

**Local Church Profile
for
Local Churches Seeking New Pastoral Staff**

Please return completed document to your Conference Superintendent.

- 1. Church:** Evangelical Covenant Church
- 2. Address:** 24 Child Hill Road
Woodstock, CT 06281
- 3. Church Telephone:** (860) 928-0486
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Website: <http://www.woodstockcovenant.org/index.htm>

- 4. Search committee chairperson:**
 - Name:** Mrs. Vicki Beausoleil
 - Address:** 356 Church St.
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 - Telephone:** (860) 377-1873
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- 5. Conference Superintendent assisting your church**
 - Name:** Howard K. Burgoyne
 - Telephone:** (860) 635-2691 **Cell** (860)759-0732
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 - E-mail:** eastcoastconf.org

6. Statistics: Numbers in Church Body

- A. Membership: 117
- B. Attendance: 120
- C. Care constituency (how many people consider your church to be their home?): 168
- D. Sunday School: Adult Sunday School 30; Confirmation Class 2

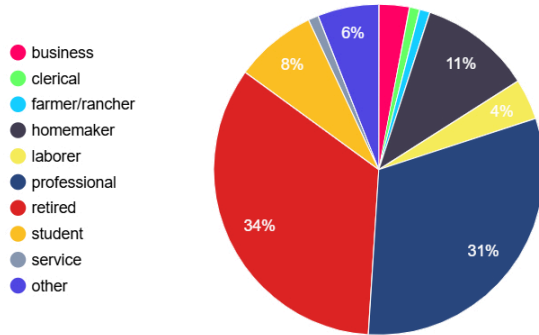
7. Profile of church members:

A.

10 ppl	16 ppl	10 ppl	6 ppl	18 ppl	45 ppl	59 ppl
0-11 years	12-18 years	19-24 years	25-34 years	35-49 years	50-64 years	65 + years

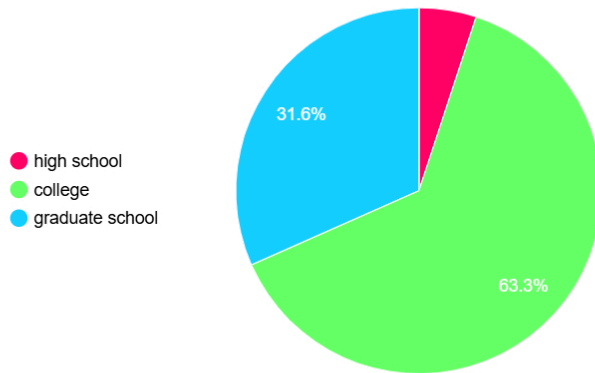
B. Occupations: (Estimated number of persons who fall into categories listed.)

Pie Chart

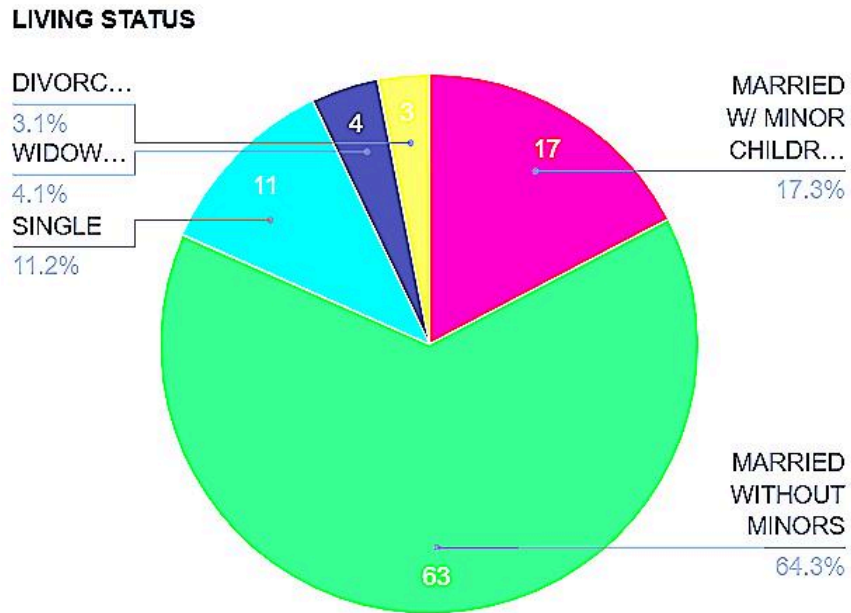


C. Educational level of adults: (Estimated number of persons who fall into educational categories)

Pie Chart

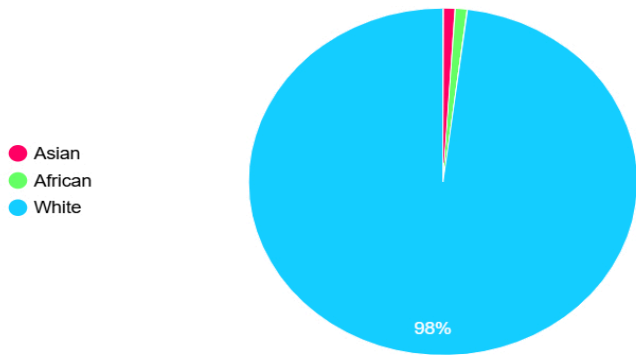


D. Household units in Congregation: (Number of persons who fall into categories listed based on recent survey)



E. Describe the ethnic composition of your congregation: (same values for community)
 1% Asian 1% African 98% White

Pie Chart



8. Which model of constitution best describes your church government?

Congregational governance with oversight by an elected elder board, including the pastor(s).

9. Ministry life

*Indicate leadership role expected by using the following numbers:

1. Pastor takes primary initiative and responsibility
2. Pastor and laity share responsibility
3. Congregation takes primary initiative and responsibility

Name of group	Purpose of group	Number of members	Frequency meetings	*Leadership role
Elder Board	To oversee all aspects of church life	7	Monthly	2
Diaconate	To oversee the practical welfare of the church and oversee the Church Benevolence Fund.	9	Monthly	3
Stewardship and Properties	To maintain facilities and prepare the church budget	4	Monthly	3
Christian Education	To encourage Christian formation through various programs of church education including VBS and Sunday School	4	Monthly	3
Mission Ministry	To serve as the primary conduit between church and supported missionaries; arrange for and oversee World Outreach Week; prepare missionary budget.	5	Monthly	3
Nominating Committee	To present names of members to the church for consideration of committee and board positions	2	Monthly	3

10. Finances and budget

A. Income and Expenditures for five years:

Year	Local Income	Appropriation Income	Operating Expense	Loan Payment	Denominational Giving	Conference Giving	Other Giving
2023	481,255		344,693	0	16,112	2,000	59,350
2022	452,191		319,316	0	17,387	2,000	49,754
2021	424,506		293,046	0	19,182	2,000	59,910
2020	445,022		351,984	0	25,925	2,000	51,310
2019	461,099		328,451	0	25,088	2,650	46,652

B. Present savings: \$179,659

C. Present investments & endowments/bequests: \$0

D. Indicate expenditures for church sponsored and affiliated ministries such as preschools, schools, community development cooperation, coffee houses etc. : \$0

E. Have you recently had a capital fund drive? *Yes. A capital improvement drive the past five years raised \$154,000 toward the \$250,000 renovation project for the education wing, lobby, and cafe. The remaining amount was paid out of the savings of the church. The project is paid in full.*

11. Considered Compensation: how your church intends to compensate your pastor:

- Contribute to the Pension Plan according to the Rules for the Ordered Ministry; *Yes*
- Provide the group insurance program of The Evangelical Covenant Church, or a comparable plan (*ECC Group Plan*)
- Pay moving and travel expenses as follows: *As appropriate*

- Compensate as shown below, reviewing it annually with respect to the cost-of-living index, merit, and personal need:

STARTING SALARY

(Commensurate with experience)

Base	\$ 30,000 - 40,000
Soc Sec	\$ 4,000 - 6,000
Housing Allowance	\$ 26,000 - 36,000

TOTAL COMPENSATION \$ 60,000 - 80,000

BENEFITS

Health Insurance	\$ ~27,000
Pension	\$ 7,500 - 10,000

TOTAL BENEFITS \$ _____

- Reimburse the following ministry expenses, reviewing them annually:

Ministry Mileage	Yes
Continuing Education	Yes
Cell Phone Allowance	Yes
Covenant External Orientation Program	As appropriate
Ministry Resources	As appropriate
- Grant an annual paid vacation of 3 weeks, and annual study/conference/speaking leave: *by mutual consent*
- Reimburse for expenses incurred in attending the following conferences, and other official meetings at which your attendance may be required:

Covenant Annual Meeting :	<i>Reimbursement</i>
Midwinter Conference:	<i>Reimbursement</i>
Regional Conference Ministerial Annual Meeting:	<i>Reimbursement</i>
Minister's Retreat:	<i>Reimbursement</i>
- Grant sabbatical leave: *Precedent has been established*

12. Property owned by the church

A. Describe buildings and property of your church, except parsonage. Include acreage and parking spaces

The church building is quite comprehensive, offering a range of facilities to accommodate various activities and needs of the congregation. The sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen, and additional meeting rooms provide space for worship, fellowship, and community events. This includes two nurseries, a youth room, and classrooms to meet the needs of different age groups and educational needs.

The recent addition in 2018 reflects the growing needs of the congregation, particularly in terms of adult meeting spaces and facilities. The building is in good repair and has undergone updates to stay aesthetically pleasing and technologically current.

The outdoor area has a picnic area and storage garage to add further utility and versatility to the property. With a parking lot that can accommodate 300 cars, the church is well-equipped to handle larger gatherings and events.

B. Does the church own a parsonage? No

C. Is a building program projected? No

13. Community characteristics

A. Has your church recently procured a demographic study of the community? *Yes – see attached*

B. List two or three primary businesses/industries in the community.

- Linemaster Switch Corporation

- Rogers Corporation
- Frito Lay
- Day Kimball Hospital
- Antique Shops
- Restaurants
- Agriculture
- Private Secondary Schools

C. Describe distinctive attributes of your community

The Evangelical Covenant Church of Woodstock is located in a semi-rural farming community with lovely residential charm in northeastern Connecticut, known as the Quiet Corner. Woodstock is within an hour's drive of Hartford, Providence, Worcester, and Norwich. It has the benefit of proximity to three major airports (Hartford, Boston, and Providence). We are also within easy drive to beaches and ski areas. The area is distinctly New England with antique shops, steeped churches, rolling fields, stonewalls, and genuine rural beauty. We are located in the last green valley of the BOSWASH (populated corridor from Boston and Washington, DC) and see an increase in a telecommuting population and ethnic diversity. [Town of Woodstock | CTvisit](#)

D. What major trends do you envision in your community during the next five years?

- Recent trends include families moving to the area to access good schools and the desire for semi-rural living.
- Increasing interest in the 20-something population in the Gospel and staying local
- More telecommuters working from home
- Increasing mental health challenges among all socio-economic groups
- Increased busyness/distractions among families
- Local and international students attending secondary schools in the area

E. List problem areas confronting your community which the members feel should be addressed by the church.

- Increasing Bible illiteracy
- Those who feel no need for God
- Political divisions/prejudices
- Some socio-economic brokenness
- Many unchurched or nominal Christians

F. List community responsibilities in which your church participates

- Caring Families (crisis pregnancy center)
- Caring Continues (food provided to students in local school)
- Fishes and Loaves (food pantry)
- Operation Christmas Child
- New England Seafarers' Mission
- Providing refreshments for the local Tree Lighting ceremony in December
- Woodstock Christmas Event - Live nativity & timeline
- Area Youth gatherings
- Trunk or treat
- Teen Challenge and His Oaks Ministries (addressing addiction)
- TEEG - The Ecumenical Empowerment Group (addressing poverty and needs in area)
- Mom-to Mom Group (addresses parenting needs, social, and spiritual connection)

G. For what purposes is your church building now being used by the community?

- Church parking lot is the primary parking space for neighboring Woodstock Academy students.
- A Bible Study Fellowship group meets here weekly Sept.- May
- Church building is used as a testing site for Woodstock Academy students.
- Community events such as weddings, and concerts.
- Monthly youth gathering sponsored by Faith, Hope & Love, led by Jeff Boshka

H. Describe your relationship with other churches in the community.

We enjoy a collaborative relationship with several local evangelical churches, holding prayer events, special speakers, and worship nights. There are pastor gatherings regularly for mutual support. We participate with all churches for an outside Sunrise service on Easter morning, and participate in multi-faith gatherings in the local communities.

14. Denominational and conference activities

In the past, we have collaborated with the Covenant's Vitality Process. Merge short-term mission trips to Mexico, and Men's retreats at Pilgrim Pines. Our pastor's participation in conference activities like Ashram has waned over the years. We have supported and hosted many Covenant missionaries, many of whom have now retired. Since the pandemic we have switched from the Covenant CHIC youth conference, to the regional MOVE (Youth in Christ) conference. Our youth groups participate in the denominational youth retreats and our Associate Pastor joins the youth pastor meetings.

15. Comment on the following with what you believe to be the generally held responses of the congregation.

A. State your church's current vision or mission statement and its core values as they are used in your congregation's publications.

Please see attachment.

B. What have been the most important events in the history of your Church? Indicate the dates of the events.

The addition of a new C.E. wing in 1969 was a response to growth and marked the beginning of a transition from a small, homogeneous congregation to a more broadly diverse group. Increased growth was again addressed in 1988 with the building of a new sanctuary. In 2019, changes in the demographics of our congregation led to building renovations to our education wing and the lobby/cafe/library area.

There were leadership challenges in the early 2000's with an outside church assessment, Intentional Interim pastor, and Bylaw changes. The church has been strengthening its emphasis on missions by adopting the Fulani people group and promoting youth and adult mission trips, expanding mission giving through faith promises, and yearly world outreach week.

The establishment of small groups around 2012 has enhanced fellowship and discipleship. The Church Vitality process in 2015 encouraged an increased community footprint, and though attendance was challenged during the COVID-19 pandemic, it led to enhanced sound and live stream systems and community outreach events.

There is recent pastoral longevity with the youth pastor (now associate pastor) serving for 35 years, and the current pastor for 15 years, and both retiring soon.

C. What has been the most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years?

The COVID pandemic beginning in 2020 created implications for body life and attendance. The strain of a huge learning curve, keeping abreast of state mandates, outdoor services, and social distancing, and lack of opportunities to meet in person were extremely difficult—as it was for so many churches. It also created a jump-in-the-deep-end situation of utilizing Youtube, Zoom, and recording our church services.

D. Describe your church's preference and practice related to women in leadership, both pastoral and lay.

Our church holds to an historical preference for male pastors and elders, but includes women in lay leadership roles such as the Deacon Board, other committees, and teaching roles.

E. Describe the evangelism/outreach program of your church.

Evangelism and outreach programs are supported across the various ministries of the church. In addition to messages from the pulpit, evangelism and outreach take place in Vacation Bible School, Youth Ministry, Women's ministry events, Men's ministry, and the occasional church events where we invite the community to attend. We also pray for and reach out through friendship evangelism to the 8-15 people we rub shoulders with in our sphere of influence. Our church has sponsored events like Trunk or Treat, Live Nativity and Biblical timeline during town sponsored events. Our evangelism strategy to reach the community is emerging.

F. Describe the various Christian Formation ministries of your church.

- Christian formation ministries are overseen by the pastors and elders. These consist of small group ministries (over 60% of the congregation engaged) led by individuals and couples for Bible study, application, prayer and care.
- One of our newer small groups called, The Bridge, is a group of 15-20 post-grad/college age that is led from within as a core leadership group.
- We have an Awana children's program, a two-year confirmation class, as well as middle school and high school youth programs. And, we host a yearly VBS for the community.
- We offer a new membership class a couple times a year for those interested.
- Adult SALT class (Serving and Learning Together) meets Sunday mornings and tackles various subjects taught and facilitated by different individuals.
- Womens ministry has quarterly events all grounded with a theme or topic.
- Monday night men's group - Men meet to discuss the Bible or current trends from Biblical standpoint weekly and have outings for fellowship.

G. How do you expect the pastor you are seeking to participate in the congregation's Christian Formation ministries?

We envision the new pastor coming with fresh ideas to infuse our formation ministries with ways to reach both young families and seasoned attenders. It is our hope that he will bring both experience and creativity as he develops a vision for the church to bring fresh outreach opportunities, timely applications and age appropriate goals for spiritual growth to our studies, classes, and small groups. We expect that whatever his new vision for our church, it will be rooted in the Biblical call for us to walk worthy of the Gospel to which we have been called.

H. How does your church build community?

Community building happens within the following activities and ministries:

- Phoebe Circle fellowship group
- Semi-annual Work days
- Annual Church Picnic and other celebrations throughout the year
- Sunday morning worship
- Music Ministry involvement
- Committee involvement
- Sharing of congregational prayer concerns
- Care-giving ministries such as Caring Continues; Fishes & Loaves
- Retreats
- Small group fellowships & Bible studies
- Accountability groups
- Missions Conferences and annual banquet
- Group short-term missions trips
- Women's Ministry events
- Men's ministry
- Cafe on Sunday
- Mom to Mom
- Mending the Soul (a group for those addressing brokenness)
- Meal Train - providing meals to those who need assistance during illness or recuperation

18. Summary

A. Describe the strengths or positive qualities of your church

In our recent survey, when provided a list and asked to choose the top five reasons participants attend our church, the highest two responses selected, by far, were 'Biblical teaching' and 'Biblical stand on relevant social and ethical issues.' In addition, when asked to rate how our church is doing on a list of categories, the top ranked categories were, in order, 'Caring for one another,' 'Women's ministry,' 'Facilities and meeting spaces,' 'Giving,' and tied for the 5th spot, 'Small groups,' and 'World Mission Vision.'

B. What does the congregation wish to accomplish during the next three to five years?

We are currently in a unique transition with the proximate retirement of both our Senior Pastor and Associate/Youth Pastor. Over the next 3-5 years, our aim is to maintain stability in leadership. Currently, we're in the process of finding a new Senior Pastor and still fleshing out how the role and responsibilities of our current Associate Pastor will be fulfilled.

Our goal over the next few years is to not only sustain, but also expand our existing ministries. We would like to enhance discipleship, draw in younger families, foster both physical and spiritual growth within the church, and deepen our faith. We desire to restore and expand our youth programs and our community outreach.

C. How do you expect the person you are seeking to help your church reach these goals?

We hope our new pastor, together with the congregation, prayerfully discerns and follows God's leading for the direction of our church, within our community and the world around us, using the gifts, talents, and experiences God has equipped us with.

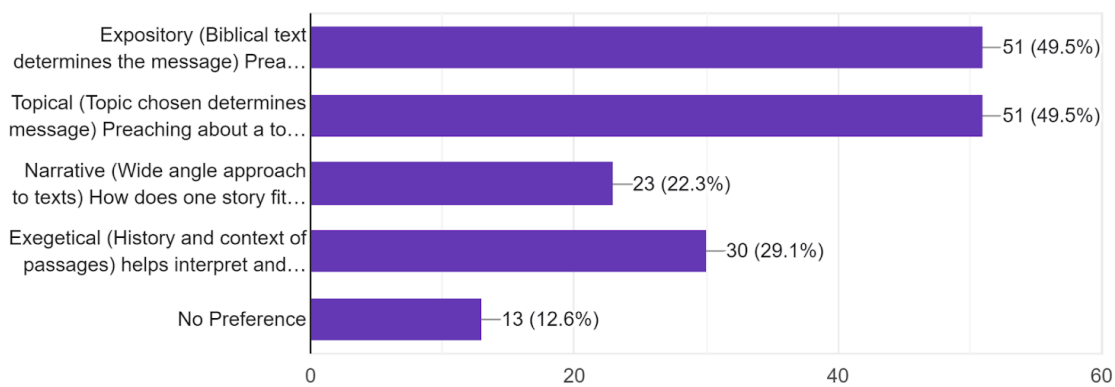
D. Are there any pronounced distinguishing characteristics to the life of your church?

Our congregation is made up of diverse backgrounds including education and previous denominational background, representing multiple regions of the country. We serve a ten-town area encompassing families not only from northeastern Connecticut, but neighboring Rhode Island and Massachusetts as well. Our church is blessed with long-term members who are deeply committed to Christ. 66% are plugged into small group ministries that allow for deep care and connection with one another.

Based on the survey our church completed in May 2024, the congregation of the Woodstock Evangelical Covenant Church prefers a preaching style as shown below

I prefer the new Senior pastor's preaching style to be

103 responses



- Expository (Biblical text determines the message) *Preaching through the Bible often verse by verse, as a foundation to draw lessons and focus point of sermons*
- Topical (Topic chosen determines message) *Preaching about a topic, then use of Biblical cross references as a foundation to reinforce that topic or point*
- Narrative (Wide angle approach to texts) *How does one story fit into the larger Bible story?*
- Exegetical (History and context of passages) *helps interpret and understand meaning of text*

It is our hope that the senior pastor would lead us in fulfilling our vision for the church's healthy growth and development in Christ. We desire a strong shepherd leader who will oversee and actively take part in the teaching, training and development of lay leadership. We would expect the senior pastor to encourage and model a hunger for knowing God through His Word and obeying God while loving his people. It would be the expectation that the senior pastor would be a team builder.