



Pastoral Residency Program

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” Isaiah 6:8

A Unique, Two-Year First Call Opportunity

As a Pastoral Resident at the Wellesley Village Church in Wellesley, Massachusetts you will

- **Be a full-time pastor**, participating in all aspects of the life of Wellesley Village Church and our partner congregation, the Congregational Church of Weston. The two settings provide the experience of working within the large staff of a large congregation and as solo pastor of a small one.
- **Gain experience in core areas of pastoral work:** Worship, Faith Formation, Pastoral Care, Transformational Leadership, Social Justice, and Professional Development.
- **Learn the basics of church management:** worship planning and leadership, staff management, church finances and stewardship, all with the support and mentorship of pastoral staff at Wellesley Village Church and congregations in Wellesley and Weston.
- **Be supported by a peer Resident, then mentor a peer:** the program trains two Residents at a time, and the staggered call process enables the more established Resident to mentor the newer.
- **Respond to the Spirit’s movement.** Personal spiritual development is supported by the program. So is participation in a New Clergy Group through the UCC’s Southern New England Conference.
- **Be Part of a strong team of experienced Pastors** including Rev. Dr. Sarah S. Butter, Sr. Pastor, Rev. Pam Emslie and Rev. Stacy Swain Associate Pastors as well as talented Music and Education staff.

This position is an ordainable call in the UCC, with a salary and housing allowance of \$60,000 a year (or \$55,000 with free parsonage housing, if available), and full benefits.

The Kind of Person we are Looking for...

We are looking for a candidate who has discerned a call to parish ministry, has a passion for God's justice, a heart for Jesus' way of compassion, and an openness to the Holy Spirit. Excellent candidates have or will have graduated with an M.Div. within the last two years, be Members in Discernment in the UCC, be on track to be ordained within the time frame of the program, and be able to commit to serve from [August 2024-June 2026](#).

Who we are

Wellesley Village Church is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, centered in the heart of Wellesley. Since 1798, faithful Christians have gathered here to worship the Triune God, grow in faith together and bear witness to the Gospel. We still believe that God is speaking and that we should listen. We marvel at the way God's love nurtures our own, Christ's grace transforms us, and the Holy Spirit's presence makes more of us together than we could be apart.



In 2019, we began an initiative to examine where we were and to imagine where the Holy Spirit might take us. After pausing for the pandemic, we picked up the visioning process. The picture that emerged is of a community that chooses to love God and neighbor, both when it is easy and when it is not. Following Jesus' teaching, and energized by the Holy Spirit, we strive to make God's love real in a beautiful but broken world. These values are expressed in the solar panels on our roof, BLM banner on our wall, and the ministries our building houses. Those ministries include robust youth programs, Moms & Dads Groups, Family Life and Senior Life. At the center of it is meaningful worship, which nourishes, connects, and inspires us. Outside our walls, we help our neighbors with our community food service program, Village Table, and by our support of Family Promise Metrowest, City Mission Boston, and For His Children in Ecuador.

"The Village Church just gets it: they get ministry, they get loving community, they get leadership development. As a congregational leader, I find myself in places I could not anticipate, but I can, and I do, trust my instincts. So much of that is directly attributable to the practices the good people of the Village Church built within me."

~ Former Resident, Rev. Kaji Spellman Douša

The Residency Program

Wellesley Village Church received a Lilly Grant in 2002 to help us develop new clergy in the context of a vibrant congregation. This residency program, which has been thriving for twenty years, has become an integral part of who we are and how we serve the wider church. *This mission was so important to us that, when the grant expired, we then raised funds to continue the ongoing support for this program.* We welcome the gifts of fresh leadership and new voices that our Residents bring and look forward to seeing how God will shape us through their presence. We are humbly honored by the task of helping form current and future leaders for the church.

There will be two information sessions on January 18th, one at 12 noon and one at 5:00 pm EST using Zoom. To participate, please send us your email address at residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

Interviews will begin in early March.



Residency Sunday: Reunion of some of our former Pastoral Residents

Every pastor dreams of beginning their ministry in a church that is communicative, healthy, stable, and vibrantly faithful – that is exactly Wellesley Village Church. I am treated as a trusted member of the pastoral staff here, and I know that I will take the lessons I am learning here into every church I serve in the future. WVC and its sister congregation, the Congregational Church of Weston, are laying the groundwork that I will build my lifelong ministry on, and I'm so grateful.

~Current Resident, Martha Schick MDiv Boston University

"Let this church love you; that is transforming on its own. The people of Village Church have a faith, and a depth of religious life, that is quite rare. Let it rub off on you. I think that is the greatest gift I have received from this program: a chance to see people who love God and love each other, working it out faithfully in all their imperfections."

~Former Resident, Rev. John Allen MDiv Union Theological Seminary

"If I had not had the benefit of the Pastoral Residency Program, I strongly suspect that a good deal of my time would be spent wondering if I am doing 'the right thing' in any given situation in ministry.

*The Pastoral Residency is a compass I still turn to every day in ministry.”
~ Former Resident, Rev. Dr. Catriona Grant*



Pastoral Residency Program Application Instructions

*To be considered as a candidate please send the following documents (either by email or by post),
to be received no later than 5:00 PM on February 10, 2024*

- ◆ Completed application form (see below).
- ◆ A current resume.
- ◆ Two letters of reference. Please have two people write a letter about your gifts for pastoral ministry and your potential as a Pastoral Resident. Letters should be sent directly to the church.
- ◆ Two phone references. Please list two different people whom we can contact and who can also reflect on your gifts for pastoral ministry and your potential as a Pastoral Resident.
- ◆ Essay questions (500-750 words each):
 - ◇ Describe your call to pastoral ministry and how you see the Pastoral Residency Program supporting that.
 - ◇ Share a recent moment in ministry that was particularly successful or fulfilling.
 - ◇ Please share a favorite scripture passage and share how this speaks to you



Pastoral Residency Program
Wellesley Village Church
2 Central St., Wellesley, MA 02482
residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

With specific questions, contact Program
Chair : Margie Sipe
at residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Pastoral Residency Program Application Form

Candidate Name _____

Member in Discernment Information

Name of Association/Conference _____

Contact Person Name & Position _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____

If you have ever been in a discernment process in any other association/conference or denomination, please tell us where and what led to your transfer.

Please identify where you are in your current discernment process. Note that the expectation is that you will be eligible for ordination during the residency term. Be specific.

Written References

Please list two individuals who will be sending us a letter of recommendation.

Name & Relationship _____

Name & Relationship _____

Telephone References

Please list two more people we can contact to learn about you and your ministry.

Name & Relationship _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____

Name & Relationship _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____