

## **Mini-Church Profile for Designated Period**

### **1. What are the qualities of the pastor you are seeking?**

We are seeking a pastor who will help us progress in our spiritual journey by giving thought-provoking sermons that help us explore applying the Bible to our daily living. We hope for a pastor who will reflect our commitment to equity and justice.

**2. What is the compensation you can offer and time commitment expected?** At this point in time, we are seeking a part-time pastor to commit to 24 hours per week. We are hoping for a one-year designated period and can offer \$31,200.00 per year compensation.

### **3. What are five priorities of the congregation you want the transitional pastor to focus on?**

Nurturing and teaching on our UCC identity

Worship services that inspire, challenge, and engage the congregation

Helping us grow the church membership

Participating in collaborative decision making

Helping us stay on the trajectory of seeing church/religion/spirituality as something that is more than just showing up on Sunday and being comfortable; how can we make a difference not only within ourselves, but also out in the community.

### **4. Narrative on our church:**

We are a small congregation that values our friendly, welcoming family atmosphere with a genuine sense of community and fellowship. Although our financial resources are limited, we continue to commit to service to our community. We value being an open and affirming congregation and are proud to be a resource for LGBTQ+ individuals in the wider community seeking spiritual support.

We believe that each individual must form and nurture their own personal relationship with God and the church. Our purpose is:

Serve God. With our whole heart

Love. With no exceptions

Create sanctuary. For all people

We currently have 30 members with 4 people who will be joining in June. We have approximately 24 people who regularly attend but are not members and 2 to 4 visitors a week. The majority of our members live in Black Forest, but also come from all over Colorado Springs, Monument and Falcon respectively. The majority of our regular attenders and visitors come from Colorado Springs, Falcon and Monument.

As is true of many congregations, our finances have contracted in the past few years. However, we have no debt and own our property outright. We have an innovative church board that seeks creative ways to increase funding, thus ensuring the financial viability of the church. We recently signed a lease to rent our preschool building to a Montessori school. This will give us a guaranteed source of income. Our membership has stabilized in the past year and increased slightly in the past few months. We remain hopeful that we can continue to grow and be “a light in the forest”.

Additionally , because we cannot afford a full-time pastor, we are requesting lay ministerial authorization for one of our church members. This member would be prepared to preach under the supervision of the part-time pastor two Sundays a month thus freeing the pastor to have more time for pastoral care, teaching occasional classes after church, attending monthly board meetings, and preaching 2 to 3 times a month.

**5. Thumb print of the community:**

Black Forest Community Church is located in Black Forest, an unincorporated community in El Paso County just north of Colorado Springs. We were the first church in Black Forest and are proud that the “old log church” is still part of our property. Black Forest Community Church is an open and affirming church in a conservative community.

Black Forest is a rural community set in a Ponderosa pine forest. Black Forest is beautiful, and the residents are resilient and “tough”. The community comes together in times of need. During the Black Forest Fire of 2013, neighbors reached out to help those displaced by the evacuations and those who lost homes in the fire.