As we celebrate our bicentennial, we seek a full-time settled pastor to work with us in continuing our mission to share God’s unconditional love with each other and our community.

115 West Broadway
Granville, OH 43023
https://www.unitedchurchgranville.org/

Regional Consultant: Rev. Dr. Sandra L. DeMott Hasenauer
execrochabc@gmail.com (585) 473-3200

Pastoral Search Chair: Caroline Cook  uuceejay@gmail.com (330) 391-1006
Our 180 member congregation, 102 household units, seeks an energetic full time pastor to guide us as we journey into our third century.

Qualities We Value in a Pastor
- Intellectual
- Open minded
- Well read
- Excellent writer
- Friendly
- Compassionate
- Active in social justice

Scope of Work
- Dynamic Preaching and Creating Resonant Worship Experiences
- Participating in Social and Environmental Justice with us
- Community Connection
- Helping us grow our Congregation
- Pastoral Care
- Creative Stewardship of Church Resources

Compensation package, to be determined based on education and experience, includes competitive salary, housing allowance, and benefits.

Who We Are

United Church of Granville is an inclusive, open and affirming spiritual community, dually affiliated with the American Baptist Church and the United Church of Christ. We are located in the quaint Village of Granville, Ohio, at the foot of Denison University, approximately a half an hour’s drive from Columbus.

- We are tough-minded and tender-hearted.
- We value questions.
- We believe in hospitality, in welcoming everyone in community.
- We support people in their unique spiritual journeys.
- We believe in living our spiritual values by fighting for a just world for all and helping those in need.

In a recent survey of our congregation, the top reasons given for coming to UCG were:
- Social Justice/Activist orientation/Living out Christian Principles = 77%
- Inclusive Congregation (Open Welcoming and Affirming), Rainbow Flag = 71%
- Intellectually stimulating = 65%
- Progressive Christianity = 65%
- Warm and friendly congregation = 63%

We encourage our young people to respect and learn about other religions and spiritual practices.

- We have used a progressive Christian children’s curriculum, “Joyful Noise” as well as some lessons from the Unitarian Universalist “Tapestry of Faith”. A weeklong “Peace Village” program is open to the wider community, offering Mindfulness, Media Literacy, Connecting with Nature, and Conflict Resolution to children ages 6-13.
- Children are also encouraged to be part of the ecumenical Bible School offered by the churches in Granville
- Youth are offered the opportunity to attend the Baptist Youth Camp for a week in North Carolina each year during the summer.
- We would like to increase the number of youth and children who are active in our congregation.

The Pastor We Seek

Who We Are
Our Worship & Faith Development

- Worship is traditional in format and liturgy, but the setting is relaxed. Dress may be informal including jeans and t-shirts and shorts during hot weather.

- Young children are welcome in the service though nursery care is provided.

- The revised common lectionary tends to guide worship, interpreted through a progressive, social justice lens. We expect preaching that is resonant, thoughtful, passionate, and thought-provoking.

- We offer baptism both to adults (with or without immersion) and infants. Baptisms are celebrations—even including cake after church. We confirm young people in their faith.

  We believe strongly in freedom of religion, or what our Baptist tradition calls “soul freedom.” We follow the Baptist philosophy, the "priesthood of believers", that every person is equally able to discern the will and the word of God.

  We pray for Shalom, right relationship (peace and justice) with all creation. We describe God using many names such as, “Loving God,” “Creator God,” “Holy God,” “Spirit of Life.” As a congregation, we have a varied vocabulary for God or the Holy Spirit. Our hymnal uses inclusive language, and we often read from versions of the Bible that do not emphasize God’s gender. Some of us also find spiritual connection through other religious traditions, particularly Buddhism and earth centered religions.

  Members of our congregation take turns leading adult education programs, which are thus varied in area of study. Recent topics have included Liberation Theology, Progressive Christianity, and Bible Study (with members of St. Luke’s Episcopal next door). We also have a Women’s Spirituality Book group that studies various books on spirituality including Buddhism, and practices meditation. A Zen Meditation group that meets twice a week at the Denison University Open House. A feminist group has long been active at UCG and has read many books that explore women’s theological issues. We also offer small group discussions during the week on a variety of topics, films and speakers, and we lead a Socrates Café group at a local coffee house to bring the community together for peaceful and respectful dialogue. There is not one fixed time for adult education. We have a wide perspective in the area of faith development.
Our Assets and Our Challenges

We have a dedicated volunteer base and active congregation. Our average attendance is around 70 each Sunday. We have a rich history and a beautiful building that gives us presence in the community, but we do have challenges in maintaining it. Our next pastor will need to nurture our collective sense of creativity and courage as we work at balancing our spiritual and financial needs.

While individuals within our congregation are extremely involved in social justice activities through community agencies and organizations, our collective efforts are loosely coordinated through our congregational Mission and Social Action Network. We note the need to reflect and prioritize, to make a multi-year strategic plan to move us forward in living our faith through service and activism in our community.

As is typical of most mainline churches, we struggle to bring young people and families with children into our congregation and to grow.

We hope to find ways of meeting the needs of the larger community that includes all of Licking County. Currently 50% of our members live within the Granville Village school district, 25% live within the neighboring city of Newark (population around 50,000), the other 25% are scattered throughout Licking County and adjacent counties in suburban and rural areas.

For more information contact:

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We encourage you to visit our website to learn more about us!

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