

Help Wanted: Part-Time Parish Associate for small church

The First Congregational church of Lyme (CT) is seeking a part-time parish associate to serve our small but lively church community. The position is open as soon as February 2025. For the right person we could wait until August 2025. Our small parish is led by a part-time pastor and a part-time lay leader. After several years, our lay leader is relocating and we are seeking to replace her with this re-imagined position. Lyme, CT is a beautiful village, situated on the east bank of the Connecticut river. The area has a strong commitment to preserving its open space, and enjoys proximity to several lakes and forests. The congregation includes retirees, professionals and homemakers. We have a small but lively group of school-aged children. At present, there are no teenagers. We have an excellent organist and a small but dedicated choir. Our traditional New England style meeting house has been lovingly maintained, and we look forward to celebrating our 300th anniversary in 2026. We are the only church within the boundaries of Lyme, CT. The First Congregational church of Lyme is a member of the United Church of Christ.

Duties of the position include:

- 1) Planning and leading worship (including preaching) on the second Sunday of every month.
- 2) Planning and leading educational ministries for the congregation to include at least two of the following three populations: adult, intergenerational and children. The choice of populations will be based on the selected candidate's interest.
- 3) Assisting, where possible, with worship leadership on weeks not preaching
- 4) Participating in the life of the congregation where possible.
- 5) If time allows, other activities, such as pastoral visiting or helping with our outreach ministries, may be considered.

Requirements:

- 1) The candidate must have their own reliable transportation. Lyme, CT is approximately 45 minutes away from New Haven.
- 2) The candidate must be willing to undergo a criminal background check.
- 3) The candidate must be a Protestant Christian in a tradition compatible with the United Church of Christ.
- 4) The qualified candidate must have a heart for ministry—lay or ordained, a desire to engage wholeheartedly with people of diverse viewpoints, an appreciation for the pace of small town life, a creative and collaborative spirit, and a growing faith.

Preferred qualifications.

- 1) The most qualified candidates will have already completed one supervised ministry or other internship. They will have completed, or be concurrently enrolled in, a preaching class. Candidates with other substantive lay ministry experience will be carefully considered, as well.
- 2) We understand that students have atypical schedules. We would love a candidate that can be with us year-round, but can also work with someone only able to make an academic year commitment. The candidate is paid for the number of weeks they are able to work.

Compensation, Hours and Other Information.

- 1) The position pays \$275 per week of work. There is no compensation for mileage to and from Lyme, but other reasonable expenses for the ministry would be covered
- 2) We anticipate this position to take approximately 6-8 hours a week, perhaps a little more during weeks that one preaches.

3) Much of the work can be completed from home, but one would be onsite once a week, with twice-weekly attendance being rare but possible. Our church worships at 10 AM every Sunday except for the 3rd Sunday of every month, when we worship at 5 PM with a dinner or other program to follow.

4) We view this position as professional lay ministry. This position is not a supervised ministry nor is it an ordainable call.

5) A small office will be provided at the church.

Interested candidates, please send a resume and cover letter to pastorsusanolson@gmail.com
We will keep searching until the position is filled, but will give preference to applications received by November 30.