



Faith | Love | Service

350 Saratoga Road Amherst, NY 14226
Phone (716) 839-2460 / Fax (716) 839-2166
www.christchurchamherst.org

2022 Annual Church Conference - December 4, 2022
Rev. Dr. David Kofahl, Presiding

Agenda

I. Welcome

II. Devotional

III. Business

A. Election of Secretary

B. Approval of 2021 Minutes

C. 2023 Clergy Compensation

D. Election of Trustees

E. 2023 Lay Leadership Report

F. 2021 Financial Audit

G. Bequest Resolution

H. Outreach and Volunteers in Mission Report

I. Parsonage Inspection Report

J. Safe Sanctuaries Compliance Report

K. Imagine No Racism Report

L. Disciple Making Pathway Report

M. Report of the Pastor

N. Retired Clergy Report

O. Certified Lay Speaker Annual Report

IV. Closing Prayer

*A reconciling and affirming faith community which welcomes people of all races, ages, religious affiliations, economic statuses or gender identities seeking to **make connections and offer opportunities for faith, love and service***



Niagara Frontier District

Upper New York Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5505 Broadway, 2nd Floor
Lancaster, New York 14086
P.O. BOX 365 Lancaster, NY 14086

716-276-8631
Fax: (716) 276-8632
NiagaraFrontier@unyumc.org

The Rev. Carlos M. Rosa-Laguer, Superintendent

CarlosRosaLaguer@unyumc.org

Sep 19, 2022

This letter is to authorize for the Rev. David Kofahl to conduct a Church Conference at the Amherst: Christ UMC on Sunday, December 4th at 11:30 am at Amherst: Christ UMC (350 Saratoga Rd, Buffalo, NY 14226) for the sole purpose of:

- Annual Business meeting
- Only elected members of the church council will be allowed to vote, others may have voice, but not vote.

According to Paragraph 246.7 of the Discipline, the purpose of a special session shall be stated in the call and only such business shall be transacted as in harmony with the purposes stated in the call. Notice of time and place of the charge conference shall be given at least ten days in advance by two or more of the following:

- from the pulpit
- in the weekly bulletin
- in local church publications
- by mail/e-mail

A recording secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings and forward those minutes to the District Office within two weeks of the scheduled meeting.

May God's blessing be on your work together in the name and spirit of Christ.

In Christ,

Carlos Rosa-Laguer
District Superintendent
Niagara Frontier District
Upper New York Conference

2023 UNY CLERGY COMPENSATION REPORT FORM

Pastor Name: Daven OskvigChurch: Christ:AmherstGCFA Number: 148407Effective Date: 1/1/2023

Acknowledgement: This form has been reviewed and approved by the Church Conference.

Signature of
Pastor:Signature of
S/PPRC Chair:Signature of
District Supt:CHURCH is to provide an approved copy to the Church Treasurer

DISTRICT is to provide ONE COPY to the Conference Benefits Office

OPTIONAL WORKSHEETS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE NEXT 2 TABS . PLEASE USE THE FORM BELOW TO REPORT COMPENSATION.

LINE #		Church A	Church B	Church C	Church D	
1	When reporting more than one church on this form, enter name of each church and % of TOTAL COMPENSATION paid by that church (see #NOTE below for explanation)					TOTAL= 100%
2	Is this a change in Percentage?	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3	Gross Salary: (see optional worksheet for items included; include money given for health allowance for part-time clergy)	\$ 50,004.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,004.00
4	Parsonage: IN THE BOX BELOW: Does the church or charge have a parsonage? Type Yes or No (If YES Line 3 will be multiplied by .25) This will apply to ALL churches in the Charge that owns the parsonage.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	If #4 is No, enter housing allowance (in lieu of parsonage)	\$ 12,848.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,848.00
6	Pension Base Compensation: (add lines 3-5) This is the basis for CRSP, CPP, and UMPIP contributions.	\$ 62,852.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,852.00
7	BENEFITS Pension: Enter CRSP or UMPIP in box to the right based on the following criteria: CRSP for clergy whose total appointment is 75% to 100%. UMPIP for clergy whose total appointment is 50% to 74%.	CRSP				
7a	CRSP is calculated at 13.8% of Line 6. UMPIP is calculated at 9% of Line 6.	\$ 8,673.58	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,673.58
8	CPP: for all full time clergy or three-quarter time Members in Full Connection, Provisional or Associate Members (line 6 x .03)	\$ 1,885.56	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,885.56
9	Conference Health Insurance: (\$14,400 for full time clergy only)	\$ 14,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,400.00
10	Accountable Reimbursement Plan: MAKE ENTRY IN 10a. & 10b. BELOW:					
10 a	Professional Expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
10 b	Continuing Education	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
10 c	Total ARP: (Full time Total = minimum of \$3,500 for single church; \$4,500 for multi church appointment)	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00
11	TOTAL PASTORAL COMPENSATION PACKAGE (add lines 3, 5, 7a, 8, 9, 10c)	\$ 91,311.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91,311.14

NOTE: When multiple churches share the cost of a part time pastor, the percentage of compensation does not necessarily equal the percentage of appointment. For example: A pastor appointed 50% in total split between two churches, Church A is 25% and Church B is 25%. Those are the appointment percentages. Each church pays half the pastor's salary or 50% of compensation. Thus the percentage of compensation is 50 + 50 to total 100%.

Date entered in database: _____

Initials _____

For Conference
Office Use Only

Date transmitted to Wespath: _____

Initials _____

Clergy Housing Exclusion Resolution

WHEREAS Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 has provided that a minister of the Gospel may exclude from gross income the fair rental value of a home provided and any allowance to provide a home; and

WHEREAS the Rev. Daven W. Oskvig is a duly ordained, commissioned or licensed minister of the church, who is performing substantially all of the religious duties of the church; and

WHEREAS, the Christ: Amherst Church has established a gross salary for the Rev. Daven W. Oskvig in the amount of \$ 50,000 for the period 12/31/2022 to 12/31/2022;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

\$ 7,152 of the above noted gross salary

☐ and an additional \$ 12,848 in lieu of parsonage

☐ in addition to use of a parsonage, located at _____

_____, plus all utilities

be provided to the Rev. Daven W. Oskvig to the extent it is used to provide a home, and be considered to be a Clergy Housing Exclusion; and that said amount is excluded from reportable compensation under Section 107 of the IRC of 1986.


Clergy Person Signature

Church Representative Signature

Date: 11/14/2022

Church/Charge Conference Recording Secretary's Minutes Form

DUE at the close of Church/Charge Conference

Church/Charge Christ: Amherst Date: December 7, 2021Pastor: Daven W. Oskvig Secretary: Pam Lopez

Number in Attendance: _____ Please attach the sign-in sheet(s) to this form.

Items for Approval

Last Year's Annual Audit: Yes ☒ No ☐Last Year's Charge Conference Minutes: Yes ☒ No ☐

Celebrating Ministry:

1. Disciple Making
2. Outreach & VIM Ministry
3. Pastor's Report
4. INR-Imagine No Racism

Annual Church/Charge Conference Business Items:

Pastoral Compensation for 2022

Please attach a copy of the signed compensation & ARP forms (only if new appointment or change ARP)

5. Gross Salary approved: \$ 47,423.13

5a. Housing Exclusion Resolution: If adopted, please attach a copy of the resolution.

5b. Accountable Reimbursement Plan \$ _____ (only if new appointment or change)

Amount approved: \$ _____

✓ 6. Election of Trustees: Please attach ballots used.

7. Local Church Leadership Interface/ Nominations & Personnel approved

8. Safe Sanctuary Compliance

9. Accessibility Report

Motion to allow
 ① Barbara
 ② Karen
 Holly

If Applicable:

10. Declaration of Candidacy for Licensed/Ordained Ministry

11. Certified Lay Ministers: Please attach copies of signed report forms.

12. Certified Lay Servant: Please attach copies of signed report forms.

13. Lay Speaker: Please attach copies of signed report forms.

Margaret Bermiez
 approved -

Christ United Methodist Church

Team List 2023

ARCHIVES TEAM

- Chuck Gilbert
- Bob Loesch
- Al Tolsma

CALLER TEAM

- Barbara Mitchell (Chair)
- Barbara Carier

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM (Meeting TBD)

- Mary Ball
- Sharon Ferrelli
- Marie Miller
- Kay Barber
- Lisa Lawson (chair)
- Valari Zanghi

CHURCH COUNCIL (1st Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.)

- Brad Loliger (Chair)
- Pam Lopez (Secretary)
- Team Chairs

ENDOWMENT TEAM

- Bob Lovell
- Tom Nye
- Tom Weaver

HOSPITALITY TEAM (4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.)

- Mary Ball
- Barb Critoph
- Pam Lopez
- Peggy Bermudez (Facilitator)
- Donna Hammond
- Toni Neidel

LAY LEADER

- Peggy Bermudez

- FINANCE TEAM (2nd Tuesday of every other month, 7 p.m.)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------|
| - Bob Lovell (chair) | - Marion Rowlands (Memorial Rep) | - Sue Estee |
| - Donna Yungbluth | - Pat Noyes | - Trustee Rep |
| - Greg Maliken (Treasurer) | - Doris Schanzlin (Financial Secretary) | - SPRT Rep |
| - Chris Smith | - Peggy Bermudez (Lay Leader / Stewardship Chair) | |
| - Cheryl Zelasko (Bookkeeper) | - Brad Loliger (Church Council Chair) | |
-

LAY LEADER

- Peggy Bermudez
-

LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- Peggy Bermudez
- _____ (Alternate)
-

LIBRARY TEAM (1st Monday every month, 10:30 a.m.)

(Shared Leadership)

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| - Karen Hoffmann | - Linda Ladowski |
| - Linda Parete | - Julie Wrisley |
-

MEMBERSHIP TEAM

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| - Diane Klenk (Chair) | - Donna Hammond | - Jan Rhinehart |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
-

MEMORIALS TEAM

- Karen Hoffmann (Trustees Representative)
-Marion Rowlands (Finance Representative)
-Grace Markello
-

MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| - Peggy Bermudez | -Rev. Daven Oskvig | -John Miller (Facilitator) |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|

NOMINATIONS TEAM

2023

- Sandy Cumming

2024

2025

OUTREACH TEAM (3rd Tuesday, every month, 7 p.m.)

- Kathy Weaver (Co-Chair)

- Barbara Critoph

- Peg Nye

- Lee Watson (Co-Chair)

- Diane Klenk

- Peggy Bermudez

- Toni Neidel

PRAYER TEAM

- Sandy Cumming (Chair)

- Grace Markello (ex-officio)

- Jan Rhinehart

- Diane Klenk

- Peggy Bermudez

- Phyllis Nicholson (ex-officio)

- Doris Schanzlin

- Toni Neidel

- Paula Kreib

- Rev. Daven Oskvig

- Cindy Fisher

SPIRITUAL FORMATION TEAM

- Peggy Bermudez

- Rev. Daven Oskvig

- Diane Klenk

- *Janet Cook*

- Beth Reilly

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS TEAM (3rd Thursday of each month, 7 p.m.)

2023

- *Al Wrisley*

- Roger Johnson

- Peggy Bermudez (Lay Leader)

2024

- Paula Kreib

- David Lawson

- Julie Andrews

- Dennis Scaringi

2025

- *Jim Cook*

- *Beth Riley*

- *Barb Mitchell*

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

- Sandy Cumming

- Carol Sabatino

- Peggy Bermudez (Facilitator)

TRUSTEES (3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.)

2023

- Phyllis Maliken
- Christopher Sciolino
- Tom Weaver(Chair)

2024

- Ed Gilbert
- Karen Hoffmann
- John Miller

2025

- *Sandy Cumming*
- *Tom Nye*
- *Scott Smith*

VISITATION TEAM (One Thursday every month, 10/11:30 a.m.)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| - Julie Wrisley (Chair) | - Peggy Bermudez | - Barbara Critoph |
| - Sandy Cumming | - Peggy Nye | - Rev. Daven Oskvig |

WORSHIP TEAM (ALTAR GUILD) (Meeting TBD)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| - Herb Wilber & Nora Townsend (co-chairs) | - Barbara Carier |
| - Donna Hammond | - Marie Miller |
| - Pat Noyes | - Lee Watson |
| - Julie Wrisley | - Ex Officio: Minister of Music |

Due By Mar. 15, 2022



Upper New York Conference
The United Methodist Church

CHURCH Christ Amherst UMC

DISTRICT Niagara Frontier

2021 Local Church Annual Financial Audit

For the period beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021

Due March 15, 2022

The Finance Committee shall make provision for an annual audit of the financial statements of the local church and all its organizations and accounts, with a full and complete report to the annual charge conference. (The Book of Discipline 2016, ¶258.4.d)

CHURCH/CHARGE

1. Receipts, Disbursements, and Balances:

Record	Jan 1, 2021 Balance	Cash Received and Recorded	Transfers [+/-]	Total Disbursements	Dec 31, 2021 Balance
Current Expense Fund	131367	257199		253375	135191
Benevolent Fund	6588	6628		8145	5071
Building Fund					
Improvement Fund	42073	19166		35230	26009
UM Men or Equivalent Group					
UM Women or Equivalent Group					
UM Youth					
TRUSTEES, INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS (list account fund name in first column)					
A. Endowment	566228	73509		25000	614737
B.					
C.					
D.					
E.					
F.					
CLASSES OR GROUPS (list name in first column)					
Connections	835				835
Memorial	20478	5665		1781	24362



Upper New York Conference

The United Methodist Church

Record	Jan 1, 2021 Balance	Cash Received and Recorded	Transfers [+/ -]	Total Disbursements	Dec 31, 2021 Balance
OTHER FUNDS (list type of fund in first column)					
TOTAL AMT OF CASH (ALL ACCOUNTS)	767568	362168		323531	806205

2. Exceptions and Recommendations:

The Auditing Committee is to list below any inconsistencies in keeping records and make appropriate recommendations:

See attached sheet

3. Auditor(s) Affirmation:

The Auditor(s) has examined the accounts listed above, has reconciled receipts and disbursements with bank deposits, checks issued for vouchers drawn, and bank balances, and has found the balances displayed to be correct and the records properly kept, except as noted above.

Alana McKenzie
Auditor or Auditing Committee Signature(s)

7163805719

2/4/22

Phone number of lead auditor

Date Audit Completed

Rev. David W. Isley
Signature of Pastor

2/5/22
Date

Copies to the District Superintendent, Pastor, Finance Chair, Recording Secretary

Upper New York Annual Conference
BEQUEST RESOLUTION

Christ: Amherst
Church: _____ **District:** Niagara Frontier
 Christ: Amherst 12/04/2022
Place of Church/Charge Conference: _____ **Date:** _____
Glenn & Beverly Hurst
Whereas a bequest from the estate of _____ was received
Name of person
 Christ: Amherst 09/11/2022
 by the _____ Church on _____,
Date of bequest

Christ: Amherst
Be it resolved that the _____ Church gratefully accepts the
2500.00
 bequest in the amount of \$ _____.

Be it further resolved that the bequest be disbursed for the ministry of the
 Christ: Amherst
 _____ Church in the following manner *(give details as to*
how these funds are to be used in the ministry of the church

These funds are: ☒ unrestricted ☐ restricted according to the following stipulations:

This resolution was: ☐ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Amended as follows:

By number of counted vote of: _____ Yes _____ No _____ Abstentions

Signature of Secretary **Date:** _____

Niagara Frontier**Upper New York Annual Conference***Our mission is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places***Outreach and Volunteers in Mission Report**

(Due two weeks prior to Charge/Church Conference)

Church Name: Christ UMC Date: 11/15/22Pastor: Pastor Daven O Skuig

Primary Volunteer in Mission or Mission/Outreach Contact for the congregation:

Name: Kathy Weaver Phone: 574-0942Address: 23 Colonial Dr
Amherst NYEmail Address: Kdweaver23@verizon.net**OUTREACH**

Name any additional outreach programs that your church would like to celebrate.

Hearts for the Homeless - upcoming partnership w/
mobile Food PantryJourneys End Resettlement - Home Again - setup Apt.
for family of 8 from Syria w/ financial asst.Little Food Pantry - very successful due to food
insecuritymake a Difference Day - Provided free Shred suc.made meal for Seneca St. + Provided community with
way of giving coats, winter wear, food, clothingTurkey Baskets - Asst. N. Presbyt w/ their efforts**Please continue on separate piece of paper if more room is needed.*

Giving Tree- Gifts for SpcA, Veterans,
Family Justice Ctr. Haven House
+ Gateway

Uganda Team- mission team of 4
went to Uganda to provide spiritual
+ medical care

Crafting for a Cause- made Fidget quilts
for folks w/ dementia, made
Curtains for Journeys end Resettlement St.

Church Name: _____

Who are United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM)?

UMVIM are clergy and laity serving locally, nationally or internationally in a ministry endorsed by the host United Methodist church, partner church or agency, or non-governmental organization. UMVIM serve with the poor, build churches, assist in disaster response and community health and nutrition programs and in leadership training.

Number of VIM teams organized or sponsored by your local church? _____

Number of people who participated in a VIM team? Adults _____ Youth _____

Number of people from your church who participated in a team organized at another UMC, denomination, etc.?

Adults _____ Youth _____

Known amount of money spent on or donated to the project \$ _____

How were the lives and faith of the volunteers impacted?

How was the life and faith of your congregation impacted?

What impact perceived or measurable did the experience(s) have on the recipients(s)?

Name of person completing this form: Lee Walborn

District Office sends copy to UNYAC Volunteers in Mission Coordinators:

Kristina Clark

Kristinaclark@unyumc.org

Blessings on all who are a Christian presence to those who are served by these ministries for "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40

Due two weeks prior to Charge/Church Conference and will be reviewed by DS and Safe Sanctuaries Team.

Congregation Christ: Amherst District Niagara Frontier

Appointed Pastor or Pastoral Leader Daven W. Oskvig

Pastor or Pastoral Leader has completed at least one Conference 3-hr Basic Safe Sanctuaries Training? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If No, please explain why? _____ Date training was/will be completed: 2016

Check the groups with whom your congregation has ministries:

☒ Children ☐ Youth ☒ Elderly/Shut-ins ☐ Special Needs Adults ☐ Other vulnerable adults*

*(A vulnerable adult is someone 18 or older, who is less able to care or protect themselves as well as adults who work with children and youth, where accusations of abuse could mistakenly arise, or those who have been abused as a child or adult)

Items are based on Upper New York's current Safe Sanctuaries Minimum Standards which can be found at
https://www.unyumc.org/images/uploads/UNY_SafeSanctuaries_Minimum_Standards_updated_2016.pdf

Directions: Check either YES or NO. If NO, please explain why and what date the church/ministry will be in compliance.
To be in compliance, all answers should be YES for items 1-8, 9B.

1. The church's SS policy and procedures has been reviewed within the annual orientation of clergy and those who work directly with children, youth and vulnerable adults this year? ☒ Yes ☐ No If Yes, When? _____
2. The church's Safe Sanctuaries policy & procedures reflect UNY's Minimum Standards. ☒ Yes ☐ No
Please email church Safe Sanctuaries Policy to safesantuaries@unyumc.org or attach a copy to this form.
3. A current Safe Sanctuaries policy is on file in the District Office. ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. All clergy & laity have knowledge of and access to the policy. ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Background checks are completed every 2 years for clergy, paid workers, and volunteers who have regular and direct contact with children, youth and vulnerable adults (i.e. youth group, Sunday school, VBS, Visitation teams, etc.) ☒ Yes ☐ No
6. All adults who have regular and direct contact with children, youth, and vulnerable adults have completed at least one Conference 3-hr basic Safe Sanctuaries training that includes all topics listed in The Minimum Standards. (i.e. youth group, Sunday school, VBS, Visitation teams, etc.) ☒ Yes ☐ No
7. Attendance records are kept for all ministry events/activities involving children and youth. ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. The church maintains files of workers that include documents completed in the recruiting and screening process and of their training and service. ☒ Yes ☐ No
9. A. Our congregation includes sex offender(s). ☐ Yes ☒ No
B. If YES, a covenant for constant shepherding is in place for sex offender(s). ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature of Pastor or SS Team chairperson Rev. Daven W. Oskvig Date 11/14/2022

Clergy 1:1 INR Questions 2022

1. How have you engaged with anti-racism work in the past year?

Adult studies / learning opportunities, preaching and emphasis in worship, work in Teams, and looking within including frank conversations about white privilege.

We also became a reconciling congregation in March 2021 to further emphasize our commitment to inclusivity for all.

We also hosted an event with speakers from Buffalo Public Schools focusing on racial and economic disparities and its connections to the school-to-prison pipeline. This was an ongoing focus, study, and conversation within the church and continued following the event held.

After the horrific events in downtown Buffalo at Tops Market, we also engaged directly with ways we could offer support and hospitality as we explore partnering and journeying with those of that neighborhood through ongoing connections and relationships to heal racial divisions and seek a future where all are seen and treated equally.

2. What resources will be most helpful in continuing or beginning anti-racism work?

☐ Offering *Imagine No Racism* curriculum at church

☐ Sermons

☐ Adult Sunday School

☐ Administrative/Church Council Meetings

☒ Book discussions

☒ Movie or video discussions

☐ Participation in an anti-racism march

☒ Hosting anti-racism speakers/groups/topics for congregation

☐ Bible study

☐ Other (Please provide details):

"Do You Have a Disciple Making Pathway/Process/Plan?"Name of District Niagara FrontierChurch or NFC Name Christ: AmherstDate of Report 11/14/2022Name of Person Filling Out Report Rev. Daven W. Oskvig

Your church has been challenged, along with every other congregation, to focus on this main thing in the coming year. For information on this vision and on related definitions and expectations, please check the UNY Conference Website. For now, we are seeking to understand our current reality, and establish a baseline from which we can ALL grow. Please answer the following simple question honestly, and the follow-up questions:

Does your church already have a simple, clear disciple-making plan/pathway that is in use?

- ☒ YES. We have a plan and are working to fully implement and improve it.
- ☐ NO. We have a plan approved by leaders but have not started implementing yet.
- ☐ NO. We have been working on it, but currently have no finalized plan.
- ☐ NO. We have not even started working on it, but intend to.
- ☐ NO. We are not even sure what a "disciple making process" is.
- ☐ NO. We have no intentions of working on this.

If YES, please attach documentation that describes this plan. And, use this space to answer these questions:

- a. What % of the people who are active in your congregation understand and can articulate this plan, and even describe it to a newcomer in 1-2 minutes? 50 %
- b. What % of the activities in your church are fully aligned with this plan? Or, to put it differently, what % of the things you do together as a church are helping people to grow in their discipleship, following the guidelines of your pathway? 75 % . Our goal is 100%!
- c. What are the next 1-2 steps you intend to take to make your plan even more fruitful, and your church activities even better aligned with your disciple-making plan?
- We will continue to reinforce this as a primary goal in our decision making.

- d. What do you need from your District Leadership Team to help you with these steps?

Nothing at this time.

- e. True or False: Our church would be willing to help other churches to create a plan! ☒ T ☐ F

If NO, please attach a separate sheet to describe more specifically where you are in the process toward developing a clear, simple disciple-making plan for your church:

What is the primary impediment to your church making more progress on this goal?

What do you need from your District Leadership Team to help you with these steps?

Discipleship Process

Vision - To Make Connections and Offer Opportunities for Faith, Love and Service

Application of Vision (Discipleship Process) - Invite, Know, Accept, Share

Invite

The beginning of this process is to invite. This is the accountability that all (including clergy) have to the process of evangelism. In the passion for the message of salvation in Christ and the ongoing presence of God in the world in the Holy Spirit there must be an enthusiasm and joy to invite others to hear this message. This can take many forms, but the most effective form is the personal invitation. Using postcards, all present in worship are invited to take one for themselves and at least one to share with someone else. In sharing, it is an invitation to come. The encouragement with that invitation is the encouragement to offer a ride and perhaps lunch to follow seeing that invitation must be linked with connection for it to have any efficacy.

Living the vision of making connections and offering opportunities begins at this stage beginning at the door (whether physical or digital) through hospitality and greeting primarily linked with the first part of that vision - making connections. This is inclusive of outside groups who use the building to those who participate in worship. Invite is the period of experiencing God's love in Christ through community.

Know

The second step is to know. This relates is a followup to the invite stage where it is about learning (coming to know) God's love for us in Jesus Christ. This occurs through worship, participation in spiritual development, prayer, daily bible study, and spiritual friendships.

It aligns with the second part of our vision, offering opportunities.

Accept

This leads to the third step, to accept. Accepting is coming to the place of active and committed participation in the faith community (membership, in leadership, giving, etc.). This is greater involvement and integration within the faith community such as through educational opportunities, missional engagement, and participation in a leadership Team. This is to accept God's love in Christ in active participation and application in all of one's life to grow in faith.

It relates primarily to our vision through involvement in faith, love and service.

Share

The final stage is share. A natural outcome to accepting is sharing God's love with the world. This takes the primary form the re-formation of one's life, but secondly in service and reconnected back to the first stage, inviting others. This seeks to empower us to find our voice to share our faith with friends, family, neighbor, and stranger both in all that we say and do. Moreover, this is also related to direct missional engagement within, and more importantly, beyond the walls of the church which will touch the lives of others.

This is a complete embodiment and experience of the vision 'making connections and offering opportunities in faith, love and service.'



Report of the Pastor

The report of the pastor shall include the names of all persons involved in the changes in membership and other items as outlined in the 2016 *Book of Discipline* (§§ 234, 340). This report should cover as fully as possible the work of the pastor. Care should be taken not to duplicate the reports of the Church Council, committees, organizations, and officers of the charge.

Copies of this report should be filed with the recording secretary, pastor, district superintendent and chairperson of witness or evangelism ministries.

Christ	Church	Amherst	Charge
Niagara Frontier	District	Upper New York	Annual Conference
For the period beginning 12/07/2021		and ending 12/04/2022	
DATE OF PRIOR CHARGE CONFERENCE (01/01/2020)		DATE OF CURRENT CHARGE CONFERENCE (01/01/2020)	

1. List those who have been received into baptized membership since the last report.
(Attach as a supplement.)
2. List those who have been received into professing membership since the last report.
(Attach as a supplement.)
 - a. On profession of faith or restored.
 - b. From other United Methodist churches.
 - c. From other non-United Methodist churches.
3. List those who have been removed from the professing membership since the last report.
(Attach as a supplement.)
 - a. By action of the Charge Conference, or trial court, or by withdrawal.
 - b. By transfer to other United Methodist churches.
 - c. By transfer to other non-United Methodist churches.
 - d. By death.
4. Have the membership records and rolls been audited (§231)? ☒ Yes ☐ No If not, why not?

5. The Pastor shall give a report on the state of the church and an account of pastoral ministry as it relates to (§ 340):
providing support, guidance, and training to the lay membership in the church; ministering within the congregation and to the world; and administering the temporal affairs of the congregation. Include as a part of the report a statement outlining the pastor's program of continuing education and spiritual growth for the past year and plans for the year to come (§ 349). (Attach as a supplement.)

Signed R. Daven W. Oskvig
Printed Name Daven W. Oskvig
Date 11/14/2022

1. Baptized

2. Received Members

- a. 0
- b. Jim & Janet Cook
- c. 0

3. Removed Members

- a. 0
- b. 0
- c. 0
- d.
 - 1. Mary Parsons
 - 2. Kevin Cetola
 - 3. Lois Lewis
 - 4. Barbara Weaver
 - 5. Paul Staley

5. God is good ... all the time ... and all the time ... God is good! What a joy it is to return to our full programming including the incredible ministry of connecting people in so many opportunities that this building and faith community does. We have watched as weekly in-person attendance continues to rise, relaunched aspects of congregational life such as coming forward to receive communion, engaged with our community through Make a Difference Day, reached out as a community in partnering with Journeys End to settle a refugee family from Syria, and led or hosted countless groups offering growth and support to participants. Congregational practices such as 2nd Sunday 2nd Helping Offerings, Mission Moments, and Mental Health Moments have returned to respond to community needs, highlight our ongoing partners in ministry, and foster mental health awareness and support as a Caring Community. We continue uphold our participating with the Reconciling Ministries Network and grow as a Reconciling and Affirming faith community in several ways such as the adjustment and adaptation of inclusive language in our worship, language into our personnel policy handbook, and promotion among our publicity. While economic forecasts, denominational instability, and a host of other current challenges should dampen the future outlook, Christ Church is in a solid position with great potential. I feel that the best years remain ahead which will look very different from those of the past, but filled with incredible opportunities for faith, love, and service.

While we continue to experience facility renewal as our Family Room has taken shape, even more extensive changes and improvements have been made digitally. We completely overhauled our website, relaunched our Facebook page, and increased our

use of online giving. Our building continues not only to offer a welcoming space physically, but digitally with guest wifi and monitors to welcome groups and share information. There are now a number of ways to engage throughout the week in-person and online with new content and opportunities arising often.

It is now undeniable that the 'first' visit made to the church is online. This will continue to be a growing edge in how well we are able to understand and engage with those finding us, worshipping with us, and in some cases in ministry with us exclusively online. As with all aspects of ministry, we seek to undertake our digital ministry with excellence. To that end, we continue to strive toward an online worship experience that is as close to that of in-person as possible. The improvements we have made in projection and camera have led to excellent picture quality. We continue to work on camera shots / angles to further engage the online congregation. Sound quality, particularly capturing the organ, is a growing edge we have been consistently working on. Also, we are looking at the ability to expand the reach of our livestream to multiple platforms simultaneously (such as on both Youtube and Facebook Live). In addition, we are exploring how we can foster hospitality in engaging directly with those joining us online. Moreover, using social media provides innovative ways of targeted advertising which we hope to incorporate for special events and opportunities at Christ Church. Additionally, We continue to explore additional ways that we can foster stability and support through online giving. A major focus of my continuing education has been on these components and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

Undoubtedly the desire and the struggle remains attracting and retaining people in their faith journey. This is most acutely felt in the area of family and children which has not shown the same rebound following on the pandemic. It can become easy to focus solely on what is not and who is not, forgetting who is and the good being done. Yes, there are those churches which buck the trend. Generally, however, this is now our culture. The incredible stability that Christ Church has shown in my mind should be perceived and experienced as success and growth given that cultural reality. For those churches which can weather this time, those that survive and maintain excellence will be best placed when people recognize that absence within their lives and seek to reconnect with faith.

We have faced other challenges, particularly the sudden death of our beloved Minister of Music Paul Staley and the unexpected departure of our Office Admin Julie LoTempio after a year. Advertising those openings in the right places and seeking discernment for the right people to populate them has been no small task. Thankfully it looks like we are moving beyond with Sarah Wachowski now our Office Admin and Nicholas Steltzer hired as our new Minister of Music (begins March 1, 2023). I feel that the most significant challenges administratively in this next year is to bring the staff of Christ Church into a cohesive and supportive whole. Only our Financial

Secretary has a longer tenure than myself, making our church staff relatively 'young' in the sense of the length of service. Staff development will be essential in maintaining our stability and fueling future success.

In addition to staff changes, one reality I keep pondering is our leadership structure. Scanning over the administrative and ministry teams, the number of those involved is an incredible witness to the passion of so many represented among those 20 teams. It has become no small task to identify leaders and fill teams. Last year I began exploring different leadership structures to better fit who we are now and help to empower and release us more in ministry and less in administration. This structural changes take time to implement only following on the congregation's decision to move in such a direction. I am still far from understanding and applying such changes, but hope to be sharing just what it could look like and how it would function.

While I am disappointed that once again our application for the Lilly Foundation clergy leave grant was denied, I am prayerfully discerning applying one final time. I have thoughts on further refinements and clarifications which can assist the grant readers to understand the experience and the hoped for outcomes which are namely in the area of community formation and spiritual growth. In the meantime, the SPRT has encouraged me to exercise the clergy benefit of 4 weeks of continuing education / spiritual growth allowed every 4 years (UMC Book of Discipline Par 350.2). This time away is in addition to vacation time. I am looking to use this time during the summer of 2023. My ambition is to compile the midweeks messages as a daily devotion and submit for publication.

Conversations that began among the Amherst United Methodist Churches have unfortunately stalled. After repeated attempts to begin dialogue finally succeeded, correspondence and interest evaporated. This may yet be another sign of how defensive and defended each respective faith community remains. I am still convinced that individual churches cannot exist in separate silos trying to undertake all aspects of mission and ministry successfully alone. The era along with the corresponding strength / size of each separate faith community to undertake a diversity of ministries successfully with excellence has passed. Moreover, financial constraints related to maintenance of individual buildings and respective positions strangle spending on mission and ministry. Provided we can all recognize that the foundations of our respective faith communities was and remains to deliver ministry to this community, then egos might be humbled enough individually and corporately to explore what that means for today without feeling like its an assault on any single church or position. That, however, remains a hope and a prayer rather than a reality.

We all are experiencing the pain of inflation which is expected to make the cost of ministry rise on average 9% to do the same thing we have done in the past. Through the pandemic we were very blessed through with financial stability. Our

stewardship campaign focused on the essential support this church offers in providing safe, secure and inviting space for those in the wake of grief, young people developing musical skills, and the youngest beginning their educational journey. All have shared that their ability to offer these services would be severely compromised if not impossible without our partnership. Our hope is that response this year to forgo one simple pleasure will help us to meet this rise in cost so we can maintain our ministries unimpeded. As highlighted above, this is complimented with new and innovative ways to give online. I am convinced that we will meet this challenge as an understanding of connection to our vision with excitement remaining about what is and what can be at Christ Church.

We have all dealt with constant change over the past few years. The solid foundation under my feet has been my faith, your support, and our commitment to the vision God has placed upon us to 'Make Connections and Offer Opportunities for Faith, Love, and Service.' With these three things I know that we can face the future unafraid whatever it may bring. To be sure, it will not look like the past and may even be very different from the present. Whatever it will be, provided we remain strong in our faith, connected as a community, and committed to our vision we will be able to meet it!

Report for year ending 12-31-22

Name (Mrs. ___ Ms. ___ Mr. ___) Margaret (Peggy) Bermudez

Address 58 Gatewood Lane City/State/Zip Williamsville, NY 14221

Telephone (716) 626-4897 E-mail bradbermudez@hotmail.com

Name of District Niagara Frontier

Name of Church Amherst: Christ UMC

Church Address 350 Saratoga Rd. City/State/Zip Amherst, NY 14226

Church Telephone (716) 839-2460

1. Are you currently a Certified Lay Servant? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. What year did you complete your Basic Course? _____
3. What year did you complete your Advanced Course for certification as a lay servant? _____
4. What was the title of your Advanced Course? _____
5. Which of the following required Lay Speaking courses have been completed?

<input type="checkbox"/> Leading Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Leading Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/> Discovering Spiritual Gifts
<input type="checkbox"/> Preaching	<input type="checkbox"/> United Methodist Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> United Methodist Polity

1. What year did you first become certified as a Lay Speaker? 2017

2. Date of last review of Lay Speaker status: 11-28-21 Approved: ☒ Yes ☐ No

3. What year did you complete your last Advanced Course? 2021

4. What was the title of your last Advanced Course? Mission u: Bearing Witness in the Kindom by Darryl W. Stephens

I request recommendation of my pastor and my charge conference to begin/renew as a Lay Speaker for the ensuing year.
Date 11-15-22 Lay Servant Margaret Bermudez

I recommend concurrence with the request of this person to begin/renew as a Lay Speaker for the ensuing year.

Date _____ Pastor _____

The church council/charge conference of _____ (church/charge)
recommends the above person begin/renew as a Lay Speaker for the ensuing year.
Date _____ Church Council Chair or District Superintendent _____

(To be completed by those requesting renewal as a Lay Speaker)

SECTION VI: MINISTRIES BY THE LAY SPEAKER

During the past year, I have participated in ***caring ministries*** as follows:

- ☐ served as a volunteer in a care-giving institution ☐ provided one-on-one caring
☒ at a hospital, nursing home, or to a shut-in ☐ in membership/evangelism visitation
☒ served in caring/outreach projects (food pantry, prison ministry, etc)
☐ other caring activities (Please list) _____

During the past year, I have participated in ***leading ministries*** as follows:

- ☒ served as member of committee, board, commission, council, task force, etc.
☐ as a volunteer at a community agency
☒ at my local church
☒ beyond my local church
☒ on my District ☒ Conference ☐ Jurisdiction ☐ General Church level
☒ other leading activities (Please list) Regional Administrator for Stonecroft Ministries

During the past year, I have participated in ***communicating ministries*** as follows:

- ☒ brought message in 1 worship services
☒ served as worship leader in 6 services
☒ delivered 5 devotional messages
☒ taught 17 classes
☒ shared my faith story 3
☒ other speaking activities (Please list) Spoke for 3 area Christian Women's Connections

During the past year I have participated in additional opportunities for ministry as follows *(Additional writing space below)*:

SECTION VII: PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BY THE LAY SPEAKER

In what activities have you engaged and/or what books have you read or used during the past year to help you develop your devotional life; improve your understanding of the Bible; improve your understanding of The United Methodist Church; and to improve your skills in caring, leading, communicating and speaking?

A Conspiracy of Love study, School to Prison Pipeline presentations (NFD UWF), Catch the Spirit, COSROW Retreat

SECTION VIII: FEEDBACK BY THE LAY SPEAKER

1. Do you feel called to be in service in any area of ministry, either in the church or outside the church, in which you are not currently involved? ☐ Yes ☒ No (If yes, please list those areas below.)

2. What additional training or support do you need or would suggest to further your ministry:

I am currently participating in the 10 hour Transforming Evangelism course

3. Give any recommendations you have for improving Lay Servant Ministries in your District or Conference:

(Note: District Directors are encouraged to respond to any comments within this section.)

NOTICE: After this form is completed and signed by those listed above, the Recording Secretary of the Charge Conference is requested to reproduce **THREE** copies: (1)Lay Speaker, (2)District Director of Lay Servant Ministries, (3)District Superintendent. The Recording Secretary of the Charge Conference keeps the **ORIGINAL**. (Revised September 2016)

Additional Writing Space
(Please be sure to indicate which question you are answering.)

SECTION VI: MINISTRIES BY THE LAY SPEAKER

Leading Ministries: Vice President of District UWF, Nominations Team for Conference UWF

Communicating Ministries:

Taught: Miracle on 31st Street (Advent study by Susan Sparks); Love, a Tiara, and a Cupcake (Susan Sparks) and Witness at the Cross (Lenten study by Amy Jill Levine)

Collaborated with others to lead: Bearing Witness in the Kingdom (Darryl W. Stephens) and Christianity and World Religions (Adam Hamilton)

SECTION VII: PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BY THE LAY SPEAKER

Regularly participate in UWF online opportunities: Just Energy for All, Faith Talks, Voices from the Field, Book Talks

Reconciling Ministries Network: Virtual Front Porch Conversations

Books: How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi, The Land is Not Empty by Sarah Augustine



Upper New York Conference

The United Methodist Church

Retired Clergy

Report to Charge Conference

Name of Clergy James M. Pollard

Address 11 Spinfrift Ct., Apt 4

City Williamsville State NY Zip 14221

Home Phone () Cell (716) 361-6222

Email Address jmpump21@aol.com

Clergy Status Elder, full connection

Charge Conference Membership Amherst: Christ

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Number of Funerals | <u>0</u> |
| 2. Number of Preaching Engagements | <u>0</u> |
| 3. Number of Weddings | <u>1</u> |
| 4. Number of Baptisms | <u>0</u> |

Narrative Report: (in a couple of paragraphs, please summarize your year of ministry)

Wedding, Dec. 18, 2021: of our daughter, Dr. Laura Pollard Shone to Bradford John Lyndaker at The Woodcliffe Hotel, Town of Perinton, NY, an occasion of great joy!!

Signed James M. Pollard

Date Nov 16, 2022

Report for year ending 12-31-22

Name (Mrs. ___ Ms. ___ Mr. ___) Margaret (Peggy) Bermudez

Address 58 Gatewood Lane City/State/Zip Williamsville, NY 14221

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(Upon completion of the required course work, the Lay Speaker candidate will be examined by the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries and recommended to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries to be considered for certification.)

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