Minnesota Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church Appointed Leadership Ministry Area 122 W. Franklin Ave. #400, Minneapolis, MN 55404



United Methodist Church Profile

This is to be filled out by the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee. It is in response to Paragraph 432.1 *of The 2004 Book of Discipline*. It is designed to help the bishop and the superintendents in the consultation and appointment making process. Information provided is important and will be used in an advisory way.

Church: Mt. Bethel UMC	District RV
Charge: Inver Grove Heights	Date March 2013

I. The Community

A. Describe the ministry area your congregation serves. (i.e. inner city, suburban, small city, rural. Include size of community, and appropriate demographics such as ethnic makeup, average age, projected growth and household income.

According to Mission InSite Nov. 2012.

The 2012 population of Inver Grove Heights (IGH) is 33,961 with a projected 2017 population of 34,806.

- 1. IGH population is growing at 2.5%, a somewhat slower that the state average growth rate of 4.2%.
- 2. The average population per household is 2.5.

The Racial-Ethnic diversity of our community is projected to remain about the same over the next five years.

- 1. 3% Asian,
- 2. .5% Black-African American,
- 3. 9% Hispanic or Latino,
- 4. 81% White

The average age of IGH has been rising for several years, currently is 38 yrs old. It is projected to rise over the next five years. Children 19 years of age and younger are declining as a percentage of the total population. The other end of the phase of life, adults 55 years of age and older are increasing as a percentage of the total population.

Phase of life	2012	2017	Estimated
			change
Ages 0 to 4	6.4%	6.2%	2%
Ages 5-19 school age	17.8%	16.8%	- 1 %
Ages 20 to 34	21.4%	21.1%	3%
Ages 35-54	29.1%	26.1%	- 3 %
Ages 55 and over	25.4%	29.7%	+ 4.4%

Summary of school age children findings: Overall, children are aging through but there is some evidence of a resurgence of children in the younger years.

- 1. Early Elementary children ages 5-9 are projected to increase as a percentage of children between 5 and 18 years of age by 4.9%.
- 2. Late Elementary to Middle School aged children ages 10-14, between 5 and 18 projected increase of 1.1%
- 3. High School aged children 15 to 18 are declining as a percentage of children between 5 and 18 by -6.0%.

Households with children under 18,

- a. Married Couples 72% this is a 3.5% increase in the past five years,
- b. Single Parent households is 26% which is declining, -3.5%.

In IGH the current estimate of Marital Status reveals

- 1. Adults more likely to be married 56.9% than the state average for adults.
- 2. The percentage single never married 28.8% is lower than the state average.
- 3. Divorce is more prevalent 9.3% than the state wide average.
- 4. Our widowed population is 3.8%.

Male & Female Marital Status

- 1. Woman are more likely to be divorced than men living in IGH
- 2. Men are less likely to be divorced than women living in IGH
- 3. Women are less likely to be single, never married than men living in IGH
- 4. Men are more likely to be single, never married than women living in IGH
- 5. Women are more likely to be widowed than men who live in IGH
- 6. Men are less likely to be widowed than women who live in IGH

The Average 2012 Household Income for each household, whether family or non-family is \$87,208. The average Household Income is projected to grow by 7.3% to \$93,578. The estimated per capita income (average income of all persons within a household, including children) of 2012 is \$34,761. Income is projected to decline by -4.4% to \$33,221.

Education Attainment of adults in Inver Grove Heights Is greater than the State average: HS Diploma, GED, or additional Post-Secondary Education 94% in IGH, State average of 91.5%. No HS Diploma or GED 6% in IGH, State average of 8.5%.

Religious Practices:

- a. At about State average,
 - i. 20.3% of IGH population identify it is important to attend religious services.
 - ii. 35.5% identify themselves as conservative Evangelical Christian.
 - iii. 16.2% enjoy watching religious TV programming.
- b. Somewhat Below the State average,
 - i. 43.9% of IGH consider themselves a spiritual person
 - ii. 14.7% identify their faith as really important.

B. How has your community changed over the past five years?

Inver Grove Heights' (IGH) strength is its small town 'community' experience in the metropolitan, Twin Cities area. In the past 5 years the City of IGH has taken on re-doing updating streets. Most of the city's homes, churches and businesses have received some type of county street or road assessment(s) tax, including our Mt. Bethel Church. The city of IGH ten years back began building senior housing campuses (Timber Hills, Inver Glen, Gramercy Park, White Pine, Sterling House) with an anticipation that aging senior households would transition to senior housing campuses, opening existing 1950-1970 era single-family housing up for starter families. The 2007 recession hit and many seniors have chosen to remain in their homes. Our neighborhoods are now in transition of young adult home ownership and senior citizen home ownership.

Our <u>Inver Grove Heights Community schools</u>, <u>ISD #199</u>, are proud of student achievements in and outside of the classroom. In the past 7 year's enrollment – class size has remained constant. There is 100% enrollment in all-day kindergarten. 74% of teachers have Master's degrees. Simley's composite ACT scores over the last 5 years are above State average. Simley's graduation rate is 97%. Student demographic is 65% white, 18% Hispanic, 11% Black 5% Asian.

Additionally in the past five years the City of IGH is experiencing the opportunity to shop within city limits with the addition of Wal-Mart, Tractor Supply, small business strip malls and most recently the opening of Target. Previously residents traveled to Eagan, West St. Paul or Woodbury for shopping.

C. What future changes do you see occurring in your community?

Moderate growth in IGH population and retail offerings. Our IGH Community School's expectation is continued growth in student achievement(s) in and outside of the classroom. Our IGH neighborhoods established in the mid 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's homesteads transitioning into new home ownership.

D. What is your congregation known for in the community?

Mission work through Neighbors, Inc. (we, Mt. Bethel Church are one of the founding Churches), Building a new Sanctuary, having a daycare, having a well maintained, clean facility, and friendly welcoming Worship currently of a traditional format.

E. Name three or four other strong churches in your community, and what are they known for? Good Shepherd – large Lutheran congregation, multiple 45 minute Sunday morning services; St. Patrick's Catholic – large membership and new building/Sanctuary, multiple purpose room and kitchen to hosts events and receptions; River Heights Vineyard – new building and growing congregation alternative worship options, small groups.

F. What community services and resources (cultural, recreational, and economic) are available to a pastor and family?

Strong community minded school system, community recreation center, <u>The Grove</u>. A small town feel within a large metro area. We are along the <u>Mississippi River Regional Trail</u> system. IGH is a short drive to/from all major sporting, shopping venues and the airport.

II. Church History

A. Give a brief history of this congregation. (Founding date, mergers and/or splits, time of greatest membership and strength, time of greatest problems etc.)

Mt. Bethel began at the end of 1960 as a mission of the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Church. Membership and strength was significant in the early years. Facility growth of a church addition in 1983, a Sanctuary and basement classrooms were built in 2004.

There was consideration of closing the church in the 1990's. Mt. Bethel Church re-evaluated its mission and ministry plans and moved forward in cultivating vitality in the Church and our IGH community.

B. Record the following information for the past five years.

Year	Avg. Worship	Avg. Sunday	Membership	# of	% of
	Attendance	School		Professions of	Apportionments
		Attendance		Faith	Paid
2012	77	3	156	0	100
2011	73	10	145	2	100
2010	77	14	144	0	100
2009	84	14	150	5	100
2008	90	19	152	6	100

C. As you reflect on the data above, what trends do you notice? What do you think are the reasons for any upswings or downturns in the data?

Traditional Sunday morning worship time is not responsive to busy - active family schedules. Some families with children would like Sunday school at the same time as worship – They have moved to other community church that offers that. We have an active (and aging) senior population that travels south in the winter, and families travel to the cabin in the summertime weekends. Our median age of regular attenders is over age 55. Our current senior memberships very much enjoy traditional hymnal music or

special small group or solo music. We do have a history of having a contemporary worship band a few years back when we had a large group of parents with school age school kids. The kids grew and headed off to college and young adulthood. Our Easter and Christmas attendance multiplies as family members come home or back worship.

D. List the clergy who have served this church for the past 20 years.

David E. Brown 2013 - present John McEachran, 1999-2013 Judy McEachran 2010-2012 Kathleen Zielienski, 1993 – 1998 Al Soderfeld, 1987 – 1993 Omar Hardin 1960-1969 and 1985-1987

III. Current Ministry Assessment

A. What are the three primary strengths of this congregation?

We love God, and growing in relationship with God and each other. We see ourselves as friendly, and desire to reach new people We like to serve – working on short-term mission projects, or participating in small group ministries and activities.

B. What is the purpose/mission/vision statement of this congregation? How well is it known by the members of the congregation? How is it used in the development and shaping of ministry?

The mission of the Mt. Bethel UMC is OUTREACH: Outwardly Utilizing Talents Reverently Extending A Christian Hand. Reaching out to invite people to Jesus Christ, nurture them in their faith, and send them forth into the world to spread the Gospel.

The United Methodist Church:

General rules:

- 1) Do all the good you can to as many as you can.
- 2) Do no harm, avoid evil.
- 3) Stay in love with God.

Mission: "To make Disciples for the transformation of the world" Matthew 28:18-20

The Mt. Bethel UMC building was constructed by the efforts and offerings of many individuals. The facility and its contents are to be used to the best of our human ability to provide a warm, inviting place, not only for our current members and friends, but also for those friends that we have not yet met. It is intended by design to be a multi-use space, used by many groups, to promote the Kingdom of God on Earth. In the past year the church building/facility has undergone capital improvements; a new roof, new boiler, new furnace and air conditioner, all lighting was updated to energy star ratings. A new software program Servant Keeper was purchased to coordinate membership data and giving.

Our Administrative board uses Mt. Bethel's mission statement, the UMC general rules and mission statement to guide decisions of mission and ministry of Mt. Bethel Church.

C. What ministry is the church most noted for or most proud of?

Our support of local missions & ministry such as: <u>Neighbors, Inc.</u> – through food shelf, monetary donations, clothing donations, Christmas time gift cards for needy families, Operation Christmas

child-shoeboxes and IGH Back to School Bash (backpack/school supply program with community churches).

D. What are your current goals and how are you working to achieve them.

- 1. Spiritual and Ministry goals of inviting new people increasing our worship and Sunday school attendance
- 2. Deepening faith through prayer, small group Bible studies, adult membership and adult baptism.
- 3. Continue to support our General Fund operating expenses for local mission and ministry. Additionally paying our MN UMC apportionments in full, and meeting our Imagine No More Malaria pledge.
- 4. Move towards extravagant giving to reduce and/or eliminate mortgage debt and grow our Endowment Fund.
- 5. Promote use of our building to service community needs.

Currently rental agreements with Iglesia Cristiana Church and Amazing Beginning Day Care.

6. Becoming more relevant with social networking

We are working to achieve these goals through prayer, reading our Bibles, communicating our vision, and building relationships with one another. Jan-June of 2012 we actively participated in the <u>Healthy Small Church initiative</u>. We have received a grant to make our web page more relevant and to increase small-group ministry Bible study.

E. How would you describe the attitude of the congregation towards change, and its theological stance?

Change: we demonstrate typical behavior, at first reluctant to change. When given opportunity(s) to contribute to change, change is embraced. We acknowledge that change is a part of life.

Our congregation would not be described as liberal. Generally to be considered conservative, evangelical. We believe the Bible is the Good news, Word of God for the people of God.

F. What is your sense of the congregation's overall health and vitality? Are there any unresolved conflicts?

- a. We have a beautiful, aging congregation that desires for the Mt. Bethel Church to grow and be a driving force in our community of God's love and goodness.
- b. Our seniors' know that growing the Body of Christ, Mt. Bethel Church requires *change* to meet the needs and times of younger folks today.
- c. Regular attenders are comfortable with traditional worship style; they know that Church growth will require change.
- d. Our seniors enjoy growing in relationship with younger generations.
- e. Generally speaking we have little "baggage" or congregational conflict.
- f. For multiple years Mt. Bethel's budget operated in the black. Two years ago a generous giver and her family members left to worship in another local church. It has taken our church a bit over 2 years to make budget modifications- adjustments and foster additional giving to our General Fund to be back operating in the black.
- g. We have a beautiful facility to worship God in and use to do His good works.

G. What do you see the congregation doing and/or becoming in the next five years?

- a. Inspiring worship alternative to our current traditional worship.
- b. Continued nurturing and support of our senior members
- d. Empower and equip lay leadership and grow small group ministry/Bible study in and outside of the church walls.

- e. Improve our social media ministry
- f. Offer topical small group ministry(s)

H. What is the challenge this congregation is facing, or where is its growing edge?

- 1. Adapting to a more current worship experience through music, technology and message. A challenge is our senior population knows this is needed for church growth but the conflict, a desire of traditional worship format.
- 2. Communicating to members and friends of Mt. Bethel Church to be a financial part of something that changes peoples lives the Body of Christ, generous giving generous offerings.

IV. Description of Ministry Areas.

Please provide a brief description as well as your assessment of the effectiveness of this area.

A. Welcome and Hospitality: How do you reach new people and connect them into the life of the congregation? Have you become a "Certified Welcoming Congregation?"

Our 2010 and 2011 Worship team and other interested persons participated in <u>FUSION</u> training author Nelson Searcy. Pastor Judy McEachran facilitated our coaching. We continue to practice FUSION turning first-time guests into fully engaged members of Mt. Bethel.

B. Worship: What are your worship times, styles of worship offered, and any distinctive elements? How often do you celebrate Holy Communion, and in what method?

Sunday's

Sunday school 9 am

Fellowship 10:00 to 10:25 am

10:30 a.m. Traditional format & music. Holy Communion, served the first Sunday of the month. Fellowship time again following worship 11:35am-noon or when folks leave.

C. Children and Youth Ministries: Include Sunday school times, curriculum, confirmation program, and other groups such as UMYF.

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Using the curriculum <u>Witness</u>. One-room school house format Confirmation for 8th and 9th graders as needed.

Casual youth group offered by parent leadership.

Encourage youth to participate in Summer camp and provide scholarship(s)

D. Adult Faith Formation: Do you have an intentional plan of discipleship? If so, what is it? List any on-going groups such as Alpha, Disciple, Companions in Christ, Walk to Emmaus in the table below. We have participated-offered sessions of <u>Unbinding the Gospel</u> & Unbinding The Heart and <u>R12</u> and <u>Treasure Principle</u> small group studies in the past 2 years. Two years ago for Lent we used <u>Unbinding The Heart small group format</u>. Members of the church who chose to participate enjoyed the relationship growing with each other and Spiritually. Those who did not participate were offended and rather vocal about this small group ministry offered. Generally speaking the vocal folks were older, yet older persons also participated and found Unbinding the Heart a very meaningful experience.

Small group	Describe	# of Sessions	
UM Woman's Bible Study	Characters of the Bible study.	Monthly	
UM Men's group	Relationship building & mission work	Monthly/9mo	
Prayer Groups	Monday Morning prayer group	weekly	
Quilting group	Putting pieces together, relationship building & prayer.	Twice a month	
Retires breakfast	Relationship building, prayer	Twice a month	
Retiree cleaning ministry	Mission & ministry, relationship building. Clean the church top to bottom.	Weekly	
FMSC (Feed My Starving Children)	Mission & ministry, relationship building	Monthly	
Choir	Music ministry& relationship building	Meets weekly Sept-Jan and Mar-May	
Sunday school	One-room Bible study format using Witness Curriculum, relationship building	Weekly/9 months	
Christians Cooping with Cancer Support Group	Relationship building, experiencing God and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.	Monthly/9mo	

E. Leadership Development: How are you developing new leaders and training current leaders?

- 1. Jan June 2012 Members of our Administrative Board participated in 6 Healthy Small Church seminars sponsored by the conference.
- 2. Currently we receive a Healthy Small Church Initiative grant for Website Site development and new Adult Small group ministry- Bible study training and high interest curriculums.
- 3. 2010-2012 Mt. Bethel received an investing in congregation grant to cultivate spiritual vitality by implementing coaching small group ministry for adults.
- 4. 2011 attended UMC sponsored It's Not Your Parents' Offering Plate seminar by Cliff Christopher
- 5. Additionally we provide financial support to staff for on- going education and training.

F. Outreach and Service: Do you support any missionaries? How are you involving people in hands-on mission projects? What community needs are you seeking to meet?

<u>Globally and locally</u> We seek to help people experience God by our active participation and financial support of:

- 1. Missionary Shannon Goran in the Ukraine,
- 2. Two children in India through Bibles for the World,
- 3. Support to Indigenous Ministries
- 4. Imagine No Malaria
- 5. Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child.
- 6. Feed My Starving Children,
- 7. History of paying 100% on our Apportionments
- 8. Locally, monetary and merchandise support to Neighbors Inc.
- 9. IGH Back to School Bash (backpack & school supplies) with Inver Hills Assembly of God Church
- 10. Financially to our Simley HS Senior all-night party.
- 11. Supply bible(s) to those who do not have one in our IGH community.
- 12. Participating in Adult River Bend Mission trips to areas of need in our Country.
- 13. Host Boy Scout Troop 450.

G. Community Life: How do you provide congregational care to people, and what ways do you find to celebrate together as the body of Christ? List any Fellowship Groups below. UM Men meets once a month on Saturday mornings (October-May) for a pancake breakfast. Lenten Soup Suppers every Wednesday evening during Lent and the occasional potluck dinner following worship. We are soooooooo good at sending cards, personal visits and phone check-in to shut-ins or those who are hospitalize or ill. We have a group that gathers occasionally to just sing, outside of the structured choir practice. Our seniors meet every other week for breakfast and meet weekly to clean the church.

V. Congregational Data

- A. Average age of the membership: 55-60 years old.
- B. What is the financial health of the church? Are you balancing the budget? Please attach a copy of your current budget.

We ended 2012, \$10,000 in the black in our General Fund. We were approximately one thousand dollars in the red in our Mortgage account. Currently -2/2013 we have a shortage in our General Fund account of \$1,188 and an overage in our Mortgage Fund of \$300. See attached budget.

- C. Do you have building debt? Yes Amount? \$441,679
- **D. Do you have an endowment?** Yes, recently established, Nov. 2012 **Amount?** \$2,247

What is it used for? At this time the Mt. Bethel Endowment is in a growth phase. It is established as source for estate planning giving with the intent to support Local ministry and missions.

E. Do you do an annual stewardship campaign? Yes What kind? Informally facilitated by our Finance Committee

- F. Paid Church Staff (List positions and # of hours per week)
 - a. Office Administrator salaried averaging 24 hrs per week.
 - b. Organist 1 hour per week,
 - c. Music director as needed.

G. Is there a par	rsonage? NO. De	scribe condition,	when built, and	amenities. C	heck those
items below	that are provided	by the church:			
clothes washer	□ clothes dryer	☐ dishwasher	□ lawnmowe	r □ snow	blower

VI. Leadership Needs

- A. List the gifts/skills you desire for pastoral leadership.
 - a. Spirit filled.
 - b. Creative Contemporary methods to express timeless truths of The Bible
 - c. Skilled communicator
 - d. Enthusiastic, engaging
 - e. Highly trained in growth-vitality of a healthy small church.
 - f. Organizational skills.
 - g. Passion to create/facilitate a new lifecycle for Mt. Bethel Church
 - h. Leader, direct involvement in peoples lives.

i. Confidence builder

B. Given your current ministry, what are the areas you most need a pastor to give leadership to.

Change. Leading young people of our community to experience God. Engage young adults & families to become active, engage participants in the Body of Christ, the Church. Pastoral compassion for our aging members of the Church.

C. Given that no one person can meet every need, what do you need least from a pastoral leader at this time due to the situation of your church, or having sufficient resources in this area. We least need a quiet, reserved on-looker; someone relaxed about getting things done. We least need someone who is quick to judge, indecisive, procrastinating, critical. Small churches sometimes rely on a pastor to do building maintenance. We have a trustee committee worthy to fulfill required building facility repair and maintenance tasks. We have a positive footing on local and global mission work for a small church.

D. What else would you like the bishop and the superintendents to know about your congregation, and pastoral leadership?

- a) Our leadership understands this is a God-thing. Prayer, listening for God's direction, our current habits must change. We need to pioneer, be relevant. Rebirth.
- b) Yes, in change there will be conflict.
- c) Mt. Bethel leadership is adaptive, imaginative, innovative risk takers for growing the Kingdom. We will acknowledge and nurture one another through change conflicts.
- d) We pride ourselves on being friendly. We enjoy meeting guests to Mt. Bethel Church and growing in relationship with them.
- e) We desire a balance between doing mission work (being a missionary movement Church) and growing the faith community though homegrown original-unique-creative, relevant worship, prayer, Bible study, fellowship and doing mission work.
- f) Our seasoned members of Church know *change* is needed for the Mt. Bethel Church Body of Christ to be a healthy small church in the IGH/SSP communities.
- g) Mt. Bethel has a dedicated prayer team.
- h) Our senior regular attenders recognize that our worship habits need to be modified adjusted revised altered changed.
- i) Our desire is to make Disciples for the transformation of Inver Grove Heights and surrounding communities.

This record should be review annually by the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and updated as needed.				
Signature of Lay Leader Polly Tabbert Date March 5, 2013				
Updated April 2008 F:\Share\FORMS\Church Profile Template 4.08.doc				

Mt. Bethel UMC Administrative Council 2013

Administrative Council Chair	Jamie Gregg
Lay Leader	Polly Tabbert
Lay Delegate	Rollie Eck & Kathy Behrendt
Secretary	Sandy Schmidt
Membership Secretary	Pamela Roesler
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	
Church Treasurer	Pamela Roesler
Financial Secretary	Cyndi Zahn
Committee on Finance, Chair	Don Roberts
Committee on Education, Co-Chairs	Jamie/Lora Gregg
Committee on Mission/Outreach/Evangelism (MOE)	Judy Akemann
Board of Trustees, Chair	Ken Alich
Committee on Worship, Co-Chairs	Kathy Behrendt & JoAnn Larson
United Methodist Women, Representative	Mary Anich
United Methodist Men, Representative	Dean Freer
Youth Council Representatives	Shelby Gregg
Boy Scout Representative	Mark Zahn
Members at Large	Vern Emerson, Tim Bomstad
Hamline Representative	Travis Anderson

Mt. Bethel UMC Committee on Membership 2013

Endowment Committee

Linda Emerson, Chair Dan Glenn

Paul Willig Ellen Bomstad Mark Zahn

Jill Lewis

Dean Freer

Jamie Gregg, Ad Board Chair

Ken Alich,Trustee Chair Don Roberts, Finance Chair

Pam Roesler, Treasurer Pastor John McEachran

Music Committee

Jill Lewis Polly Tabbert Kathy Behrendt Mark Roesler Judy Alich

Pastor John McEachran

$\underline{Outreach/Mission/Evangelism}~(MOE)$

Judy Akemann, Chair Terry Akemann Carolyn Cress

Deloris Hammer Ellen Kirchner Jean Kirkus JoAnn Nelson

Fred & Annie Pfeiffer

Don Roberts Sara Zahn

Board of Trustees Ken Alich Chair

Ken Alich, Chair Judy Alich George Anich Mike Monjeau Ardi Roberts Larry Rue Dale Schmidt Jim Smith

Gary & Kris Wallerich

Dan Tabbert

Finance Committee

Don Roberts, Chair Cyndi Zahn, Financial Sec. Pamela Roesler, Treasurer Polly Tabbert, Lay Leader Cheryl Paine, Chair/PPR Ken Alich, Chair/Trustees Darlene Ashley, UMW Treasurer Rollie Eck, UMM Sec/Treasurer Travis Anderson Paul Willig

Education Committee

Lora Gregg, Chair Amy Anderson Barb Mahovlich Ellen Bomstad Mark Zahn Polly Tabbert Kelly & Mike Farber

Pastor Parish Relations

Cheryl Paine, Chair
Barb Mahovlich
Mary Anich
Vern Emerson
Evelyn Holman
Dick Larson
Ron Larson
Jake Tabbert
Rollie Eck, Lay Delegate
Kathy Behrendt, Lay Delegate
Shelby Gregg Youth Rep.

Nominating Committee

Pastor John McEachran Polly Tabbert, Lay Leader Judy Akemann Darlene Ashley Don Roberts

Worship Committee

Kathy Behrendt &
Joann Larson, Co-Chairs
Linda Emerson
Dean Freer
Cheryl Gackstetter
Mark Kelly
Kathy Petrie
Darlene Ashley
Dale Schmidt, Head Usher
Judy Alich (Kitchen
Supplies Coordinator)
Ken & Caroline Willis (Altar Cloths)
Communion Stewardship
Frank & Connie Dorniden
Francis & Marilyn Ertel