

September 1, 2007

**Local Church Profile  
for  
Local Churches Seeking New Pastoral Staff**

**Please return completed document to your Conference Superintendent.**

1. **Church** United Covenant Church

2. **Address** 68 Westport Road

City and State/Prov. Wilton, Ct Zip/Postal Code 06897

3. **Church Telephone** (203) 834-0644 **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **website:** www.unitedcovenantchurch.org

4. **Name of search committee chairperson** John H. Anderson Jr

Address 86 Ridgeley Ave

City and State/Prov. Fairfield, CT Zip/Postal Code 06825

Chairperson's telephone Home: (203) 335-1007 Work: (203) 895-8925

email: dander7274@aol.com

5. **Conference Superintendent assisting your church**

Name Howard Burgoyne

Telephone ( 860 ) 635-2691 email: Howard.Burgoyne@Gmail.com

6. **Statistics: Numbers in Church Body** (these figures may be taken from the *Covenant Yearbook*)

A. Membership: 42 B. Attendance 20

C. Care constituency (how many people consider your church to be their home?) 60  
+ \_\_\_\_\_

D. Sunday School 1 E. Junior High NA F. Senior High NA

G. Covenant Women 16

7. **Profile of church members:** (Number of persons who fall into age categories.)

A. Age 0-11 12-18 5 19-24 2 25-34 2 35-49 13 50-64 18 65+

B. Occupations: (Estimated number of persons who fall into categories listed)

6 business 3 clerical \_\_\_\_\_ farmer/rancher

4 homemaker \_\_\_\_\_ laborer 8 professional

13 retired 4 student 2 others

C. Educational level of adults: (Estimated number of persons who fall into educational categories.)  
25 high school 12 college 3 graduate school

D. Household units in Congregation: (Number of persons who fall into categories listed.)  
11 married without children at home 9 married with children at home  
16 single 1 single parent with children at home

E. Describe the ethnic composition of your congregation:

Caucasian, with a predominantly Scandinavian heritage

F. Describe the ethnic composition of your community:

Wilton itself is mostly populated with Caucasians of various nationalities. Cities in the surrounding areas have large Black and Hispanic populations and other surrounding suburbs are mixed.

**8. Which model of constitution best describes your church government?**

X  council   board   leadership team

Clarifying remarks:

**9. Ministry life**

Indicate major boards, committees, groups, and organizations that are a part of your church and the frequency of meetings--monthly, weekly, etc.

\*Indicate leadership role expected by using the following numbers:

1. Pastor takes primary initiative and responsibility
2. Pastor and laity share responsibility
3. Laity takes primary initiative and responsibility

Name of group	Purpose of group	number of members	Frequency meetings	*Leadership role
Board (Council)	Make decisions for running the church	10	monthly	2
Covenant Women	Service to Church , community, Covenant institutions	16	as needed	3
Worship & Music	Assist the pastor in Planning worship	1	as needed	2
Fellowship	After worship fellowship time, flowers to sick	2	weekly	3
Missions/Special Concerns	Missionary support & visits, community needs	1	as needed	2
Property	Repairs & maintenance to Church & parsonage	1	as needed	3
Christian Formation	plan for Sunday School			2
Executive Committee	Emergency actions, Pastoral relations	4	2	2

Swedish Meatball dinner	Plan & run fundraiser	3-4 planning, 20+ involved	as needed	2
Lucia Fest	Plan & run fundraiser	3-4 planning, 20+ involved	as needed	2
Bowling Team	Recreation	2	Weekly	3

**10. Finances and budget**

A. Income and Expenditures for five years: (These figures may be taken from the *Covenant Yearbook*)

Year	Local Income (Excl. transf from Reserves)	Appropriation Income	Operating Expense (excl giving)	Loan Payment	Denominational Giving	Conference Giving	Other Giving
2006	60,552		60,762		2,676	3,700	1,488
2005	60,409		73,644		2,675	3,700	1,490
2004	79,636		72,865		2,310	3,675	1,340
2003	59,795		72,304		2,992	3,675	2,645
2002	60,257		65,404		2,650	3,675	1,888
2001	58,694		56,491		2,650	3,675	800

B. Present savings \$ 17,000 Present investments & endowments/bequests: \$ 111,000

C. Indicate expenditures for church sponsored and affiliated ministries such as preschools, schools, community development cooperation, coffee houses etc. : \$ 0

D. Have you recently had a capital fund drive? What were the results of that project?  
No.

**11. Considered Compensation:** how your church intends to compensate your pastor:

- Contribute to the Pension Plan according to the Rules for the Ordered Ministry;
- Provide the group insurance program of The Evangelical Covenant Church;
- Pay moving and travel expenses as follows: reasonable amount, to be negotiated
- Compensate as shown below, reviewing it annually with respect to the cost-of-living index, merit, and personal need:

(For use when parsonage provided)		(For use when no parsonage provided)	
<b>STARTING SALARY</b>		<b>STARTING SALARY</b>	
Base	\$ _____	Base	\$ _____
Value of Parsonage	\$ _____		
Soc Sec	\$ _____	Soc Sec	\$ _____
Utilities	\$ _____	Housing Allowance	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL COMPENSATION</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>TOTAL COMPENSATION</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**BENEFITS**

Health Insurance \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pension \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL BENEFITS** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BENEFIT**

Health Insurance \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pension \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL BENEFITS** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Reimburse the following ministry expenses, reviewing them annually:

Ministry Mileage \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Continuing Education \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Covenant External Orientation Program \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ministry Resources \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Other) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Grant an annual paid vacation of 4 weeks, and annual study/conference/speaking leave of 0 days (all by mutual timing consent)
- Reimburse for expenses incurred in attending the following conferences, and other official meetings at which your attendance may be required:
  - Covenant Annual Meeting \_\_\_\_\_
  - Midwinter Conference Yes
  - Regional Conference Ministerial Annual Meeting Yes
  - Minister's Retreat Yes
  - (Other) \_\_\_\_\_
- Leave of absence due to family needs (Family Leave Policy)
- Sabbatical practices
- Other:

**12. Property owned by the church**

A. Describe buildings and property of your church, except parsonage. Include acreage and parking spaces.

The church building is a modified A-Frame with cathedral ceiling in the sanctuary and a bank of windows that gives a lot of natural light. There is a choir loft in the rear of the sanctuary with an organ and piano, and a second piano on the main floor. Accordion doors on either side of the sanctuary separate Sunday school rooms from the sanctuary, but can be opened to create a larger space. Padded folding chairs with connecting hymn racks allow for flexibility in seating. There is a Pastor's study, secretary's office, nursery, two Sunday school rooms, foyer, kitchen and two restrooms (one handicapped). There is also room for expansion off the back of the church. The church building is approximately 3200 square feet. The parking lot is gravel (wetlands) and can hold approx. 40 cars. There is also an 8 x 12 storage shed in the rear of the parking lot. The church sits on approximately 3 acres of land, part of it wetlands.

B. Does the church own a parsonage?  yes  no If yes, how many rooms?

8  
 bedrooms 3+ Describe: 3 story farmhouse style. LR, DR, Parlor/study, kitchen & half bath on first floor. 3 bedrooms and full bath on second floor, large finished attic. Large yard, 1 car detached garage.

Address of parsonage: 9 Maple Street, Weston, CT

C. Is a building program projected?  yes  no If yes, what  
 ? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

### 13. Community characteristics

A. Has your church recently purchased a demographic study of the community? If so, when?

No

Summarize the results

B. List two or three primary business/industries in the community.

1. Corporate Headquarters for various businesses
2. Stew Leonards World's Largest Dairy Store, other retail, malls
3. Several Major Hospitals & colleges

C. Describe distinctive attributes of your community.

Diverse socio-economic & ethnic community in the surrounding cities & towns. Access to good health care, higher education, cultural events, and highways (I-84, I-95, Rte 7). Wilton itself is a family oriented bedroom community for Stamford, Greenwich and New York City, with excellent schools.

D What major trends do you foresee in your community during the next five years?

Building of larger houses, more condos, and more office buildings built on speculation.

E. List problem areas confronting your community which the members feel should be addressed by the church.

Conflict with organized activities on Sunday competing with church and family life.

Lack of commitment to spiritual development and church life.

Secularism, negative influence of TV and internet.

Hunger, homelessness.

F. Indicate Community responsibilities in which your church participates.

Quarterly support of Wilton Social Services, ongoing Food box collections given to several groups on a rotating basis, Wilton gift sharing at Christmas time.

G. For what purposes is your church building now being used by the community?

Meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, Norwalk Women's Club, AARP, Hearing Loss Association of SW CT, Princeton Review classes, Adat Torah, annual music recital for students of an area music teacher.

H. Describe your relationship with other churches in the community.

Wilton clergy association used to hold joint services at various times during the year, but have not done so in the last few years. Our church has had a few joint services with the Bridge Church, and they have used our building occasionally. After our former minister left, the Bridge Church minister took over the monthly service our minister used to do at Elder House. One of our members is the pianist at those services and they developed a close friendship. Our church is also being used by a new Jewish synagogue that has no building for board meetings, weekly Hebrew School, and one Friday night service a month.

### 14. Denominational and conference activities

How does your pastor and church relate to conference and denominational ministries? (i.e.: attendance at conference and denominational annual meetings, camps, retreats etc.)

Our last pastor was the secretary, and then president of the East Coast Conference board. He attended the East Coast Conference Ministerium and annual meetings and usually the midwinter

conference and occasionally the National Annual meetings. A group from our church worked at the New England Seaman's Mission on a couple of occasions. We have had young people at the last two CHIC's, and one couple has gone to the Pilgrim Pines Work and Worship weekend almost every year since 1988.

**15. Comment on the following with what you believe to be the generally held responses of the congregation.**

*(If more space is needed, use additional pages.)*

- A. State your church's current vision or mission statement and its core values as they are used in your congregation's publications.

Let it be our mission, as fellow members in the body of Christ, to set ourselves on a constant quest of discovery of Christ as he reveals Himself to us each day. Further, let us, United Covenant Church of Wilton, commit ourselves to undertake this quest in a spirit of love through worship, study, and fellowship in order that our individual and collective ministries will grow on all possible levels. Finally, let our witness, to this community amid the world at large, be one of unified strength, love and service as evidenced to us by the love of Jesus Christ.

- B. What have been the three most important events in the history of your Church? Indicate the dates of the events.

1. The merger of the East Norwalk & Georgetown Churches 1975
2. Moving into the new church 1984.
3. Starting the Luciafest in 1986

- C. What has been **the** most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years?

Decision to let the Jewish congregation use our church. A lot of soul searching preceded that decision.

- D. Describe your church's preference and practice related to women in leadership, both pastoral and lay.

This church has had husband & wife pastoral interim pastors. Women are welcome to hold any office on the church board (and have done so.)

- E. Describe the evangelism/outreach program of your church.

A yearly Lucia Fest and Swedish meatball dinner brings people from the community in to fellowship with us. A few have later come to church services or joined the church. A small group goes to the nursing homes where we have members/friends of the church, and we carol for some of the other residents as well.

- F. Describe the various Christian Formation ministries of your church.

There are currently none. Our interim pastor is challenging the church to read through the bible in 1, 2, or 3 years. We would like to get a bible study group going, and rebuild a Sunday school -- if we can

attract any families with children. This has been a difficult problem, as families with children seem to be looking for a ready-made program with an existing pool of children, and the families who have visited have not been willing to stay because we don't have enough children!

G. How do you expect the pastor you are seeking to participate in the congregation's Christian Formation ministries?

Lead bible studies, start small groups, hold confirmation classes, coordinate Sunday school & youth group programs.

H. How does your church build community?

Through working together on various projects and special events, functioning as an extended family.

16. Describe the preferences in your congregation by using the following continuum: Use 10 for most frequent preference and 1 for the least frequent preference. Please put a circle in the space on the continuum that best shows your church's position and an X where your church would like to be. Explain the meaning of your choices if you desire on an additional sheet designated by footnotes.

	least									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship										
Contemporary						O,X				
Traditional									O,X	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sermon Style										
Thematic								O,X		
Expository								O,X		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sermon Text										
Lectionary of the Christian Year								O,X		
Series						O,X				

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Charismatic Movement										
Knowledge of							O,X			
Involvement In				O,X						

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Evangelism Style										
Intentional Strategy and Planning						O	X			
Natural Outcome of Giftedness								X	O	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Compassion & Justice Ministries										
Interest						O	X			
Involvement in					O	X				

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ministry Focus										
Discipleship/Equipping								O		X
Community Outreach					O		X			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Church's Theology of Baptism										
Believer						O,X				
Infant					O,X					

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Church's Practice of Baptism										
Believer					O	X				
Infant						O,X				

Covenant pastors agree to recognize the baptism of infants or believers as valid. To serve the entire church they are required to practice both modes of service.

### 17. Summary

A. Describe the strengths or positive qualities of your church.

Friendly, caring in time of need. Hardworking. Hospitable to newcomers.

B. What does the congregation wish to accomplish during the next three years?

Grow in numbers and spirituality,

C. How do you expect the person you are seeking to help your church reach these goals?

Bring fresh ideas on how to increase our membership. Help us to identify what God's purpose and plans are for us in Wilton.

D. Are there any pronounced distinguishing characteristics to the life of your church?

A caring extended "family".

Choose 3 items below that are MOST IMPORTANT to you and rank them in order of priority, with "1" being LEAST important and "3" being MOST important. (All are important, but choose only three!)

2	Preaching		Crisis intervention
	Teaching		Administrative leader
1	Pastoral care		Ministry with youth
	Ministry with adults		Chaplaincy
	Counseling		Ministry with children
	Leadership development		Social justice
	Worship leader		Music
	Bible knowledge		Staff team builder
3	Evangelism/Recruitment		Church planting