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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**.

**Keep a copy for your records.**

**Congregation Name and Location**

Name Lamb of God Lutheran Fellowship

Mailing address P. O. Box 1703

City Simpsonville State/Province SC Zip/Postal Code 29681

Telephone 864-477-8825 Fax N/A

Email address gardnej522 @gmail.com

Congregation website [www.lambofgodlutheranfellowship.org](http://www.lambofgodlutheranfellowship.org/)

Seeking [ ]  Full-time pastor [ ]  Part-time pastor [x]  Either full-time or part-time

**Congregational President or Vice President**

Name Jeff Gardner Title President

Mailing address 128 Kilgore Circle

City Simpsonville State/Province SC Zip/Postal Code 29681

Home phone 864-289-9750 Cell phone 864-553-9049

Email address gardnej522@gmail.com

**Call Committee Chair**

Name Jim Zellmer

Mailing address 604 N. Almond Drive

City Simpsonville State/Province SC Zip/Postal Code 29681

Home phone 864-477-8825 Cell phone 864-477-8825

Email address jim@ka0vsl.com (zero after the a)

**Congregational Demographics**

Number of **paid** staff (full- or part-time): Clergy 1 Lay professionals 0 Secretarial 0

Average worship attendance 20 - 35 Average Sunday school attendance Adult 12-15

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

Small to medium size suburban city with outlying rural areas.

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

 About 50% or more retired; 40% middle-aged. Less than ½ dozen children (toddlers, pre-teens, late teens), a few college.

**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.**

 “Following Jesus † Making Disciples” – to be of service to our community and beyond

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

 Being true to God’s teachings; filling the needs of the community; personal growth in Christ.

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

 We follow the LBW (green) for liturgy & hymns (selected by the music director), occasionally using WOV. Organ accompaniment is provided; usually 4 hymns during service; order of service is guided by a weekly bulletin; liturgy and psalms are chanted by pastors or choral volunteers. We worship in the Fellowship Hall of the Simpsonville Presbyterian Church. It is transformed, using a table and lectern for altar and pulpit, covered with liturgical paraments in the seasonal colors. Vestments worn by pastors follow seasonal colors also. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly. We hold weekly evening services during Lent and Advent. Occasional seasonal services such as Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve are combined with First Presbyterian, our host church.

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

 Our Discipleship/Christian Education team of three members select adult Sunday school *studies* if the presiding pastor does not have his or her own presentation. Adult Sunday school is held after the worship service, usually after brief refreshments and fellowship. We have children’s Sunday school teachers prepared to teach the occasional child(ren) who attend(s) worship. A women’s Bible study meets every Wednesday morning; an evening women’s Bible study meets monthly; a men’s Bible study meets monthly on a Saturday morning.

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

 We have a rotating Care Team which visits homebound members, offering Communion if desired. We are actively involved with Foster Children, purchasing school supplies, fulfilling Christmas gift lists. In conjunction with our Presbyterian church landlord, we operate a twice-weekly food pantry, collecting donations on the first Sunday of the month and food shopping bi-monthly. Household and clothing donations are made to Miracle Hill Ministries. At Halloween, we hold a Trunk or Treat function in the parking lot. We have helped with an Eagle Scout project, packed flood buckets, and filled Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse. In addition, we have contributed to national and international disaster relief and other needs as they occur.

**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**

In addition to one who loves and serves the Lord, which we assume all prospective pastors will have:

1. One who will want to be part of the community and help us establish our presence
2. Good people skills, counseling ability, an encourager
3. Life experience, possibly even previously affiliated with a start-up
4. Good preacher, storyteller
5. Administrative/organizational skills

**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.**

December 2015 – Our first service as a congregation – After many of us left our ELCA congregation and individually visited other churches, this was our proof and promise to each other that we wanted to remain together as a full-fledged new congregation affiliated with the NALC.

July 2017 – Closing of our Charter with 67 members – From an original group of 19 people when we first discussed forming a new congregation, we attained this number who pledged to go forward together as a fully functioning mission church.

January 7, 2018 – Our first Baptism of an infant, the grandchild of members – Our congregation tends to be older with very few children. This Baptism gave hope that members are inspiring their grown children to remain in or return to the church, and in turn to have their children take part in this sacrament accepting God’s love and grace.

**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. We realized that we are disciples, not just members or partners
2. We are not hiring an employee; this is more like a marriage in the commitment one offers to the other
3. We must have patience, and understand that God has already selected our new pastor. That person will be revealed to us in His own good time.

**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?**

Wecurrently rent meeting space in a church of a different denomination, worshipping and holding Sunday school and other activities in their Fellowship Hall. Some are quite anxious to find our own space or buy property. A few members have left because the consensus is that this is not yet the time? We are committed to communication and consensus. We have asked for the congregation’s patience and kept them informed of the Leadership Team’s negotiations with our host, the Presbyterian church. In conjunction with emphasizing the need to accumulate more funding before we give up our current low rent location, this has mollified most of those who were anxious to have our own premises.

**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.

 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.

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

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

 X Other (describe)…As a church, we respect and listen to each other and work things through without generating divisiveness, but some have left our church because of differences of opinion. Minor experience with conflict, but it has been worked through by giving all the opportunity to talk about it and we have learned from our experience. Some issues linger in the background.

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

 We have had three contracted interim pastors. Each was positive and cooperative although the relationships could not develop as normal because we were aware they were temporary.

**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)]**

 Voice X Vote

**Congregational finances**

Total budget for last fiscal year: N/A - Pledges of $104,000; 2018 Giving of $105,876; thru Sept 2019 $83,342

Benevolence to the North American Lutheran Church: International NALC Ohio $ 5,294; Carolinas Dist. $529; NALS $529

Other benevolence: $ 4,236

Total debt of the congregation: $ 0

Total savings, reserves, and endowments: $240K for Contingency, Future Home, Genl. Operating Fund

**Compensation of Last Pastor**

Salary: $ 4000/month Parsonage/housing allowance: $

Social security offset: $ Pension: $

Health Insurance: $ Vacation:

Continuing education (time/funding):

Travel reimbursement:

Other: We are a mission church and have had one interim pastor.

**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.**

After four years with supply pastors and contracted interim pastors, meeting in the fellowship hall or sanctuary of another denomination’s church, we feel that God is now leading us to call a pastor. That person will join with us in moving forward to eventually find a permanent home so we can more effectively advance our mission of following Jesus and making disciples.

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

 Lamb of God is composed primarily of prior members of an ELCA congregation which had been dually affiliated with the NALC. When the ELCA congregation voted to dissolve that affiliation, our group, joined by our retired pastor and the associate pastor, decided to form a new NALC congregation.

Completed by: The Call Committee of Lamb of God Lutheran Fellowship Date: November 13, 2019

**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****.**

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

 North American Lutheran Church

 Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry

 3500 Mill Run Drive

 Hilliard, OH 43026-777

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

Should you have questions, call Pr. David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry, at 614-777-5709 (Office), or 719-650-8171 (Cell).

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