

# ASSOCIATE PASTOR



## *God is up to something at CUCC!*

Over the past several years, we've embraced change with purpose and energy, replacing "because we've always done it that way" with, "Does it work? Does it bring joy? Could it be better?" This mindset has strengthened our ministries, updated our governance, and empowered our pastors, staff, and teams.

As a church, we are bridging generations, discovering new ways to share ministry, and welcoming fresh ideas. We're energized and ready to welcome a new Associate Pastor into this exciting season of growth.

Our ideal candidate is passionate about the entire church. Our new Associate Pastor will have opportunities to preach regularly, offer pastoral care, engage in ministry with all ages, and live into their unique sense of calling. As a growing church, we are looking for the right person and will work with them to shape a role that is meaningful and fulfilling.

We welcome applicants who are full-time, part-time, fully ordained, or still in the process. If you feel a connection and are interested in working and growing with us, let's talk and discern what God may have in store.

## Mission Statement

Connected by our love of God and neighbor, we strive to be a community of Worship, Welcome, and Justice.

*“Ultimately, our worship is a space where the Spirit is present and moving. You can feel it!”*  
~Member

*"This is the first church where I've felt truly comfortable bringing my whole self."*  
~Member

## *Worship*

Stemming from our Sr. Pastor, everyone, everyone, EVERYONE is welcomed and encouraged to bring their whole self to church. We do not check our doubts, questions, and vulnerabilities at the door, but are encouraged to be ourselves, for we truly believe that we are better together.

We gather for worship each Sunday morning in a beautiful sanctuary filled with cheerful, chatty, and energetic energy. While our services honor several traditional elements, they are also relaxed, welcoming, and relevant. For example, our music leans toward traditional hymns, yet our congregation is excited to explore more diverse congregational singing and special music offerings.

Our worship is intentionally collaborative, incorporating voices and contributions from people of all ages. Children play an active role in our services, and it's been a joy to watch them develop and express their own faith. You'll hear a variety of voices adding their personal touches, making each service unique and heartfelt.



## *Welcome*

As a congregation, we strive to move beyond surface-level welcome and inclusion toward a true celebration of diversity, creating a community where people of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences are valued and empowered to share their unique gifts. This means listening to one another's stories, learning from our differences, and building a shared sense of belonging that reflects the boundless love of God.

We are looking for an Associate Pastor who will join us in this sacred and ongoing work, helping us expand our circle of welcome, challenge our assumptions, and grow into a church that reflects the radical inclusivity of Christ. Together, we seek to create a community where everyone feels not only invited but truly at home.



# Justice

In addition to being a safe and nurturing community for our members, we believe the church exists to serve and bless those beyond its walls. While we value our long-time partnerships with local agencies like Lazarus House, our community's homeless shelter, we recognize there is still so much more we can do. The past few years have inspired us to dream bigger, to deepen our impact, and to expand our reach. We want to do more—because there is more to be done.

In that spirit, we recently updated our bylaws to dedicate 10% of all "Named Giving" to Mission and Justice initiatives. This commitment reflects our desire to put our faith into action. To ensure these resources are used effectively, we established a Mission and Justice Funds Committee, which collaborates with the congregation and ministry teams to allocate funds and identify new opportunities to partner with organizations making a difference in the world.



We are also deeply committed to being a positive and welcoming presence in our local community. One of the ways we do this is through our annual United Fall Fest, which draws over 2,000 people to our campus for an evening of fun, connection, and generosity. Each year, this event raises funds for a designated charity, further extending our mission of love and service beyond our walls.

Whether inside our walls or out, we strive to be a safe and nurturing place for everyone, everyone, everyone. This commitment runs through everything we do, from our worship services to our outreach programs. We want people to experience God's boundless love in a way that feels real, personal, and transformative. We are a community that celebrates diversity, embraces questions, and seeks to grow together in faith.

We believe our next Associate Pastor will bring fresh ideas and energy to help us live out this calling. Their leadership and creativity will not only strengthen our shared ministry but also inspire us to reach new people and serve in new ways. Together, we hope to make God's love tangible, offering a place where all can belong and be nurtured in spirit, no matter where they are on life's journey.

*"This church has taught me that pursuing justice is a spiritual practice, one that deepens my faith and my love for others."*

*~Member*



*"Our commitment to Mission and Justice reminds me that faith is meant to make a real difference in the world."*

*~Member*



## *Scope of Work*

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Collaborate with Sr Pastor, staff, and volunteers in the development and leadership of worship services.
- Provide spiritually nourishing practices, teachings, and care to the whole congregation.
- Collaborate with the Senior Pastor, staff, and volunteers to establish and connect people in the various ministry teams and activities of the church.
- Provide leadership for weddings, funerals, and baptisms for members of the community.
- Supervise designated staff members and programs.
- Serve as a welcoming presence within the church to create an environment where everyone feels like they belong.

### **Preferred Qualifications**

- Sense of personal calling and sincere passion for authentic Christian community
- Enthusiastic, positive, and organized.
- Desire to establish effective working relationships with others, demonstrating a collaborative spirit with the pastor, staff, and volunteers.

## *Contact US*

### **UCC Clergy can contact:**

Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley  
*Associate Conference Minister*

[shernelledneystilley@ilucc.org](mailto:shernelledneystilley@ilucc.org)  
708-701-4933

### **All other candidates email:**

[personnel@cuccstc.org](mailto:personnel@cuccstc.org)

*"Finding the right  
Associate Pastor  
isn't about filling a  
position—it's about  
finding a partner  
in ministry."  
~Member*

