

Congregational Mission Profile – A Summary

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What is the “profile”?

The *Congregational Mission Profile* (or “profile”) is one of the first steps in calling a new pastor. The profile describes our congregation's history, ministry, membership, community, and leadership needs. The intent is to help us call the leader that can best serve our congregation as we live out the Good News of God's grace in our community. This profile is essential because of the role it plays in expressing who our congregation is now and what we want our ministry to look like in the future.

The profile itself consists of 29 questions divided into five broad categories. The members of the transitional ministry team held “cottage meetings”, conducted surveys, researched our church and community, and worked together to complete the profile. This summary briefly describes our responses in each category with highlights from each.

I – Congregational Information

This section of the profile describes our congregation's history; from its beginnings in 1940, through more than 30 years in the shared facility with Valley Christian, to the building of our new facility on Carriage Lane. This journey hasn't always been a smooth one. Pastors Pietz, Westerhold, and Rieke each experienced some “ups” and “downs” during their leadership of our congregation. This section also includes some congregational statistics regarding our membership and our giving. It is encouraging to see that our membership continues to grow, albeit slowly.

II – Ministry Practices and Structure

This part of the profile describes our Sunday morning schedule of worship and education, and also our other regular ministry activities such as Wednesday evening services, Youth Group activities, and bible studies.

Our congregation is involved in a wide variety of service ministries, donating our time to quilting, working at Re-Store for Habitat for Humanity, and maintaining our buildings and property through the work of dedicated volunteers. We also provide financial support as part of our ministry, supporting Valley House, Smile Train, Lutheran World Relief, Heifer Project, Midwest flood relief, and other worthy causes on special Benevolence Sundays.

III – Mission in the Community

In this section of the profile we described attributes of our community and some of the issues facing it. These included characteristics such as the ethnic makeup of the area, information on the large employers and industries in the area, economic issues, as well as other churches in our community. This section of the profile also includes information on our ecumenical cooperation with other churches such as the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches for some services and youth activities.

IV – Where is God Leading Us?

In this part of the profile we included our mission statement; “Inspired by the holy spirit, we reach out that all may experience

the joy of Christ's love and respond in thankful service.” We described some of our current priorities as a congregation; including calling a new pastor, forming a stewardship committee and continuing our building program.

Other development activities include calling a youth director, reviewing and reorganizing our various committees, and increasing small group ministry. The spirit moves each of us differently but it seems that just about everyone at OSL has something to be excited about. We quilt, we have potlucks and craft fairs, we join work parties, we work and worship at Luther Heights, we sing, and we study the bible together.

V – The Leader We Seek

The information in this part of the profile was based on the congregational survey of ministry priorities and skills in which we prioritized 30 different ministry areas and selected the four areas we each felt were the areas of most essential need in our new pastor.

Based on this survey, the four areas of greatest need were Worship Leadership, Ministry to Youth and Young Adults, Preaching, and Interpreting Theology. The survey results also indicated that we seek someone we can turn to in a crisis for ministry and counseling; but that we understand that a pastor has a personal life too.

You are encouraged to read the complete profile and its appendices for more information.