1. How would you describe the congregation’s/organization’s specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

*We are a light in the county for inclusive and caring community of believers that are intentional in expressing these values in the community. Our “core values” include:*

* + 1. ***Warmly welcome and affirm*** *all people,*
		2. ***Glorify and praise God*** *– center of all life*
		3. ***Deepen relationships*** *that form and inform our faith in a living God*
		4. ***Inspire followers*** *to lead, work, and serve in God’s world*
		5. ***Generously give*** *as a faith response to God who gives with great abundance*
		6. ***Cultivate and celebrate*** *the beauty of God in worship and throughout creation*
		7. ***Transform lives*** *by loving as Jesus loved and did justice*
		8. ***Grow disciples*** *by intentionally inviting others into Christian community*

*These are lived out by various members who work in the local second hand clothing store weekly, hosting and delivering Meals on Wheels, donating monthly to the hungry both in kind and with financial support, serving in local community service clubs that improve life in the community, hosting holiday musical events available nowhere else in the community, supporting the local arts and learning center through service. As congregational and community needs arise 5th Avenue Uniting has a history of responding in service and financially.*

1. What is the nature and context of the community in which your congregation lives out its mission/vision? How will you address the emerging needs that are impacting your community

*Our mission statement succinctly calls us timelessly to be hands and feet of Jesus in our community and the world, with the help of the Holy Spirit. We view that mission as being an opening and affirming church home on the corner of 5th Avenue and Locust Street in Springfield, Robertson County, Tennessee. For those seeking comfort and support for their spiritual well-being we stand as a beacon in the county. We are unique in that our blended family seems to attract those searching for an encouraging isle in a sea of “If I am right, you are wrong” kind of world. Our future is to continue to provide access to those who need a location where all are welcome. We begin each worship service saying, “Welcome home.”*

1. How will this call help complement the responsibilities of other staff/volunteer positions, and the life of the congregation/organization, so that you may accomplish your short and long-term goals for ministry?

*Our very existence as a “federated church” speaks to the community of the faith of two congregations becoming a witness to the power of faith in world that experiences too little of it. Noted in other places are local activities that exhibit how we live out that faith – to serve others and to stand for a community that has no boundaries, in “keeping with Jesus’ message of unconditional love*.

*Our congregation located on a corner one block from the courthouse serves as a welcome beacon of Christ’s love regardless of “race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status , physical and mental ability, and education and housing. We stand against discrimination and exclusion by choosing to worship and serve with all people through mutual love, acceptance and reconciliation. Our support of local, national and international mission both financially and with our hands and feet validate our commitment to the mission of the church. Our new pastor can help us live our faith by preaching the Good News, as is recounted in Romans 10:17 – “So faith comes from hearing and hearing from the word of Christ. “*

1. Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have, to lead the congregation towards the vision and mission established.

*We hope to bring to 5th Ave Uniting a person who is a direct communicator, ready to deal with 2 denominations, the community and our local council (session). Wisdom gained through experience, emotional maturity, and an outgoing personality will allow this person to interact with our older members as well as the younger people that are beginning to attend. Open-mindedness is a necessary gift as we will be dealing with a range of congregants as concerns age, sexual orientation and we hope race .All of this will require a person of high energy and the ability to inspire that energy in the congregation as a whole. Ability to embrace our congregational heritage in its diversity – Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ, and local heritage of both. Communicating their understanding of scripture through preaching will be a gift for the diverse group of people attending our worship services.*

1. What areas of ministry do you expect the person called to be responsible for? Share specific tasks, assignments, and programs.

*Our ideal candidate must have the ability to lead in four areas. Communication is imperative as this person will be responsible for communicating with the Presbytery, the Regional Office of the Disciple of Christ and within our local congregation. Pastoral Care for new parishioners as well as long term members - showing the compassion of Christ with sensitivity to culture and context and convey the healing power of God to those who suffer. Worship leadership is an important part of our requirements. Knowing the practice and theory of Christian preaching, and the ability to proclaim the Word of God to engage others. Finally the ability to help parishioners think critically about the relationship of their faith to issues of justice, ethics and morality.*

*5thAvenue Uniting Church has some heritage ministries as well as new ones the congregation is actively supports and in which it is engaged. The person we call will help us ascertain how we can better serve the community. The church building is a place where ministry becomes active. We have the following activities housed in the building. AA, Al-Anon, Arts and Learning Center, Senior’s Group, Meals on Wheels, donation in kind and financially to feed the hungry locally, preparing a meal for the Homeless occasionally, and support COPE a local organization that supports those in need.*

* *AA meets in the building 4 times weekly, in the basement in an area dedicated to them*
* *Al-Anon meets once a week in Fellowship Hall*
* *Willow Oak Arts and Learning Center uses the building as necessary for extra space for chorale music and other instruction*
* *A troop of Girl Scouts has asked recently to use Fellowship Hall for a special program*
* *Golden Dreamers, an ecumenical senior’s program uses Fellowship Hall monthly. The leadership of the group are members of the church. Annually they provide gift bags for a local rest home at Christmas. Each meeting all donate their change to Make a Change. This financially supports the Master’s Table a local feeding program*
* *Each month we gather specific items for the local food pantry*
* *Weekly members serve at COPE, a local thrift store. Proceeds from the sales of the store also provide support local people in need of help with food, rent, utility bills, etc.*
* *Recently we began supplying a monthly meal at the local homeless shelter called My Father’s House*
* *The Master’s Table, a local program that feeds the needy, daily is financially supported in various ways throughout the year.*

CHURCH MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

MISSION - With the help of the Holy Spirit, members of 5th Avenue Uniting church covenant with God and one another to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and the world.

VISUON –

**Engage** in extravagant invitation and inclusion of all

**Foster** faith formation

**Bring** transformational ministries to those in need and

**Share** the story of this faith community with others

TASKS, EXOECTATIONS, DUTIES, SUPERVISION, ASSIGNMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THEPOSITION (1,500 WORD LIMIT)

Our pastor meets monthly with the Council to share the vision for 5th Avenue Uniting Church and plan actions to achieve it. They visit members as the occasion calls for it. This would include ill health, hospitalizations, or the loss of loved ones. They attempt to participate in regular activities annually within the church calendar such as VBS, luncheons, special music events and special scheduled events such as our annual Pride Picnic. They participate with various committees of the council only as needed. Our pastor exhibits communication skills within the congregation and the community to see that the vision and mission of 5th Avenue Uniting Church are familiar to all. All of these activities will be joint decisions between the Council and our pastor based upon agreed upon guidelines annually. These activities should require no more than 20 hours weekly.,

Our pastor works with the staff to achieve established standards in worship and other activities. They are dependable and considerate of others, one with whom others enjoy working. They are responsible for the worship experience; one who carefully values both the heritage of two congregations while achieving a new approach for 5th Avenue Uniting Church. They are open to including ALL people in our worship experience, while continuing to lead. We trust the Holy Spirit to guide our pastor and the congregation to work together to achieve both the mission and vision of 5th Avenue Uniting Church