



Spirit of Peace
 13231 Minnetonka Drive
 Minnetonka, MN 55305-4921
 612.222.1317

Spirit of Peace CHURCH PROFILE

Version 1.2 – 09/16/2024

Spirit of Peace Church, Minnetonka MN

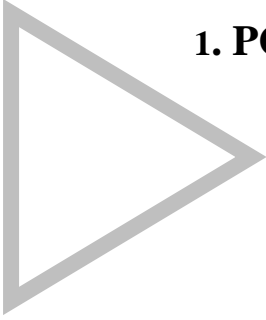
Revision	Description	Date
1.0	Original release	8/19/2024
1.1	Appended references	8/30/2024
1.2	Corrected error in salary package (originally did not include housing allowance)	9/16/2024

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. *Margaret Mead*

This is a Church Profile for Spirit of Peace Church. Our congregation, without a denominational affiliation, has elected to base this church profile on a typical United Church of Christ (UCC) model. In the process of working on this profile, we have observed that the UCC focused model, as one would expect, implies a UCC theological and organizational context. While we do not see any significant conflict with that context, it is important to point out that to the extent that any conflict exists, “Our Belief Statements” take precedence.

Our Belief Statements

- We believe the umbrella of God’s love, as exemplified in Jesus the Christ, is big enough for everyone to be welcomed.
- We believe that love, not doctrine, holds us together.
- We believe we are called to welcome and affirm all marginalized peoples, including all in the LGBTQIA+ community.
- We believe the deepest expression of our faith is found in the way we treat others.
- We believe you don’t need to take the Bible literally to discover God’s profound truths and message.
- We believe authentic spiritual growth nurtures our whole being — our hearts, our bodies, our minds and our choices.
- We believe that we learn from one another’s diverse experiences and perspectives, and it’s okay if we don’t share the exact same beliefs.
- We believe listening to others and respecting them is a deeply spiritual act, even when we disagree.
- Not all claims to truth are the same, to be sure, but we believe every claim should be measured by love.
- We believe the wisdom offered from other faith traditions can complement and enrich our spiritual journeys.
- We believe church should be a place of peace that welcomes those who believe in God some of the time, or none of the time, or all of the time.
- We believe that environmental justice guides us to a sustainable stewardship of creation.
- We believe we are interwoven with all Creation through the Holy Spirit—the Benevolent Mystery—that moves within and among us, always.



1. POSITION POSTING

- a. LISTING INFORMATION
- b. SCOPE OF WORK
- c. COMPENSATION & SUPPORT
- d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: Spirit of Peace
Street address: 13231 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka MN 55305-4921
Website: <https://www.spiritofpeacecommunity.org/>

Additional ecumenical affiliations: None

Summary Ministry Description:

Our primary ministry focuses on making a difference in our community and in the world. We see ourselves as on a journey of discovery and service, led by the Holy Spirit one day at a time. We have a strong emphasis on doing things that make a difference and spreading the Word by example. We hope to grow by attracting others who might want to work with us to make a difference in the world. We work hard to be aware of our gifts, both visible and hidden, and to match them with opportunities to contribute and grow.

We have a deep love for music, and we make music part of our ministry.

We are seeking a leader who will not only be able to lead and nurture us on our faith journey, but who will also be able to help us connect with communities and individuals who would be interested in joining us to help make a difference.

See what we have been up to in this 2023 Overview Video (<https://sopfiles.org/2023Video>)

What we value about living in our area:

The church is in Minnetonka MN, near the Hopkins border. The area is beautiful and historic. We are housed in the Minnetonka Mills church building and share their sanctuary for our services.

We have a strong spiritual connection with Mills Church and collaborate in many ways.

We are very service oriented and our service projects tend to connect more closely with Hopkins where there is greater need. But Minnetonka also has strong charity and service organizations that serve a much broader area; Intercongregation Communities Association (ICA), Sojourners Project, and Resource West for example. Many of our members were involved in the formation of ICA in 1971.

Current size of membership: 68

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

Position Title: Pastor

Position Duration

Settled – a called position intended for longer-term ministry in which the minister moves church membership to the congregation and moves standing to related association

Compensation Level

¾ Time initially, with potential for reconsideration in 2025

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

- preparation and leadership of Sunday worship including study of scripture, sermon preparation, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, guiding and sometimes finding lay liturgists, planning of music in coordination with musicians or volunteers, preaching, offering of prayers, etc.
- deepening spiritual connections and faith formation of self and others through all that is done; using prayer, bible study and service; and taking advantage of helpful resources and opportunities
- leadership development through mentoring people working in the church ministry and programs
- pastoral care in collaboration with lay people
- weddings, baptisms, and funerals
- participation in strategic planning for current and new directions in ministry
- community engagement / leading the way for the church to be an ambassador of God's love

Core Competencies:

Caring, sensitive, compassionate, likes people, good listener, makes friends easily.

Knowledgeable of the Bible and its history and shares this knowledge in interesting ways

Creative

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis for ¾ time position is \$52,550 (*based on UCC recommendation for Step B*)

It is composed of

- \$32,300 cash salary (based on \$43,067.00 for full time position)
- \$20,250 housing allowance (based on \$27,000 for full time position)

Benefits:

Benefits are consistent with those recommended in the 2024 UCC compensation guidelines, including pension, medical insurance, insurance, social security offset, professional expenses, mileage reimbursement, continuing education expenses, vacation, and holidays, as well as multiple categories of leave.

Benefits are valued at \$17,790 (based on \$20,320 for full time position)

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?

Living nearby with a housing allowance

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

Probably not applicable, but if such a need were to arise, the congregation would be very flexible in scheduling meetings around the pastor's schedule, providing volunteers to lighten the load, and accommodating needs in other unforeseen ways.

1d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

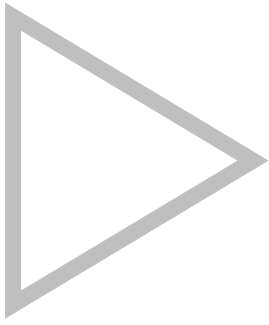
Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

- We do a lot of exciting things; especially in service of the community and nonprofit organizations. We expect our minister to collaborate with us on them and to help us gain visibility in a broader community.
- Increase emphasis and visibility in support of LBGTQIA+ issues and activities
- Continue our exceptional welcoming efforts, but find ways to expose more members of the community to it.

Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls. We believe that each of the goals described above will increase our impact beyond our walls:

- Help find new ways to connect with our local community and to engage segments of the community that are unaware of us;
- Challenge / push us to step a little further out of our comfort zone, perhaps using scripture and instruction that will ground us and challenge us;
- Help nurture our spiritual growth (We have had ongoing efforts such as weekly Aha Moments lectionary discussions and monthly Progressive Christianity Studies. We desire to expand spiritual growth opportunities in new directions such as Sunday School for all ages.);
- Help raise our visibility in social media;
- Find a way to emphasize that we are a safe place;
- Find a way to emphasize that we are a place to go to have your spirits lifted and find joy; and
- Emphasize making personal connections with people looking for community.

2. 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?

A living witness to the ways of Jesus.

Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation. Describe experiments your congregation has initiated or engaged in the past year, what were the results and where do you see your next steps?

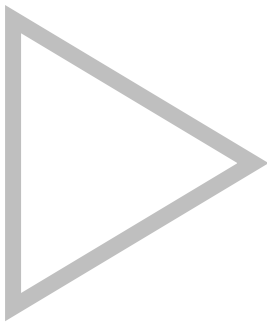
Experiment: Kids Kamp – Even though we have very few children, we decided to host an elaborate Vacation Bible School, called Kids Kamp for the most recent three years. Kids Kamp itself was a great success, engaging 33 kids and teen helpers, and 8 adults in 2023. The families were great at camp. They were very supportive. They loved the program. We tried to outreach to the families, but they ultimately decided not to establish a long-term relationship. Kids Kamp is one of the initiatives that we decided to not do this year between pastors, to try to avoid burnout.

Experiment: Perfection Free Singing – We hosted a community singing gathering with Timothy Frantzich on Thursday evenings for over a year. It was attended by about half members and half nonmembers. It continues.

Experiment: Pickleball – We continue to host pickleball every Tuesday evening. It always draws several visitors, but none as of yet have elected to become part of our congregation.

Experiment: Planet Care Roadshow – For 2023, we chose to formally become a [planet justice congregation](#) and we acted on our [Climate Action Plan](#) by creating the [Planet Care Roadshow](#). This has been wildly successful and has gotten a lot of attention, including nonmembers interested in becoming part of the initiative. This is just reaching the point where we might start seeing results, and we are continuing performances of the initial roadshow.

3. WHO ARE WE NOW?



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

- a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS
- b. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
- c. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING
- d. CHURCH FINANCES
- e. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith.

We are not credal, but our Belief Statements, which we adapted, adopted, and wrote into our bylaws are understood and embraced by all of our members, and [clearly featured on our website](#).

We use adaptations of the Lord’s Prayer or “Abba Prayer” more frequently than traditional versions. In addition, we work diligently to deemphasize the maleness of the traditional scriptures, including calling God by female pronouns and regularly rewording hymns to be gender inclusive.

When we study scripture, the emphasis is always more focused on exploring the questions than it is on getting answers.

We value the revelations offered by poetry and often use poetry in our services as one way to illuminate the scriptures.

Many of us frequently sense the Holy Spirit at work in our presence, especially in the way we are drawn to unexpected connections.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

- We are a caring community. We have and exude openness and trust.
- We’re a safe place.
- We are open-minded. We are a safe haven for the LGBTQIA+ community. We embrace and value our Lutheran “Reconciling in Christ” and our UCC “Open and Affirming” connections and relationships.
- We work well together as a congregation.
- We show up. When we cannot show up, people are eager to step in and cover for us.
- We have a very professional YouTube live cast.
- We are small in number but very generous, both with time and with money.
- We love, engage in, and are fed by inspiring music.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

- Open - The preaching isn't narrow or short sighted, and it can go in many directions.
- Comfortable / Laid Back - We don't feel like we must dress in our Sunday finest.
- Poetry – This is an important part of our services.
- Inspiring Music - Music feeds the soul.
- Genuineness.
- Teaching – Teaching is incorporated into the preaching.
- Positivity - We leave the service on a positive note.
- Thoughtful - We leave the service pondering the message.
- Perfection Free!!

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

Our primary standing committees are the Coordinating Council, which is responsible for the overall operation of the church, and Church Life, which plans and makes most activities happen. Both committees meet monthly for 1.5 to 2 hours. We are a congregation of workers, so more often than not, several volunteers organize quickly to make an activity happen. We are not as good at working intentionally to engage members that might not be as active. We need to work on that.

When something special is needed, the council will establish a small task force, with one council member as a champion, and a charter with the task description and duration, typically three or six months. For example, there is now a transition team that is responsible for making sure that important things normally covered by the Pastor are handled during the transition.

Each committee produces written meeting minutes that are reviewed and accepted by council. All minutes are available to any member of Spirit of Peace. Summaries of the minutes are also communicated by the website calendar, the Wednesday Update (a weekly mini-newsletter), and/or announcements during services.

When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month?

1.5 to two hours per month per committee, double that for individuals in more than one committee.

Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished?

The most urgent actions are communicated via phone calls, originated by the Church Life leader. If discussion is required, a Zoom meeting is scheduled very quickly, and members are notified of the meeting via phone calls.

Can you provide the next minister with a copy of an organization structure, bylaws and/or annual report to further explain the patterns of the church's activity and governance?

Yes, those and our action plan may be found at the following links:

Bylaws: <https://sopfiles.org/bylaws>

2023 Annual Report: <https://sopfiles.org/2023annualreport>

Vision / Purpose Action Plan: <https://sopfiles.org/actionplan>

3b. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	68	X
Number of active non-members:	2	X
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	70	X

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Less than 5 years:	100%	

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	2	X
Households with minors:	8	X
Single adults age 35-65:	4	X
Joint households with no minors:	30	X
Single adults over 65:	24	X

Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one on the near future (perhaps using, for example, the Welcoming Diversity Inventory)? Please note the date. Comment after the exercise:

While we have not had intentional congregational diversity conversations, diversity and welcoming diversity are clearly in our DNA, and we score very high on the Welcoming Diversity Inventory worksheet.

3c. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

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>)
Children's Groups or Classes	34	Church Life
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	70 (includes Mills Church)	Church Life / Pastor
Church-wide Meals	36	Church Life
Choirs and Music Groups	10	Accompanist / Choir director
Church-based Bible Study	8	Organic
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	35	Church Life / Pastor, semi-monthly
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	7	Pastor
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	3	Church Life / Pastor
Intergenerational Groups	8	Planet care team
Worship	40	Church Life / Pastor

3d. CHURCH FINANCES

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

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$86,300
TOTAL	\$86,300

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$130,300

See 2023 Year End Budget Report in the Annual Report: <https://sopfiles.org/2023annualreport>.

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

50.6%

What is the church's current indebtedness? None

Does your church have an endowment? No

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$0

Investments (other than endowment): \$248,000

Does your church have a parsonage? No

Describe all buildings owned by the church: None

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church:

The Mills Church building is a relatively large church building with sanctuary, offices, chapel, and gymnasium. Spirit of Peace has access to the entire facility, with certain space sharing limitations that are rarely restrictive.

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs?

worship space, pulpit, fellowship space

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

As an emerging congregation, we do not have sufficient offerings and pledges to be financially sustainable. Nevertheless, we are committed to our ministries, and we have chosen to supplement our operations from our limited cash reserves. We are well aware that our current path is not financially sustainable without increased membership, but our focus is on ministry that might also attract members rather than on initiatives focused on adding members.

3e. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Spirit of Peace is the culmination of a journey started by St. Paul’s Lutheran of Minnetonka. When a series of events lead to inability to financially support its building, a difficult decision was made to sell the building. The people of St. Paul’s spent some time in the wilderness, worshiping in rented spaces and discerning God’s direction. At one point in the journey, the people of St. Paul’s connected with and began walking with the people of Mizpah UCC. This culminated with an agreement to combine into a new congregation named Spirit of Peace.

Before this could be completed, a substantial portion of the people of Mizpah UCC changed their minds, and those of us committed to Spirit of Peace found support and worship space with Mills Church and continued the birthing process. We ultimately called Pastor Zoe Kuester to join us on our journey.

Theologically, we refer to ourselves as interdenominational, that is, we respect and honor beliefs and practices of multiple denominations. We generally believe the benefits provided by the structure of a denomination are outweighed by the limitations and restrictions.

Most of our original members and all of the authors of our constitution and belief statements have a heritage of liberal leaning Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) or United Church of Christ, so it is safe to say that we have been strongly influenced by the intersection of these two denominations.

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

Staff member’s name	Years of service
Pastor Zoe Kuester	2020 - 2024

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

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation? No

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



4. WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

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

a. COMMUNITY VISION

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

Spirit of Peace is tucked into a nice quiet western suburb of Minneapolis. But we are far from quiet, our community outreach is ever reaching.

We refer to ourselves as a caring community that thrives on giving to others through a nominate a non-profit initiative. This program started two years ago. We ask people to nominate agencies that speak to their heart. Some local organizations we have supported on an ongoing bases include the following: ICA (gathering food), Resource West (school supplies, cold weather gear, toy drive), and Sojourner Project (supplies for women and children). We have collaborated with Mills Church in the Love Makes Room affordable housing initiative.

Widening our scope through external ministries and nonprofits, we have provided sandwiches for the sandwich man (Allan Law) to feed the homeless and helped distribute food for families through Every Meal. We have supported Our Saviour’s Housing and Vail Place for people who just need a helping hand. But we don't stop there, we care about all of God's creation, for example, supporting Can Do Canines.

We have even developed our own Planet Care Road Show (PlanetCareRoadshow.org), which involves all ages, including the youngest members of our community.

Spirit of Peace continues to search for ways to engage with others in our community. Weekly pickleball gatherings are one way this has been successful.

Perfection free singing events have also been well attended. Once a year we join with neighboring religious communities for an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. This partnership has been ongoing for over 30 years.

5. 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

Rev. Chris Kliesen Wehrman, (912) 965-0178, dragonflize@gmail.com
Friend of the congregation, Supply Pastor

REFERENCE 2

Charlene Merz, (612) 845-0294, CharleneMerz@yahoo.com
Financial administrator / bookkeeper

REFERENCE 3

Timothy Frantzich, (612) 272-6265, Yourbrothertimothy@gmail.com
Friend of the congregation, music leader, Planet Care Roadshow collaborator

6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

- 
- a. CLOSING PRAYER
 - b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

As a brave and independent congregation, we pray for a pastor to serve with us, not only as a companion on the journey, but as a leader in thought and development and in reaching out into the world. As a collaborative and invested community, we pray for a listening leader whom we can embrace, and who will join us moving forward with energy.

We pray for a Pastor with a sense of calling and a passion for service.

We pray also using words from a poem, "To Serve the Lord" by Charlie DeLeo:

O Lord, I don't expect to ever have the faith of Abraham,
Nor do I, O Lord ever expect to have the leadership of Moses,
Nor the strength of Samson, or the courage of David,
Nor the gentleness of Joseph, or the wisdom of Solomon,
Nor also the fire and zeal of Paul, or the great love of Francis of Assisi,
But what I do expect, O Lord, is your calling on me some day.
What is thy will, I shall do, what is thy command shall be my joy.
If it be a small task, I'll do it well and praise your name,
And if it be a great task, O Lord, I shall not fear, for you
will always be with me.
And I shall not fail you,
O Lord, for you are all I seek to serve.
My God of Love, blessed is thy name! Amen

Our blessings to you!

6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

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 a 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.

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

Transition Team, Coordinating Council, Call Committee

Signed:

Name / Title / Date:

Debra L. Sund 09/16/2024
Date
Deb Sund, Call Committee co-chair

Randy Sund 09/16/2024
Date
Randy Sund, Call Committee co-chair

Vince Jacobson 09/16/2024
Date
Vince Jacobson, Call Committee, Congregation President

Kay Smith 09/16/2024
Date
Kay Smith, Call Committee, Transition Team

Ruth Carp 09/16/2024
Date
Ruth Carp, Call Committee

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT: Reference from Chris Kliesen Wehrman

To Whom it may concern, a response to evaluative prompts in reference to Spirit of Peace Church.

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

I am a retired pastor in the United Methodist tradition (trained at a multi-denominational seminary and personally theologically progressive). I met this congregation after I retired, as Pastor Zoe was a friend from seminary and fellow musician.

I showed up for the first time to do pulpit supply and to sing with the rehearse-before-the-service choir. The people received me in the Spirit of our common bond, with overwhelming warmth. Any visitor in this congregation experiences honest welcome – with real excitement in meeting another pilgrim on the journey, another light to shine! And members of the community are well-informed and central to the ongoing processes and work of the whole. In all my experience of what we Christ followers call “church” in the world, Spirit of Peace is the prime example of an intentional community. Their history describes it. There is nothing accidental about the congregation that distilled out of the experiences and discernments the people gathered have navigated. Every person involved is involved; there simply is no static created by cross purposes, casual, personal interests, or historical attachments to lesser values. There is a palpable intention in the community to be church together going forward and to be present in the world in the shape of Christ.

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

Anyone within the community could tell you that they hope to grow in order to have a sustainable base and impact. They are intergenerational, mainly by virtue of one family, and they clearly have the desire and capacity to invest in a multigenerational community beyond their present demographics. As in many churches, the congregation has long since gone gray, as they say. However, they are not fossils! They are bright and creative worshipers and happily hear and experiment with ideas that are outside their previous experiences.

This congregation formed with a pastor in a central position and values both the practical and prophetic purposes of pastoral leadership. The months following their first pastor's retirement have been deeply challenging. They have organized and planned and explored and visioned – and all the while kept the plates spinning week to week to week. They have done this while experiencing the unexpected and heartbreaking deaths of two different leaders within the community within weeks of one another. Still, they persist! They are doing a remarkable job of utilizing various worship leaders, preachers, pastors, musicians and more, to assemble something resembling continuity in worship. It is a lovely mosaic approach. Still, a sustainable relationship with pastoral leadership is pivotal for direction and improvement - and increased joy!

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

Mostly, I am a plain old Sunday morning preacher/worship leader at Spirit of Peace. I haven't been involved in programming of any kind. I have a schedule such that I'm not often able to stay for "afterglow," coffee and chat with folks after. So, at first glance I can't lift out any one recognizably significant experience. However, the overall impact of the church's ministry has been and is deeply significant to me. Being in community worship with this group of people is healing. Even a "plain old Sunday morning worship" is an experience of deep caring. From the greeting by one of the not only warmest but best all around "tech crew" I've experienced at any church, bar none, to the glass of cool water left at the pulpit by an unseen hand for the preacher of the day - this church loves well. Jesus seemed to think that people would know him by the way his followers treated each other. I see Jesus in this community.

I'd like to lift up one other aspect of this congregation as significant. They value Holy Communion in a way that has been rare in my experience as a pastor in a main line Protestant denomination in this country. For most worshippers I've known, Communion is a matter of course. Honored, of course. Important, sure, but honestly seen as just one of the things that happens on certain regularly scheduled Sundays of each month, part of the package. In my tradition, usually once a month is more than enough for folks. Let a congregation that values the sacramental duties of a pastor, lose access to a pastor, and watch that change! Suddenly, the privilege and sacred experience of Communion becomes crystal clear, and people long to come to the Table whenever possible. Again, I say that this community is characterized by its intentionality. They do not come to church out of habit or take Communion out of a sense of duty, but rather are present and authentic moment to moment.

Anything else you wish to share.

I love this community. This community loves well. (They are also intelligent, experienced, curious, practical, poetic, honest, brave, free-thinking, committed, organized, resourced, and more.) It is my prayer that they find a match in a pastor and fellow pilgrim who finds joy and fulfillment in the circle they will all hold together – and may it be soon and very soon to the glory of our most Awesome Creator!

Wild blessings,
Rev. Chris Kliesen Wehrman

ATTACHMENT: Reference from Charlene Merz

Spirit of Peace
13231 Minnetonka Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Re: Church Reference Letter

I have worked for Spirit of Peace as their bookkeeper for two years and have come to know the officers and members of the church quite well. They are wonderful, caring people. I could not have picked a more supporting community of people to work for.

Spirit of Peace is a relatively new church. They are established as a non-profit and have all the legal identities procured. They have a working yearly budget that is balanced and an excellent identity for the position of a called minister. They are continually working to support new non-profits locally and nationally.

The mission of Spirit of Peace is to be accepting of all who come through their doors, no matter where they are on their life journey. I see that through the actions of the congregational members and the non-profit communities they work with and serve. If there is illness, death or life struggles with anyone in the church community, they surround that person or family with support, love and an outpouring of help.

I see Spirit of Peace as a community that will continue to grow through the years, developing new relationships along the way. I am honored to be working with them and I believe any minister or new member would be accepted, welcomed, loved and appreciated.

What a great place to worship!

Regards,

Charlene Merz
10559 Noble Circle North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
612-845-0294

ATTACHMENT: Reference from Timothy Frantzich

These are my responses to the provided “Prompts for References”.

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

This community is focused on the earth. So relevant. So important. Truly a community of this moment. People are open and creative.

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

They need someone to be tasked with outreach. Below mentioned “Planet Care Roadshow” is ready to continue its work. Also outreach to other spiritual-creatives. Revamp sacred weekly service to let go of old forms. This community is so good at creating new forms.

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

I was hired to help Spirit of Peace create, out of thin air, something we eventually called “the Planet Care Roadshow.” Original songs, Chinese shadow puppets, the creation of a beautiful fold-up theater wow! We exceeded our own expectations.

Anything else you wish to share.

A great singing community