We are focused on living and passing along to others the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We believe that we are a proactive congregation and need a leader who can help us to continue moving forward spreading the word and reaching out to those in need whether they are next door, within our state, nationally or worldwide. During the onset of COVID we started holding services on Zoom and now continue its use in an effort to reach those who are unable to attend in person because of illness or living far away.

We are a small church with a big heart.



What we value about living in our area:

We value the natural beauty of our area and outdoor opportunities. Also important are access to cultural, educational and medical facilities as well as the rural character of where we live.

Current size of membership: 66

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*): None

Position Title: Pastor

Position Duration Settled

Compensation Level: Full time within Conference guidelines.

## SCOPE OF WORK

- Preparation and leadership of Sunday worship including scripture study, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, sermon preparation, guiding and sometimes finding lay liturgists, planning of music in coordination with the Music Director, preaching, leading congregational prayers, and similar functions

- Fostering faith formation and vitality among people in the church through prayer, Bible study, service, identifying helpful resources and opportunities and helping lay persons take advantage of them
- Encourage leadership development by working with people in the church to create ministry and programs
- Pastoral care, in collaboration with lay people, to those who are sick, grieving, lonely or vulnerable
- Community engagement and leading the way for the church to be an ambassador of God's love
- Weddings and funerals for participants in the worshiping community
- Strategic planning for current and new directions in ministry
- Attend meetings and support leadership as needed to church programs, in collaboration with lay leadership
- Participate in wider church activities such as conference and association meetings
- Coordination with church officers, boards, and committees for faithful financial development and stewardship
- Coordination with church staff such as music director, church secretary, and church technical assistant
- Availability to wider community for funerals, weddings, special worship programs, and as a representative of the church to local organizations
- Be available for counseling, listening and referral
- Study and prayer to increase faith and to improve skills so as to lead, teach, preach better
- Energizing and deepening spiritual connections and faith understandings of others in all they do

#### Core Competencies:

- Vibrant – Full of energy and enthusiasm
- Compassionate – Having genuine care and concern for others
- Collaborative – Able to work for common goals with diverse people and ideas

## COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis: \$64, 225 with addition for experience and education  
according to the Conference guidelines

Benefits

Salary plus Benefits

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?

Living nearby with a housing allowance

State any incentives: Negotiable based on needs, abilities and interests.

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

Kearsarge clergy group

Pastoral support groups within the NH Conference and the Merrimack Association

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

We would expect to be flexible if such a situation were presented.

## WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

We are looking for a vibrant, compassionate and collaborative leader who will bolster and encourage us as we move into the future with our Church's ministry.

Some specific ministry goals are as follows:

1. Emphasize and increase our spiritual feeling and focus, both from the pulpit and among ourselves. Thought provoking sermons and bible studies.
2. Help us be a voice for justice with outreach to the community and world.
3. Partner with organizations in the community (e.g. the library)
4. Increase mission outreach, especially justice missions
5. Advocate our open and affirming identity (e.g. march in LGBTTTQ+ parades)
6. Increase awareness of and advocate for solutions to climate change

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



Our vision includes a dynamic leader who is gentle and kind and who will bolster and encourage us as we move into the future with our Church's ministry.

Specify language requirements or culturally-specific capacities preferred in a next ministerial leader, and why those matter to the congregation's sense of calling. **None**

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

Four areas of excellence which we hope our next minister will display are:

1. Empowering the Church to be faithful to God's call, reflective of Christ's mission, and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.
2. Being called to ordained ministry by God and the Church.
3. Participating in various settings of the United Church of Christ, including Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, General Synod, and global ministries.
4. Drawing on the ministry of Jesus Christ to confront injustice and oppression.

## **WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?**

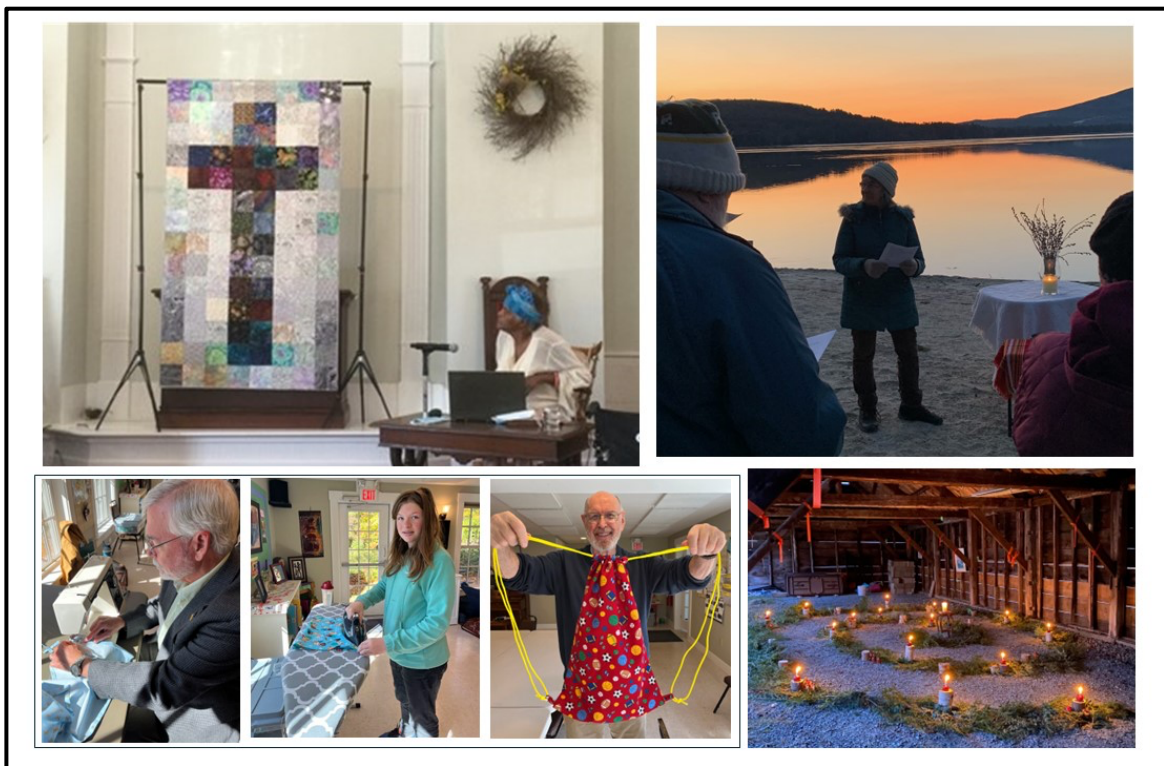
"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?

We held a congregational meeting to help us respond to this question. It was a lively and thought-provoking session where many participants contributed freely. Following are some of their answers.

- To be a voice for justice and progressive Christian witness
- To emphasize and increase our spiritual feeling and focus both from the pulpit and among ourselves
- To partner with organizations in the community as we did with the library on the question of racial justice

- To increase outreach
- To advocate for our Open and Affirming identity
- To advocate for solutions to climate change



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

An ongoing challenge for our congregation has been and remains, just how to effectively reach out beyond our walls in welcoming our local communities to learn, share and experience with us, our journey of faith-based justice and witness.

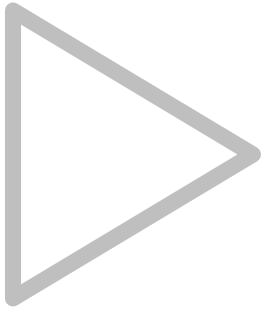
Some of the steps we have taken to do this include:

- Creating new literature to illustrate the many activities we support or participate in
- Enhancing our Zoom capabilities
- Continuing to build our Facebook presence
- Encouraging local groups to use our Fellowship Hall for meetings, meals, workshops, lectures, concerts and poetry readings
- Providing physical presence and participation in the Pride Parade, regional Crop Walk, town Bandstand suppers, racial justice events, and hosting a Covid vaccine clinic



We will need guidance with our desire to reflect, discuss and create a new vision statement for our church as we continue on our faith journey.

## WHO ARE WE NOW?



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

CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

11-YEAR REPORT

CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

CHURCH FINANCES

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith.

We are a small but vibrant faith community. We encourage each other in our Christian walk of faith as taught and exemplified by Jesus. We try to see Christ in everyone, and to reach out in love to all with whom we interact. We have been an Open & Affirming church since 2011 and a Racial Justice church since 2021. Together we actively seek to live into these designations. Although the UCC Statement of Faith is appended to our bylaws, we do not expect each other to adhere to any particular creed. We usually refer to the deity as God or Holy One, and the third person of the trinity as the Holy Spirit.

In 2022 we had structured discussions involving all church membership to develop a values statement to accompany our recently revised bylaws:

“As disciples of the living God and followers of our teacher Jesus, with sustenance from the Holy Spirit, we are: Striving to help each person on their unique spiritual journey, grounding ourselves in prayer and the Spirit, living our faith through compassionate caring and deep love, reaching out to create a more just and equal world, embracing our differences to become a church which affirms each person as a child of God.”

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

- We are an Open & Affirming, Racial Justice congregation, and we strongly identify with these designations

- We are a church in the reformed faith tradition, and value our identity as part of the United Church of Christ
  - We are a progressive church
  - We value the scriptures, but are not bible literalists
  - We each have a unique relationship with God, and we respect this while at the same time being a strong community of faith
- We are welcoming to everyone, and we aspire to see God in everyone
- We are “a trusting kinship” – an intimate community of faith
  - We actively care for and help one another
  - It’s an intimate community – we trust and respect one another
  - “We dare to share our lives with each other.” – “the saints in the pews” are what make us a community
- We are an older congregation - most members are retired
- Our congregation includes capable lay leaders and retired ministers

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

Our Church, built in 1858, is a typical New England church by physical design, however, it is more than just a beautiful building. It is a group of people who gather in unity and diversity to worship as members of a community. When people enter for worship, they are warmly greeted by members of the Diaconate. If people are new to the church an extra effort is made to help them to feel comfortable during their hour of worship, and they are encouraged to join our coffee hour following the service. Because our church is ONA and one of the first to be recognized as a Racial Justice church in the New Hampshire Conference, our openness and welcoming presence expresses itself as we worship. We have a small choir and, as everyone knows, our church as a congregation loves to sing. Our lectionary readings provide lessons from both the old and new Testaments. Our sermons based on the lectionary reflect the relevance to our everyday life. Prior to our Pastoral Prayer people in the congregation openly and freely express their joys and concerns. For those who cannot attend Church because of illness or distance we broadcast our service live over Zoom and offer recorded services on YouTube.

Describe the educational program/ faith formation vision of your church.

Education is one of those programs that impacts society as a whole. Educating young people and adults in the Christian faith can change lives, bring hope to the hopeless, and reflect the light of Christ to the world. Our education program is an important tool in this church’s overall ministry. From Sunday school to book studies and confirmation classes

we offer a broad range of dynamic initiatives, i.e., children's services, Maple Sugaring Outings, Prison Prayer Ministry, Children's Literacy Foundation Programs, Earth Day, MLK Day, Black History Month, and much more.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

We have 11 committees, seven of which meet monthly, and four of which meet three to four times per year. Each committee has an average of 4 members and several overlap. A representative from each of the 11 committees, plus the pastor and 2 church officers make up the Church Council, which serves as the decision-making body for the church. The Church Council meets monthly. Minutes are provided for each meeting and are posted on the main church bulletin board. It should be noted that other elected positions such as delegates, representatives are essential for Ministry and Mission.

Decisions are communicated via minutes, via announcements from the pulpit, via newsletters, and via special congregational meetings.

Committees are organized from the by-laws of the church and are changed or amended as required. By-law changes must be approved by the congregation at either the annual meeting or by a special congregational meeting.

The congregation recently participated in values exercise (2022/2023) and developed a values statement. The next objective was to develop a vision statement along with a revised mission statement. This was delayed until we obtain a "settled pastor".

1. When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month? We estimate over 700 hours are spent in meetings annually or 60 hours per month.
2. Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example, when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished? A member took it upon himself to put the U.S. flag back in the sanctuary. It was again removed, and the issue came to council to be resolved. It was resolved by placing the flag outside the church under lights to the satisfaction of all.
3. We can provide the next minister with a copy of an organizational chart, by-laws and an annual report to further explain the patterns of the church's activity and governance.

## 11-YEAR REPORT

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*(add here the 11-Year Report developed with the help of your conference staff, UCC Data Hub, and MissionInsite)*

## CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	36	+
Number of active non-members:	4	+
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	40	

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	25%	+
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	25%	+
Less than 5 years:	50%	+

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
0	3	2	1	0	1	4	5	24	+

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	25%	+
College:	25%	+

Graduate School:	25%	+
Specialty Training:	25%	+
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	20%	+
Adults who are retired:	80%	+
Adults who are not fully employed:		

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

There are approximately 65-70 members and friends of the FCCW of whom about half attend weekly services in person or on Zoom. The majority are retired. Their work has ranged across many fields. They were teachers, farmers, environmental engineers, school nurses, clergy, executive secretaries and much more. Those still working have similar widespread occupations, including teacher, pharmacist, clergy.

Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation, and the overall racial make-up. Most UCC congregations tend to describe themselves as “diverse.” Yet, the vast majority of UCC congregations are mono-cultural. What does diversity mean in your context?

Diversity in the case of our congregation means that we have been an ONA church since 2011. Additionally, we are the second church in the NH Conference to be designated a Racial Justice Church. PRIDE month was celebrated every Sunday in June with special worship services. We are known to be a congregation which welcomes ALL people: those of diverse identities, those of diverse color, those of diverse religious backgrounds.

## **PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING**

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Complete the following chart. Please leave blank any fields that are not applicable to your congregation.

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings? <i>(list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff)</i>
Adult Groups or Classes	8	Pastor and Lay leaders
Baptisms <i>(number last year)</i>	2	Pastor & family
Children's Groups or Classes	5	Sunday School director
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	50	Pastor & Deacons
Church-wide Meals	30	Lay people
Choirs and Music Groups	6	Music Director
Church-based Bible Study	4	Pastor
Communion <i>(served how often?)</i>	Once/mo. & Maundy Thursday	Pastor
Community Meals	4 x year	Lay people
Confirmation <i>(number confirmed last year)</i>	2	
Drama or Dance Program	50	Religious Education
Funerals <i>(number last year)</i>	3	Pastor & family
Intergenerational Groups	5	Religious Education
Outdoor Worship	15	2x Pastor & Deacons
Prayer or Meditation Groups		
Public Advocacy Work	11	Justice & Witness committee
Retreats		
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community		
Weddings <i>(number last year)</i>	1	Pastor & participants

Worship (time slot: 10am___)	30	Pastor & Deacons
Worship (time slot: _____)		
Young Adult Groups or Classes		
Youth Groups or Classes		
Other		

List all members or regular participants in your congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers. Indicate those with current United Church of Christ Three-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a congregation) or Four-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a ministry beyond a congregation).

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
Rev. Dr. Nan DeVries	No			Yes
Rev. William Grosch	No			Yes

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

List all current staff, including ministers. Exclude the position you are seeking to fill. Indicate which staffperson serves as head of staff.

Staff Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation (full time, part time, volunteer)	Supervised by	Length of Tenure for current person in this position
Music Director	No	Part time	Pastor	1 year
Secretary	No	Part time	Pastor	1 mo.

Bookkeeper Web Master	No	Contract	Finance chair	5 years
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## REFLECTION

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

For a small congregation we are very active both within the congregation and in our community. We are mindful of outreach both in our community and beyond.

## CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$126,671
Endowment Proceeds ( <i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i> )	\$ 3,891
Endowment Draw ( <i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i> )	\$ 0
Fundraising Events	\$ 7,225
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$
Grants	\$
Rentals of Church Building	\$
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$
Support from Related Organizations ( <i>e.g. Women's Group</i> )	\$
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$
Other (specify):	\$
Other (specify):	\$

TOTAL	\$137,787
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Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$ 156,200

See 2023 Annual Report

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? 32%

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? Yes

☒ Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)

☒ One Great Hour of Sharing

☒ Strengthen the Church

☐ Neighbors in Need

☒ Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage? (

OCWM is an item in the proposed budget established by the Budget Committee. \$5,500

What is the church's current indebtedness? 0

Does your church have an endowment? Yes

What is the market value of the assets? \$327,020

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances? No

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)? 0

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? Forever

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$ 0

Investments (other than endowment): \$ 0

Does your church have a parsonage? No

Describe all buildings owned by the church: Church and adjacent carriage sheds

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church: None

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? All

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

Our Church's financial wellbeing reflects a congregation devoted to and supportive of mission and ministry as described in our Profile. Budgeting is done very carefully by the Budget Committee with input from all relevant committees.

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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Name one to three significant happenings in the history of your church that have shaped the identity of your congregation. Add the most important event in the life of your church in the past 10 years.

### Significant events in our church history

#### Church on the Rise

- In August 2011, our church basement, which housed a bathroom, a kitchen, the furnace and a fellowship area, was flooded with almost two feet of water during a hurricane. In the following year, the congregation embarked on a mission to plan, fund and complete a total reconstruction of the basement.
- Church was raised up and moved to allow for the building of a new foundation. When the new foundation was completed, the church was moved back upon it.



This created a functioning, dry and comfortable space under the sanctuary that now serves the congregation and the community. A modern kitchen and an elevator were installed, and heating and plumbing systems were upgraded. All was accomplished with funds raised from a very successful capital campaign that did not rely on exhausting the church trust funds. During that year, worship services were held next door in the town library or the town hall.

### **Open and Affirming Covenant**

- After many years of study and reflection, our church overwhelming voted to become the first church in our area to declare that all were welcomed and celebrated as children of God in June 2011. A rainbow pride flag was hung from the front of the church and later stolen. The flag has been replaced many times, and an instance of antisemitic, homophobic graffiti on the church doors, prompted the congregation to hold an outdoor service of healing on the front lawn that was attended by people from all over the state in support of the church.

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

We have significantly added to our budget by hiring paid individuals where lay members have traditionally volunteered their time.

Describe your congregation's values and practices when it comes to conflict.

### **Conflict Resolution in Our Church**

Two recent conflicts that involved placement in the sanctuary of the American flag and our Racial Justice banner, were resolved in much the same way. Though the resolutions were greeted favorably by most of the membership, some chose to limit their attendance at regular church activities and worship.

About two years ago, the American flag was quietly moved from the sanctuary to the narthex. Recently, a member noticed the change and returned the flag to the sanctuary on his own. The six deacons agreed that the flag did not belong in the worship area and proposed purchasing a new flag to be displayed in the fellowship hall downstairs. What followed was a request from the deacons to the Church Council for more suggestions which resulted in a decision to use a donated flag and flagpole with lighting, to be placed

on the lawn outside the front of the church. This was done and no further major discussion of the flag has happened.

The second conflict centered on the placement of a lovely, quilted banner created by our youth and a few members to commemorate the church's decision to become a Racial Justice church. It was placed on the wall behind the alter cross after checking with a trustee but not the deacons. Some members were dismayed with that placement as nothing ever had been seen behind the cross. They chose to be quiet about their objection thinking that perhaps this was a temporary display and that the banner would be moved. The disquiet was brought to the deacons and was discussed at some length. A final decision was made that all the yearly theme banners would be "retired" except for the current one and that the racial justice banner would move to the back wall of the church. This was presented to the Church Council with a reiteration that issues that affect the sanctuary are under the discretion of the deacons and that in the future, nothing was to be displayed behind the alter cross.

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

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Rev. Dr. Zdenek Bednar	4	Y
Rev. Charles B. Higgins	7	Y
Rev. Robert Curry	3	Y

Rev. Duane Bailey	4	Y
Rev. Bonnie Stagg (interim)	3	Y
Rev. Sara Marean	9	Y
Rev. Debb-Ellen Brown (co-pastor)	1.5	Y
Rev. Kathleen Alger (co-pastor)	1.5	Y

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

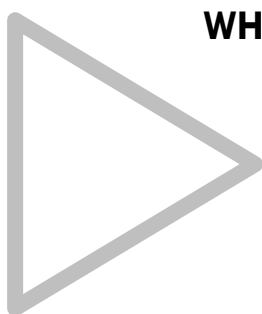
Looking back, it is possible that during the 9 years of our last settled pastor, that the congregation became accustomed to the strong administrative style of the pastor, and we

became somewhat disorganized and fractured when the pastor left. In the interim period following, lay leadership did work to fill the gaps as they occurred, usually centered around clear communication among individuals and groups. As a church community, we now need to encourage each other to share our faith journey together with love, trust and commitment to our mission and evolving vision for the future.

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

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation? **Yes**

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church? **No**



## WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

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

COMMUNITY VISION

MISSION InSite

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## COMMUNITY VISION

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

We have an ongoing, supportive relationship through UKAMA with Eastlea church in Zimbabwe. Our previous pastor visited there with her family, and we have also hosted visitors from the Eastlea church. We have provided scholarship support for a student at a girl’s school in Africa, collected books for the establishment of a library in Africa and regularly support all endeavors of Church World Services.

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

CROP Hunger Walk, Kearsarge Regional Ecumenical Ministries, Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee Food Pantry, Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners, PRIDE Parade, Wilmot Ladies Aid Society Senior Lunches, AA, Turning Points

Check any statements below that apply to your UCC faith community.

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

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

We send delegates to Association and NH Conference meetings, have financed a cabin at the Horton Center and sent children/counselors to the camp through the years, attend Prepared to Serve workshops, displayed the Sacred Ally Quilt Project, served on Committee on Church and Ministry of the Merrimack Association, Fitness Review Response Team and are partners with a church in Zimbabwe through Ukama. Shared summer services with local church camp.

If your congregation has a mission statement, how does that mission statement compare to the actual time spent engaging in different activities? Think of the range of activities from time spent gathering, to governance, to time spent going out.

Our mission statement needs to be updated with the assistance of the new pastor, our current mission statement is:

"The mission of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to celebrate the Rites and Sacraments; to experience Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church Universal; to provide Christian education; to render loving service; and to strive for righteousness, justice, peace and equal rights for all. The worship service is open to all."

## MISSION InSite

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

The Mission Insite report shows growing opportunities for mission outreach in our area. New families moving in, new construction all point to new chances to reach out. Local mission outreach has been an important part of our church's history and its role in our community.

How do your congregation's internal demographics compare or contrast to a) the neighborhoods adjacent to your church, and b) other neighborhoods with which your church connects?

We are a typical New England country church with demographics similar to the surrounding neighborhood.

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

Wilmot is part of a larger area which has pockets of considerable wealth as well as areas of poverty and everything in between.

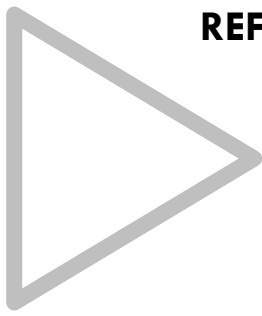
What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for?

We are known to be a very welcoming and friendly congregation.

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

Our O&A designation is often cited as well as the warmth and welcome when a new person comes in the door.





## REFERENCES

Name up to three people who have agreed to serve as phone and written references. Advise the three references: “The contact information you provide may be shared publicly. Please use contact information that you feel comfortable giving to candidates so they can reach you with their questions.”

Make sure they are not members of your church but are persons who know your church well enough to be helpful to candidates seeking more information. Request a letter from each reference in answer to the four prompts below. Attach the letters (up to three) as desired.

### REFERENCE 1

Glynis Hart/Librarian/Wilmot Public Library  
603-526-6804/wilmotlibrary11@gmail.com/community partner

### REFERENCE 2

Chris Jenssen/Wilmot Ladies Aid Society  
603-526-2485/chjenssen@gmail.com/Friend

### REFERENCE 3

Amanda Mace/Program Director/Turning Points Network  
amanda@turningpointsnetwork.org/Friend

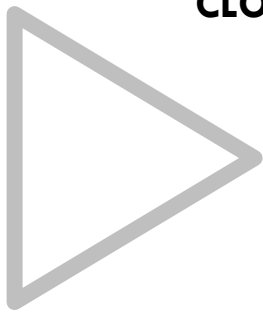
### PROMPTS FOR REFERENCES

Describe some areas of strength in this church’s ministry.

Describe some areas for improvement in this church’s ministry.

Describe a significant experience you have had of this church’s ministry.

Anything else you wish to share.



## **CLOSING THOUGHTS**

CLOSING PRAYER

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

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#### **Litany of Thanksgiving**

#### **For the First Congregational Church of Wilmot UCC**

Loving God

In the still small voice of our souls

We know your presence is with us and among us.

We give thanks for the opportunity

to share

to listen

to be stimulated

to have some 'A HA' moments.

To understand our small church,

to do interesting things,

to have time for reflection ,

and be a part of this faithful group.

The mysteries and wonders of community break through

in the widening of horizons of our church life

and in the witness of people who give and share

of themselves over and over again.

Touched by common bonds of faith within all of us,

a sense of camaraderie bursts forth

among this congregation.

Jesus lives in all of us .... lives in our faith community.

New possibilities unfold as we struggle in our community

with the many issues of everyday life.

Our love and interest in our church grows  
as new prospects and new forms  
of ministry are revealed to us.

Connecting, renewing friendships, and getting to know others  
speaks of sacred moments.

You give the gift of a group  
that is not only concerned about the Wilmot church  
but thinks about the greater community in a positive way  
and actually understands what it means to be loving and caring to all,  
no matter who they are.

We give thanks for these blessings.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

Paul J. Fenton Jr.

## Worship Through The Seasons



## STATEMENT OF CONSENT

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The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates.

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates. We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinions about our church. We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile?

Jane Norman  
8 Hayfield Lane  
New London, NH 03257  
604-763-8891

Paul Fenton, Jr.  
125 Beech Hill Road  
Andover, NH 03216  
603-735-5754  
pfenton@tds.com

Susan Bruce  
PO Box 480  
Wilmot, NH 03287  
603-526-2251  
sbruce934@gmail.com

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New London, NH 03257  
603-526-4324  
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Wilmot, NH 03287  
603-526-4405  
junglebobevans@yahoo.com

Paul M. Currier  
320 Route 4A  
Andover, NH 03216  
603-735-5280  
pcurrier@tds.net

Signed:

Name / Title / Date:

## VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment: The First Congregational Church of Wilmot is a church in good standing with the Merrimack Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ.

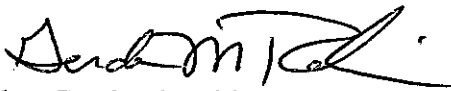
To the best of my knowledge, ministerial history information is complete.

Staff Comment: To the best of my knowledge, I do find the ministerial history in this profile to be complete.

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

Staff Comment: To the best of my knowledge, I do find the church financial information provided in the profile to be presented clearly and thoroughly.

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:   
Name / Title: Gordon Rankin  
Email: grankin@nhcucc.org  
Phone: (603) 225-6647  
Date: 01/23/2025