



Associate Clergy
Ministry Profile
Wayzata Community Church
www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org



WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH
inspire the world

Inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus

WHO WE ARE

"If you are searching, saved, black, white, brown, gay, straight, sure, unsure, older, younger, peace-filled, pain-filled, able-bodied or differently-abled—no matter your family structure or failures or successes, no matter the questions you have, no matter your status or where you are from—know that you are welcome here." —*Lindsay Letters*

For more than 140 years, Wayzata Community Church has lived up to its name as a church that serves the community. We give thanks for our roots as a vibrant UCC church in the western suburbs, and we are always looking for new and creative ways to "be the church" while serving the community around us as God calls.



We celebrate the wide variety of people and gifts that make up the body of Christ. We are committed to diversity, knowing that to follow Jesus truly we must welcome and open our hearts and doors to everyone. We embrace our guests as we do our members... with love, respect, and uncompromising compassion.

We are a church that is committed to serving a changing world by listening, learning, praying, questioning, and responding to both God's work in us as a community and God's work around us in the world.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We Believe:

- In God's unconditional love and grace, which extends to all people
- In Jesus Christ whose life reveals God's redeeming work
- In the Holy Spirit which brings us into closer harmony with God, creation, one another, and ourselves

Therefore, as Disciples We:

- Follow the path of Jesus Christ, while respecting other pathways to God
- Join together in community to learn, grow, and follow the ways of Jesus
- Reach out in love to a world in need locally, nationally, and internationally
- Find more grace with God in the search for meaning than we do in absolute certainty
- Are united by God's love, called to serve, and inspired to grow

OUR VISION AND MISSION

We believe God is active in the world and that God has a specific calling and claim on our unique gifts, history, and resources as a church. Through our Vision and Mission we explicitly join God's work in the world in moving toward a less divided and divisive world. You, as an individual, have the power to inspire the world by finding your own unique way of living out the call of our Vision and Mission.

OUR VISION

Inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus.

OUR MISSION

- To be a caring community drawn together by God's grace and called to live out Christ's love personally
- To extend a welcome invitation to all people, embracing each other with uncompromising compassion
- To challenge boldly our own complacency through courageous conversation and transformational worship
- To share our extraordinary gifts relentlessly—near and far—through life-changing mission and service



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CORE VALUES

Enjoy Worship

The community we share and the good we do emanate from our joy-filled, life-changing times of gathered worship, as we bring our whole selves before God. "Come, worship the Lord, for we are God's people." (Psalm 9:6-7)

Live into Community

Everything in our world tells us to go it alone, but we believe God designed us to live in community. In this way, we share God's magnificent love with one another. (Philippians 2:4)

Celebrate Difference

We see difference as an asset rather than a threat. We grow when we encounter people whose gifts and worldviews challenge and teach us. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

Embody Integrity

We seek to honor God by being the same in our inner lives as we are in the ones we show the world— both as individuals and as a community. (John 1:4-7)



Practice Grace

We live gently toward one another, assuming the best of one another as we work together. God offers us daily grace, and we in turn offer grace to each other. (Matthew 7:12)

Embody Generosity

We freely offer our whole selves—what we have and what we can do—to God and to one another. In the words of Jesus, "Where our treasure is, there our heart is also." (Matthew 6:21)

Love Serving

We are not called to exist as a community of faith for our own benefit but to serve the world. (1 Peter 4:10)

THE ORGANIZATION

Wayzata Community Church (WCC) has been helping people with their faith journeys for more than 140 years. In 1881 twelve people—concerned with their own unfulfilled spiritual needs and the wild, rough, undisciplined life in the area—covenanted together to "bring civilization to the wicked, uncivilized village of Wayzata." With borrowed money, a church was built on a small tract of donated land at the corner of Rice and Walker Streets.

The new Congregational Church of Christ in Wayzata was completed and dedicated in September 1881. Twenty-two people joined the church in the first few months, and by the end of two years the membership had grown to 70. Ten ministers, including one woman, the Rev. Alice R. Palmer, served the Wayzata Congregational Church during its first 27 years. In 1912 a new church was built to accommodate the growing congregation. This building lasted only four years, burning down in February 1916. But in seven months it had been rebuilt—such was the determination of the congregation to "carry on the important work that our church has to perform in this community."



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In the fall of 1948, the church officially adopted the name Wayzata Community Church. Also in 1948, ground was broken for a new church on a new site, the corner of Ferndale and old Highway 12 (now Wayzata Boulevard), our current location. On November 27, 1949, the new Wayzata Community Church was dedicated.

Today the church has grown to minister to nearly 3,000 confirmed members, hundreds of children, young people, and friends of the congregation. WCC is among the top ten largest congregations of the United Church of Christ. It has become a physical and spiritual landmark in the lives of its members and the Wayzata community. Besides regular worship services, people come for musical events, author visits, summer camp, classes and workshops, scouting organizations, support groups, WCC's Nursery School, the Annual Rummage Sale, and other community events.

KEY STRATEGIES

Outreach

Summer camp, intercultural development working groups, local and international mission projects, and interfaith experiences mark our faith community as a place that desires to focus on reaching out and building relationships around the community.

Dough

We are looking to engage mission differently by using the Monday-Friday gifts of our congregation to support and grow good ideas to serve the world. We just awarded \$200,000 to and are partnering with five social enterprises to bring hope, healing, mentoring, and jobs to people in the Twin Cities and around the world.

Parables/Special Needs Ministry

We are ministering to the special needs community and their families through relevant and impactful worship, meaningful activities, and supportive relationships like Best Buddies... creating space in our community for people with all abilities to connect in community and to grow in faith.

Adaptive Change

The world is changing rapidly, as is the church. We desire to be a community that is nimble and creative in how we follow Christ and serve the world.

Strategic Leadership Initiative

We are committed to a Strategic Leadership process that includes key lay leaders and staff and asks two questions: how might the "DNA" of WCC address the pain points of our community as an expression of God's mission in the world, and how can we more completely live out our mission to "Inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus"? This process will lead us into the next chapter of our life as a community.

THE LOCATION

Wayzata Community Church is located 11 miles (20 minutes) west of downtown Minneapolis in the beautiful Lake Minnetonka area. Wayzata is a charming town with a number of specialty shops, boutiques, professional services, and restaurants. With a population of 3,938, Wayzata retains its small town mystique while remaining a viable downtown community.

Wayzata's summer leisure activities focus primarily on water—swimming, sailing, boating, and waterskiing. In the winter, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and ice-fishing are



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activities enjoyed by many. The city prides itself on its beautiful lake-front gardens. Minneapolis and St. Paul, also known as the Twin Cities, are home to more than 2.5 million people. Our Twin Cities have more professional live theaters, more live-theater seats, more theatre performances and productions per capita than any U.S. city outside New York, also surpassing other metropolitan areas of our size in the number and variety of performances in dance and music. The Twin Cities metro area has a number of nationally renowned art, music, and theatre organizations including: the Guthrie Theater, Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Orchestra, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO), Minnesota Opera, the Walker Art Center, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (mia), and the Minnesota Museum of American Art.

Minnesota is also a state of enterprise, evidence of which is plentiful. Although Minnesota has only 1.73 percent of the U.S. population, it is the headquarters of 4 percent of the country's 500 largest publicly traded companies. Per capita, it has more Fortune 500 company headquarters—20 of them—than any other state. Nationally recognized companies include: Target, UnitedHealth Group, Best Buy, 3M, General Mills, Medtronic, Travelers Cos., Cargill, and Carlson Companies. Minnesota also has 34 Fortune 100 companies (public companies with at least \$1.63 billion in revenue)—more, on a per capita basis, than any state other than Connecticut.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES

Work in a full-time position within Wayzata Community Church and the surrounding community to create and engage in inclusion ministries that care for our congregation, use the gifts of WCC to address the needs of our community in relational ways, and promote social justice

Support a deep belief in the centrality of the instruction of Jesus Christ to inclusively love one another

Provide and facilitate opportunities for members of Wayzata Community Church and the community to have safe discussions about difficult topics and build interpersonal connections and understanding

Develop, lead, and nurture strong adult faith formation offerings that engage and support the congregation as they seek to strengthen their faith and their religious understanding

Design and launch formative experiences for multigenerational groups that align with the vision and mission of Wayzata Community Church

Lead and empower lay leaders and community members to serve through mission work, both within the church and outside the church

Participate in worship with other clergy, including preaching, and perform other pastoral duties at Parables services, weddings, funerals, and special events

Perform other roles and duties as the church leadership requests

THE CANDIDATE

Personal Qualities

Passionate — Possess a passion not only for people of all ages and abilities but also for engaging as many people as possible in inclusion work and spiritual formation

Engaging — Convey a warm, approachable, and engaging presence with all ages

Inspirational — Embody an inherent ability to lead

Creative — Be a source of creative - even adventurous - new ideas for curriculum, programming, and delivery

Flexible — Be willing to grow in respectful leadership in response to a changing congregation and world

Organized — Be skillful in the administration of programs, including budgeting and time management

Technologically Savvy — Be comfortable and experienced with the use of technology and social media

Servant Leader — Display integrity, a deep and abiding personal faith, and love for the church

Articulate — Be an articulate leader with excellent public speaking, preaching, and writing skills

Team Player — Promote a mature, professional, and supportive approach in working with colleagues and staff

Visionary Change Agent — Bring a visionary approach with the ability to lead and manage change within a large organization

Open-Minded — Possess an open mind and embrace differences about faith, inclusion, and differing viewpoints and approaches to learning

Authentic — Be genuine at all times, with all people

Expectations

- Work with clergy, staff, Board of Adult Education, Interfaith Outreach Committee, and lay volunteers to develop and implement inclusion and faith formation for the growth and development of multiple generations of adults in Wayzata Community Church
- Work effectively on and with teams of clergy, staff, and lay volunteers to live out collaboratively the vision and mission of Wayzata Community Church
- Work to improve professional skills and participate in at least one continuing education opportunity each year
- Participate actively in the fellowship of Wayzata Community Church, recognizing that being present and engaged in the life of the church and its community is an essential component of ministry



PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Master of Divinity degree
- Have standing (or be willing to seek standing) in the United Church of Christ
- At least three years of ministry or related experience

FOR POTENTIAL CONSIDERATION

Resumes and letters of interest will be accepted until the position is filled and should be sent to: AMsearch@wayzatacommunitychurch.org

