

Half Time Associate Pastor for Congregational Ministry

The purpose of this position is to increase awareness and use of the gifts found within our congregation to build community, so that we strengthen congregational care, deepen spiritual growth, and better organize outreach and justice work. This position focuses less on "direct care" and more on building individual strengths and small communities, so that we all participate in pastoral care, faith formation, and service. The position seeks to embody the reality that service and care are interwoven with spiritual formation, not separate activities.

Development of congregational gifts and time.

This person will help organize ways that members can explore their gifts and develop a deepened sense of vocation or call in our lives. This person will organize opportunities for self-discovery, self-selection, and discernment. This will include spiritual formation, matching volunteer needs with volunteer gifts, and organized and intentional recruitment, and volunteer training and appreciation within the congregation. This person will develop information-sharing systems so that other Ministries and Mission Teams, new opportunities and outreach outside the congregation can be matched with congregational interest and availability.

Development of a caring community

This person will coordinate and expand our Pastoral Partner ministry, develop short term and long-term opportunities for community building, care giving, faith exploration, and shared outreach.

Creative adult faith formation (shared with Senior Pastor).

This person will develop small group opportunities, basic Christian education offerings for all ages and among generations, and "multi-disciplinary" approaches to formation (service learning, environmental spirituality, inter-generational activities).

General ministry

This person will provide limited support for the general ministry of the church – primarily in the area of worship and preaching.

Candidate will possess

- Theological understanding of the church as a community of communities
- Ongoing personal commitment to a faith community, and a sense of call to serve the church
- Demonstrated strength in recruiting, encouraging, and engaging people
- Demonstrated skills in worship leading
- Experience training and maintain volunteers
- Experience working in collegial staff settings
- Computer and web skills

Compensation

- Salary and Benefits - \$34,000 (Single person health insurance through the Wisconsin Conference UCC)
- 4 weeks vacation
- 2 weeks study leave
- Sabbatical after 5 years
- Auto allowance, continuing education and misc. expenses budgets

The Leadership Team will form a search committee headed by Paul Hedges. They will conduct an external, nationwide search for a suitable candidate, lay or ordained. They will follow the procedures for search committees offered by the UCC, with the help of the Southwest Association. It is hoped that a candidate will be identified, approved by the congregation and available to begin work in the summer of 2009. If you have recommendations for this committee, please give them to John Lemke, moderator.

