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| CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE |  |

Enter information directly into this document.

**SAVE the document on your computer with your congregation’s name,   
city and date completed as part of the file name.**

**EMAIL COMPLETED PROFILE to** [**dwendel@thenalc.org**](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org).

**Keep a copy for your records.**

**Congregation Name and Location**

Name Samhold Lutheran Church

Mailing address 259 N. Ave

City Gonvick State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 56644

Telephone 218-487-5540 Fax

Email address gonvickparish@gmail.com

Congregation website

Seeking  Full-time pastor  Part-time pastor  Either full-time or part-time  
Call will be for  Solo pastor  Senior pastor  Associate pastor

**Congregational President or Vice President**

Name Jon Bakke Title

Mailing address

City Clearbrook State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 56634

Home phone Cell phone 218-368-3760

Email address bakkej@hotmail.com

**Call Committee Chair**

Name Pam Goebel

Mailing address 15405 520th St

City Gonvick State/Province MN Zip/Postal Code 56644

Home phone 218-487-5316 Cell phone 218-280-2356

Email address goebelpam9@gmail.com

**Congregational Demographics**

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals Secretarial 1

Average worship attendance 30 Average Sunday school attendance 15

**Indicate the type of community in which your congregation is located (is it small town, small city, suburban, large city, farming, industrial, etc.).**

Gonvick is a small town of 300. We are a community of small to large farms as well as a central location for the pipelines, which keep our economy steady.

**Describe the congregation’s ethnic composition and age distribution.**

Mostly Scandinavian, Can you say Lefse? Our ages in the congregation at this time average 40-80+.

**Does the congregation have a clear vision for mission — a clear and shared understanding of where God is leading you? If so, state it as succinctly as possible.**

Our first concern is to rebuild our numbers in order to reach out more effectively to our larger community and share God’s love with others.

**What are the primary goals of your congregation?**

To heal our church family and to grow in spirit and faith.

**Describe your congregation’s worship practice (liturgy, hymns, vestments, music, hymnals, and frequency of Holy Communion).**

While traditional liturgy, hymns, and vestments with occasional special music is what you would commonly find on Sunday morning, at times one might discover a congregation gathered at the park or rodeo grounds to offer praise and worship in a different light.

**Describe your congregation’s Christian education ministry.**

Sunday school, youth group, WNALC (ladies aide), men’s and women’s Bible study and also scholarship opportunities.

**Describe the congregation’s current activities for mission and outreach.**

County food cupboard, blood drives, quilts for missions, and scholarships for high school graduates.

**The NALC is committed to moving away from an institutional understanding of the Church, to the biblical commission to be a community of followers of Jesus who focus on being disciples and making disciples. Which best describes your congregation’s understanding of this movement? [Type an X by the appropriate response]**

Totally unaware

Have heard about it

Have been involved personally

X Some in the congregation are involved, some aren’t

Congregation understands, is on-board and involved

**List the *Top Five Things* your congregations hopes for in its next Pastor**

1. Show honor in personal life (practice what you preach).
2. Enjoy and embrace the small town life with all its challenges and rewards.
3. Be ready to take on a challenge to rebuild and expand our congregation.
4. Help us to be good stewards of our financial resources in ways that glorify God.
5. Consistent visitation with those who need pastoral care as well as involvement with youth.

**What were the three most significant events in your congregation’s history? Provide the years in which these events happened and why they are important to your congregation.**

[enter text]

**Has your congregation participated in the Congregational Workshop Preparatory to the Call Process? [Type an X by the appropriate response]**

**X Yes No**

**What were the three most significant results of the workshop?**

1. Hope for the next stage moving forward.
2. The opportunity to verbalize one’s thoughts and opinions.
3. The knowledge to be upfront and honest in our profile.

**Describe the nature and extent of any significant current or recent conflict in the congregation. Is this conflict resolved, or ongoing? If resolved, how was it resolved?**

An unfortunate separation between two congregations with a history of seemingly minor disputes have left scars that are difficult to heal when faced with limited spiritual leadership or guidance. With conflicts under control, true resolution will only begin once blessed with a pastor to fill this call.

**How does your congregation handle conflict/tension? Which of the following do you think best describes your congregation? [Type an X by the appropriate response]**

As a church, we respect and listen to each other and work things through without generating divisiveness.

X As a church, we try to respect and listen to each other, but it is not uncommon for differences of opinion to be a problem and for some people to choose sides. Some have left our church because of conflict.

Conflict hurts our sense of unity, but we tend not to talk about it.

Painful experience with conflict has been present, but it has been worked through, and we have learned from the experience.

X We have had some painful experiences with conflict, and they linger in the background.

X Open conflict is present, and we need a minister who can help us deal with it.

Other (describe)…...

**What was the nature of the relationship between your last pastor and the congregation? Positive? Struggling? Cooperative? Tense?**

We began as hopeful and supportive of the last pastor and his family, as we would any new member of our congregation, as part of our family. The conflict arose from the pastor’s inability to be accountable, responsible and able to manage his time and finances.  This resulted in loss of congregational leaders, division between our congregation and our sister congregation with whom we shared the pastor. This conflict created stress, disruption and frustration in both congregations and the small community in which we live.  We worked with the NALC bishop’s office, proactively, to assist the pastor with goalsetting, time management and personal financial accountability. We started with a parish of two churches and have since separated to a single church.  Rather than fostering unity, peace and cooperation, disunity and division surfaced due to the pastor’s presence.  The NALC bishop’s office worked with us and the pastor to develop a mutually agreed separation. Our hearts were broken by the recent experience with our last pastor, but we are hopeful and excited about finding a pastor who will be a true shepherd, leading with faith and love, warmly welcomed into our congregation.

**How did your council/congregational leaders work together with your last pastor? [Type an X by the appropriate response]**

Leadership is shared, with shared decision-making

Pastor makes important decisions

X Council makes decisions with pastoral input

Council makes decisions without pastoral input

**Is your pastor a member of council with: [Type an X by the appropriate response(s)]**

X Voice Vote

**Congregational finances**

Total budget for last fiscal year: $ 79.035.00

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: $ 3,421.33

Other benevolence: $ 855.35

Total debt of the congregation: $ N/A

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: $ 585,006.88

**Compensation of Last Pastor (AFTER THE SPLIT WITH OTHER CHURCH)**

Salary: $ 2200.00 Parsonage/housing allowance: $ (Utility) 3600

Social security offset: $ 2732.43 Pension: $ 3571.80

Health Insurance: $ 930.58/month Vacation: Negotiable

Continuing education (time/funding): $1,000.00

Travel reimbursement: $0.58 per mile (Federal guidelines)

Other:

**When the Congregational Vacancy List is updated, a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) is included announcing each congregation’s ministry. If you wish, your call committee may compose that summary, realizing it may be edited/formatted as needed.**

Our small town is waiting here for you with a beautiful parsonage, complete with large yard that can host a lovely garden, play space or photo opportunities with the deer and bunnies that are frequent visitors.

We have many opportunities for recreation such as hunting (not in your back yard, lol) or fishing.  Our Clear Waters Life Center offers art studios for pottery and mosaic, as well as Christian counseling or book groups.  And pickle ball!

If you are not used to snow, we do it well here!  Skiing, ice fishing or staying home with hot chocolate and a good book are all good ways to pass the winter.

If we can implore you to give us a look, prayers would be answered.

  Thanks so much, Samhold Call Committee.

**Consider filming a video to be included with your Congregational Profile on the** [**NALC website Vacancy List**](http://thenalc.org/call-process)**. We invite your call committee to make a 3-5 minute video introducing prospective pastoral candidates to your context and congregation. The video can be informal, explaining what your congregation is seeking in a pastor and showing images of the members of your congregation and your worship environment. Here are some sample videos:** [**Example One**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcXBhDNftvg&feature=youtu.be)**,** [**Example Two**](https://vimeo.com/242282875)**. These samples were not produced by the NALC. They are both simply examples of the type of content you could include in a video.**

**Video Submission Instructions:**

Upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo. (Here are instructions on how to upload to YouTube: [wikihow.com/Upload-a-Video-to-YouTube](https://www.wikihow.com/Upload-a-Video-to-YouTube).) Include a link to the video below. Make sure the link allows for public access to the video.

[video link]

Provide any other information about your congregation that may be helpful in the call process.

[enter text]

Completed by: Pam Goebel & Denise Buer Date: 08/14/2020

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

**save a copy of this profile to your computer. Use “Save As” and specify document file name as:**

**Congregation name, City, Date**

**\*\*Email a copy of the completed profile to the Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry,** [**dwendel@thenalc.org**](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org?subject=Congregational%20profile)**.**

Alternative submission method ONLY if you do not have email: Print and mail the complete profile to:

North American Lutheran Church

Attn: Pr. David Wendel

2299 Palmer Dr., Suite 220

New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

In addition, mail or email a copy of the completed profile to your mission district dean (can be found at [thenalc.org/mission-districts/](http://thenalc.org/mission-districts).

Should you have questions, call Pr. David Wendel, assistant to the bishop for ministry, at 719-650-8171 (cell).

**Please keep a copy of this document for your records.**