



United Methodist Church Profile

This is to be filled out by the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee. It is in response to Paragraph 432.1 of *The 2004 Book of Discipline*. It is designed to help the bishop and the superintendents in the consultation and appointment making process. Information provided is important and will be used in an advisory way.

Church: Community United Methodist Church

District West Metro

Charge: _____ **Date** February 27, 2007

I. The Community

You are encouraged to download a free First View report of the demographics of your zip code area to help you complete this section. They are available at www.link2lead.com.

- A. Describe the ministry area your congregation serves. (i.e. inner city, suburban, small city, rural. Include size of community, and appropriate demographics such as ethnic makeup, average age, projected growth and household income.

The following information is from Precept Group and is based on the 2000 census data with 2006 updates. This information is for the Monticello area (55362 zip code):

- *current population – 16,413*
- *projected 5-year population change – 16.84%*
- *largest lifestyle group – middle American families*
- *non-Anglo population – 5%*
- *fastest growing racial/ethnic group – Asians*
- *households with no faith involvement – 30%*
- *average age – 33.4*
- *average household income - \$63,410*
- *single parent households – 24%*
- *college graduates – 19%*

- B. How has your community changed over the past five years?

There has been rapid growth, new retail and industrial growth. In 2006, following the reconstruction of an interchange on I-94, new “big box” retail stores, restaurants and chain retailers opened. At the same time, some locally-owned retailers went out of business. Much of the population commutes to the Twin Cities metro area for employment. The community is hosting a growing Spanish-speaking population.

- C. What future changes do you see occurring in your community?

We envision that the Monticello area will continue to grow and become part of an urban development between the Twin Cities and St. Cloud.

D. What is your congregation known for in the community?

CUMC is known as being friendly and open to all. Our annual fall bazaar and spring plant sale are well known. Our building has always had a steeple that is visible throughout the community. We house the Pumpkin Patch Pre-school which brings a lot of young families to our building.

E. Name three or four other strong churches in your community and what are they known for?

- *St Henry's Catholic Church – known for its fall festival and a large congregation*
- *Trinity Lutheran – known for its Swedish meatball and Lutefisk dinner*
- *Resurrection Lutheran – known for its Praise Fest*
- *Alliance (Riverside) – known for its Awana and youth programming*

F. What community services and resources (cultural, recreational, economic) are available to a pastor and family?

The Monticello Community Center includes a youth center, pool, gym, senior center and other activities. Monticello is on the Mississippi River and close to Lake Maria State Park. There are parks, walking/biking trails, a fine public library and movie theater in the city. The Monticello Arts Council fosters cultural activities. The close proximity to the metro area and St Cloud provides excellent access to all the activities these centers provide.

II. Church History

A. Give a brief history of this congregation. (Founding date, mergers and/or splits, time of greatest membership and strength, time of greatest problems etc.)

CUMC is 150 years old. We moved to a new building in 2000. Worship participation has doubled over the last 9 years, but has been relatively flat the last several years. We believe it is time to reposition CUMC to renew its growth.

B. Record the following information for the past five years.

Year	Avg. Worship Attendance	Avg. Sunday School Attendance	Membership	# of Professions of Faith	% of Apportionments Paid
2005	260	107	405	25	100%
2004	263	104	398	8	100%
2003	264	132	405	28	100%
2002	245	107	356	17	100%
2001	229	98	341	8	100%
2000	227	82	343	6	100%

- C. As you reflect on the data above, what trends do you notice? What do you think are the reasons for any upswings or downturns in the data?

The congregation has a focus on hospitality and providing a welcoming environment. We make a strong effort to invite all community members to Christmas Eve services and other special events. In 2004 Sunday school was added during the summer months. Because of lower attendance during the summer, the average attendance for the year dropped.

- D. List the clergy who have served this church for the past 20 years.

- *Dan Wetterstrom Present – 1998*
- *Art Hill 1998 – 1996*
- *Dennis Buckley 1995 - 1985*

III. Current Ministry Assessment

- A. What are the three primary strengths of this congregation?

1. *Extensive Wednesday evening fellowship activities, including*
 - *a supper serving over 100 people each week*
 - *discipleship activities including Pioneer Club, senior high youth activities, Confirmation class, parenting classes and other family activities - over 100 people are involved*
 - *music ministry including rehearsals for choir, praise team, bell choir*
2. *Strong core leadership from laity and the expectation to continue to develop lay leadership.*
3. *We equip our members to live out their faith as the living, loving presence of Christ in the community at work, in school and in volunteer activities.*

- B. What is the purpose/mission/vision statement of this congregation? How well is it known by the members of the congregation? How is it used in the development and shaping of ministry?

Mission Statement: The mission of Community Church is to honor God by making faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

How well is it known: Most of the congregation probably could not restate the mission statement. However, the Worship Theme Team selects music, scriptures and sermon topics to keep the mission of CUMC central in worship services. Educational activities such as Sunday school and adult Bible study also focus on topics pertinent to the mission.

How is it used: Members honor God and live as faithful disciples by their actions in their daily lives at work, school, and in community activities.

C. What ministry is the church most noted for or most proud of?

A warm, welcoming ministry with open hearts, minds and doors. Our Wednesday evening programming includes a family dinner, Pioneer Club, and Bible study for all ages. We send a large number of senior high youth on an annual Youth Works mission trip. Our United Methodist Women are very active in our church and our community. Members of the congregation reach out by volunteering in the schools, hospital, food shelf, nursing home and public library.

D. What are your current goals and how are you working to achieve them?

- *To grow as Christian stewards. This includes developing a comprehensive stewardship ministry for our congregation.*
- *To implement a “Connecting Ministries” strategy for our church. This ministry would connect both current members and new members to Christ and the ministry of the church.*
- *To evaluate our ministry of worship and develop a strategy to implement more vital and dynamic worship opportunities for our congregation and the communities we serve.*
- *To develop a strategic plan to guide and position our congregation for growth in the coming years.*

E. How would you describe the attitude of the congregation towards change, and its theological stance?

Members of the congregation vary in their attitudes toward change. Overall, the congregation may resist change at first, but come to embrace new ideas. For example, when the church moved from the former site on Fourth Street, there was resistance, but the members marched up the hill to the new site without too many regretful looks back.

The theological stances of CUMC members are varied. Many members embrace conservative tenets. Others hold very progressive theological views. In general, members respect one another’s differences of belief. We believe both our ordained and lay leadership need to be accepting of a variety of views as we seek to be inclusive of all who follow Christ. It is our expectation that our ordained clergy have a strong personal commitment to their Christian faith, the Word of God and the United Methodist doctrine.

F. What is your sense of the congregation’s overall health and vitality? Are there any unresolved conflicts?

Our overall health/vitality is good as evidenced by increased involvement in activities such as Wednesday activities, Bible studies and youth activities. As in any large group, differences of opinion surface, however these do not hamper our ability to work toward our mission.

G. What do you see the congregation doing and/or becoming in the next five years?

- *CUMC will be positioned for growth with members connected to meaningful ministries.*
- *Membership will increase, and additional staff will be added.*
- *We would like to see CUMC serve as a “parent” church for new UMC churches in the I-94 growth corridor.*

H. What is the challenge this congregation is facing, or where is its growing edge?

CUMC faces two main challenges:

- managing and growing with changes within our church and area*
- involving current members, participants and newcomers in meaningful ways*

IV. Description of Ministry Areas

Please provide a brief description as well as your assessment of the effectiveness of this area.

A. Welcome and Hospitality: How do you reach new people and connect them into the life of the congregation? Have you become a “Certified Welcoming Congregation?”

We have chosen not to become “Certified.” CUMC does have intentional connecting ministries:

- *ten rotating hospitality teams greet and welcome people at worship services*
- *follow-up by sending a letter and having door-step ministers visit the homes of first time visitors - people continuing to visit CUMC are called and invited to join*
- *new members are connected to church activities through an orientation program and personal invitation*

B. Worship: What are your worship times, styles of worship offered, and any distinctive elements? How often do you celebrate Holy Communion, and in what method?

A traditional service is held at 9:00 a.m. A praise service with modern Christian music is held at 10:30 a.m. Both services feature PowerPoint visuals and sound to enhance worship.

Communion is provided the first Sunday of the month by intinction or at the communion rail.

C. Children and Youth Ministries: Include Sunday school times, curriculum, confirmation program, and other groups such as UMYF.

A workshop rotation-style Sunday school program is conducted during our 9:00 a.m. service. Our confirmation program is a 2-year process meeting on a weekly basis. Middle and high school Bible studies are conducted weekly. We send large contingencies to the YUMY, JUMY and UMY events. A parenting group meets on Wednesday nights from October to May.

D. Adult Faith Formation: Do you have an intentional plan of discipleship? If so, what is it? List any on-going groups such as Alpha, Disciple, Companions in Christ, Walk to Emmaus in the table below.

Small group	Describe	# of Sessions
Disciple Bible Study		2
Prayer Groups	Wednesday AM	1
Walk to Emmaus	No formal program – some membership participation	
Bible Study	Wednesday evening, Wednesday morning	2
Sunday School	Children, Youth Adult	1 - 9:00 1 - 10:30

E. Leadership Development: How are you developing new leaders and training current leaders?

This is considered a growing edge for us. We are encouraging members to utilize outside opportunities and internal resources to tap the passion of their spiritual gifts. CUMC's proximity to the Twin Cities provides access to many classes and seminars. All standing committees have members who serve in staggered three-year terms; this provides experienced mentors to guide new members in their leadership skills. Our Befrienders ministry trains members for caring ministries.

F. Outreach and Service: Do you support any missionaries? How are you involving people in hands-on mission projects? What community needs are you seeking to meet?

We are covenant partners with the Reverend Fred Vanderwerf, GBGM missionary in the Ukraine. We sponsor youth mission trips, Urban Servants, Blanket ministries, Shoe-Box ministry, Church World Service, Heifer Project, Food Shelf and UMW activities. This year the informal men's group is providing service and presence in the Monticello Middle School.

G. Community Life: How do you provide congregational care to people, and what ways do you find to celebrate together as the body of Christ? List any Fellowship Groups below.

Befrienders Ministry, Service to Others, UMW activities, adult fellowship, Pioneer Club, Meals on Wheels, Christian Social Services, nursing home activities, Feed My Starving Children, Wednesday night suppers.

V. Congregational Data

A. Average age of the membership:

Median age is 33.

B. What is the financial health of the church? *Good* Are you balancing the budget? *Yes*
Please attach a copy of your current budget.

C. Do you have building debt? *Yes* Amount? *\$942,470 as of 12/31/06*

D. Do you have an endowment? *No* Amount? What is it used for?

E. Do you do an annual stewardship campaign? *Yes* What kind? *Pledge on an annual basis*

F. Paid Church Staff (List positions and # of hours per week)

Pastor – 40 hours per week

Children & Family Ministries – 40 hours per week

Administrative Assistant – 30 hours per week

Custodial – 10 hours per week

Treasurer – 5 hours per week

G. Attach a description of your church governing structure as per the 2004 Book of Discipline Paragraphs 243 and 244.

H. Is there a parsonage? *No – housing allowance provided* Describe condition, when built, and amenities. Check those items below that are provided by the church:

clothes washer clothes dryer dishwasher lawnmower snow blower

VI. Leadership Needs

A. List the gifts/skills you desire for pastoral leadership.

- *strong personal faith*
- *an ability to lead through others*
- *flexibility and the ability to relate to people of a variety of theological perspectives*
- *excellent interpersonal skills*
- *strong organizational and management skills with a track record of follow-through*
- *community orientation*

B. Given your current ministry, what are the areas you most need a pastor to give leadership to.

- *leading worship and preaching*
- *managing the work of a variety of volunteers and staff to accomplish CUMC's mission*
- *developing lay leadership*
- *inspiring stewardship of talents, time and resources*
- *providing support to the caring ministries i.e., Befrienders*

C. Given that no one person can meet every need, what do you need least from a pastoral leader at this time due to the situation of your church, or having sufficient resources in this area.

- *music leadership*
- *children and family ministries (direct involvement vs. the management of)*
- *counselor*
- *general home visits*

D. What else would you like the bishop and the superintendents to know about your congregation, and pastoral leadership?

The Monticello-Big Lake area is among the fastest growing in the state. We believe it is in the best interest of CUMC and the Minnesota Annual Conference to provide effective leadership to grow CUMC and the UMC presence in the high-growth corridor from the Twin Cities to St. Cloud.

CUMC is privileged to have several retired pastors who are part of the congregation.

All ministerial members in good standing shall receive an annual appointment by the bishop (2004 Book of Discipline). All clergy members who are in good standing in an Annual Conference shall receive annually appointment by the bishop unless they are granted a sabbatical leave, a disability leave, or are on leave of absence or retired. In addition to the ordained ministers, persons who have been granted a license as local pastors and who have been approved by vote of the clergy members in full connection may be appointed as pastors in charge under certain conditions which are specified in Paragraphs 315-320. All clergy members and licensed local pastors to be appointed shall assume a lifestyle consistent with Christian teachings as set forth in the Social Principles. The United Methodist Church affirms and practices open itineracy; therefore, it is understood that age, sex, marital status, handicapping conditions, or race will not be considered as valid objections to any appointment.

Please submit one copy electronically to the District Office by December 15th. Retain a copy for the local church file.

This record should be review annually by the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and updated as needed.

Signature of S/PPR Chair Rod Hebrink Date: 28 Feb 07