



FIRST METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF KANSAS

# PASTORAL SEARCH PACKET



**table of hope**  
*Metropolitan Community Church*



# at this table

*everyone is welcome*



## Thank you.

Thank you for considering Table of Hope MCC in Wichita, KS for your vocational ministry. Our church has over 50 years of history learning, growing, and sharing the love of the Creator. We are a diverse faith community with an open theology which welcomes any and all who seek to find sacred space with others. We believe that all individuals to find their own unique way to encounter the Divine and celebrate a God of many names. We welcome applications from all qualified individuals who share this view and feel called to join our family of faith.

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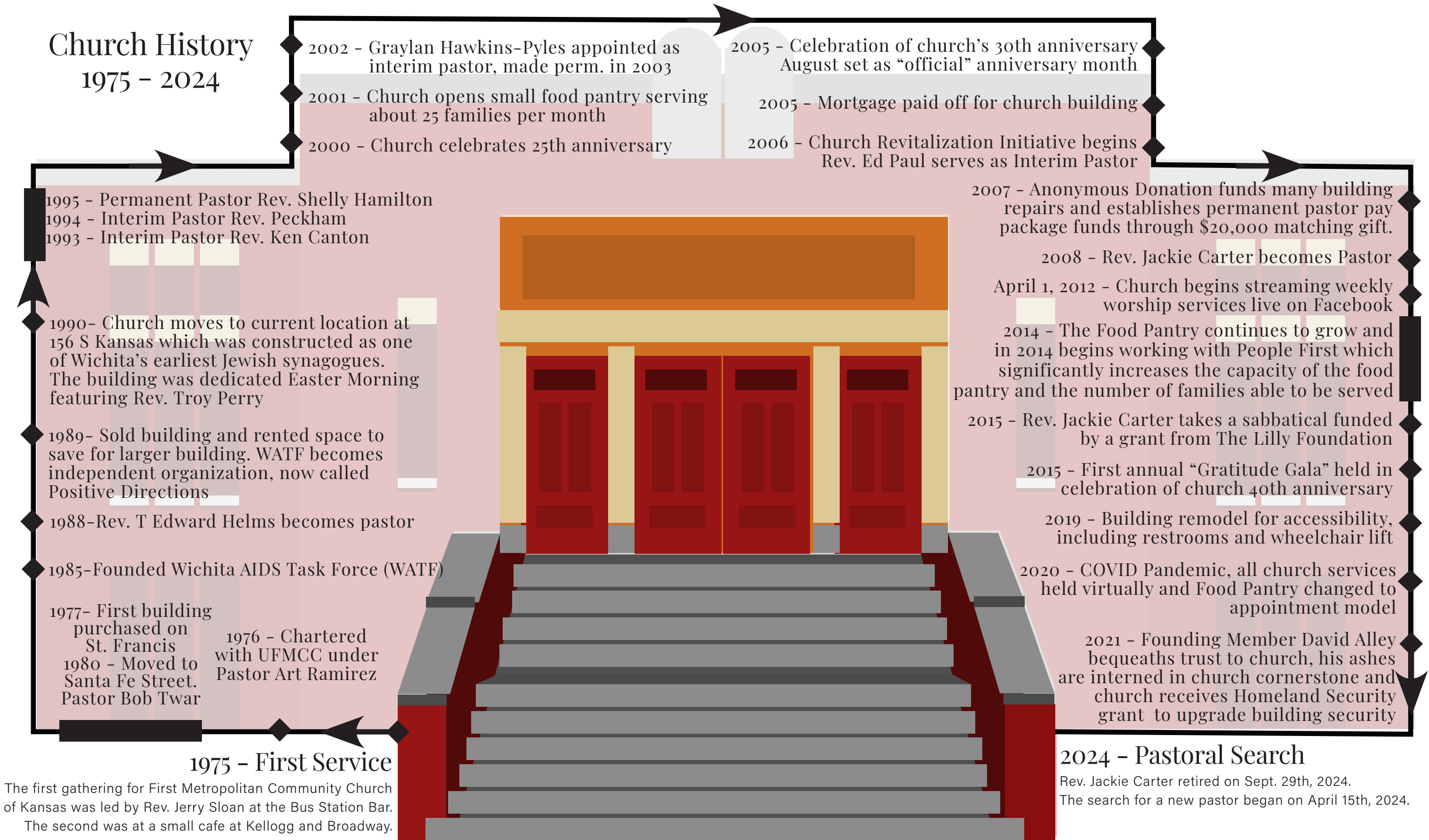
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at this table  
*there's enough for everyone*



## Table of Hope Food Pantry

Table of Hope operates the second largest food pantry in the state. We began this ministry in 2001 as an outreach to our neighbors, with an outreach of about 2 to 5 families per week. Over time, this ministry has become the mission that unifies and attracts folks to this faith community. Currently, we serve 1200 people per week, which makes it our largest faith experience every week. Food is the main reason that people begin to come to this pantry, community and an unspoken yet observable faith is the reason they come back and often think of the pastor here as "their" pastor. We will work with the next pastor of the church to determine how they can contribute to the work of the food pantry and represent God's bountiful love for all.

*In 2023 the food pantry served:*

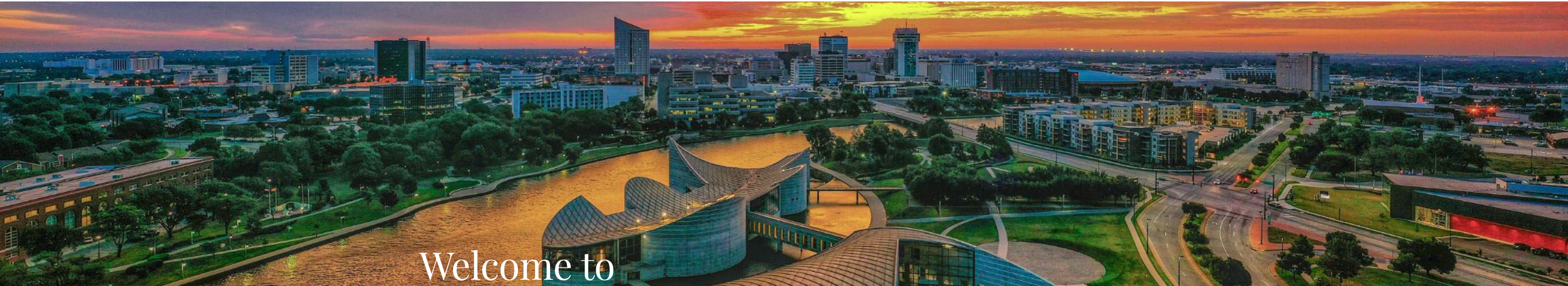
**39,594 people  
in 12,887 Families**

The pantry is staffed almost entirely by volunteers.

We partner with an organization which hires Developmentally Delayed adults who work with us Monday through Friday for several hours. We have many other volunteers that support this ministry in many ways. We have many community partners, in addition to the church, who either provide product or grant monies to ensure the continued success of this pantry.











# Welcome to Wichita

## Living in Wichita, KS

Nicknamed “The Air Capital of the World,” Wichita is the largest city in Kansas, with a population of about 640,000 in the Wichita metropolitan area. Wichita offers all of the amenities of a big city with a small-town feel, boasting an average commute time of 18 minutes. Among Money Magazine’s Top 10 Best Big Cities, Wichita was also rated the No. 1 city to live the good life economically by Forbes.





### Housing, Utilities & Transportation

Wichita’s housing expenses are 29% lower than the national average and the utility prices are 2% lower than the national average. Transportation expenses like bus fares and gas prices are 3% lower than the national average.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| MEDIAN HOME PRICE   | MEDIAN RENT   | ENERGY BILL   | PHONE BILL  | GAS   |
| \$321,050   | \$976.15 / month  | \$173.28 / month  | \$186.42 / month  | \$3.30 / gallon   |






### Food & Grocery

Wichita has grocery prices that are 1% higher than the national average.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| LOAF OF BREAD   | GALLON OF MILK  | CARTON OF EGGS  | BUNCH OF BANANAS  | HAMBURGER   |
| \$3.90  | \$2.44  | \$2.26  | \$3.38  | \$5.16  |

### Healthcare

Healthcare in Wichita is 7% lower than the national average.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| DOCTOR’S VISIT  | DENTIST VISIT   | OPTOMETRIST VISIT   | RX DRUG   | VETERINARY VISIT  |
| \$115.92  | \$100.01  | \$109.19  | \$427.09  | \$59.50   |



## City Attractions

- Botanica Gardens
- Sedgwick County Zoo
- Keeper of the Plains
- Old Cowtown Museum
- Museum of World Treasures
- Old Town
- Exploration Place
- Wichita Art Museum
- Frank Lloyd Wright’s Allen House
- Great Plains Nature Trail
- Mid-America All-Indian Museum
- Music Theater of Wichita
- Roxy’s Downtown
- Crown Uptown Theater
- Wichita River Festival
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Open Streets Neighborhood Celebrations

There is no shortage of things to do. Wichitans take advantage of all the outdoors has to offer as well as the outstanding attractions that enhance the city’s quality of life. Wichita is home to a world-class zoo and a wealth of museums, theaters and other attractions for all ages.

Old Town is one of Wichita’s premier entertainment districts with distinctive restaurants, live concerts, nightclubs, specialty shops, and a Saturday farmer’s market. Wichita’s continued commitment to quality of life is illustrated by development projects such as WaterWalk and Waterfront, the Intrust Bank Arena, and a new baseball stadium.

One benefit of living in Wichita is the cost of living, which is below the national median. Housing prices and rental rates are inexpensive compared to what you’d find in places on the East or West Coast. Residents tend to spend about the same on daily expenses like groceries and utilities as the average American.

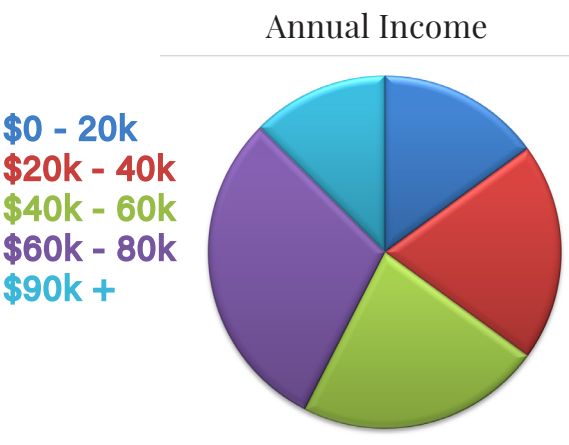
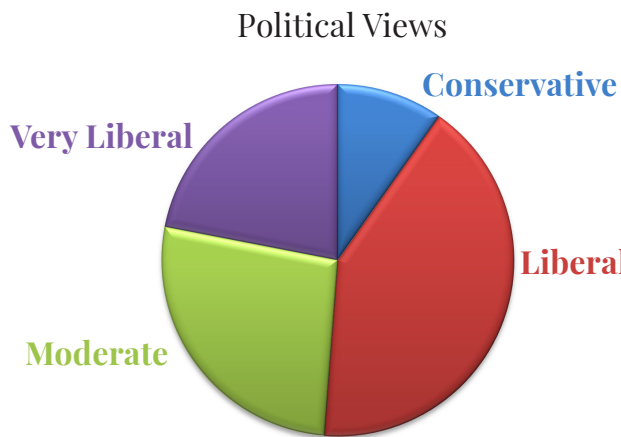
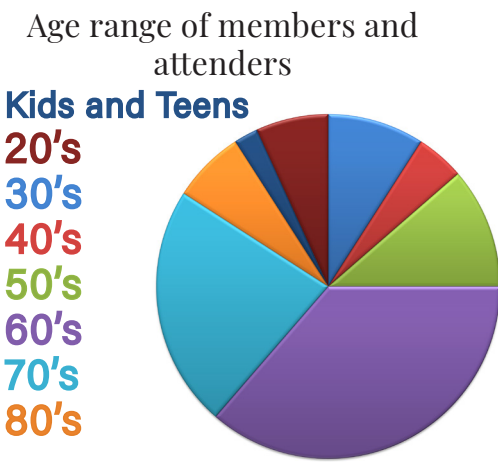
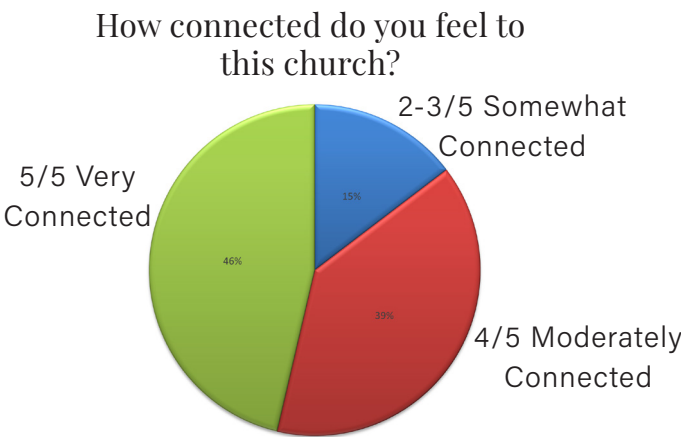


The Keeper of the Plains by Blackbear Bosin



2024 Membership Survey

In preparation for our pastoral search, the Table of Hope Pastoral Search Committee conducted a membership survey to learn more about our congregation demographics, and what we are looking for in a new spiritual leader. Some of the information is summarized for this packet. The full report from this survey will be available to the new pastor.



We asked:  
*What are the most important characteristics you would like to see in the next pastor at Table of Hope MCC?*

**Leadership and Vision:** They should demonstrate strong leadership qualities, be progressive in their theological approach, and prioritize the church's mission, including care for the food pantry.

**Compassionate and Kind:** A pastor who exhibits kindness, compassion, and an open heart towards the needs of both church members and the wider community with a dedication to providing pastoral care, being empathetic, and promoting healing and growth within the congregation.

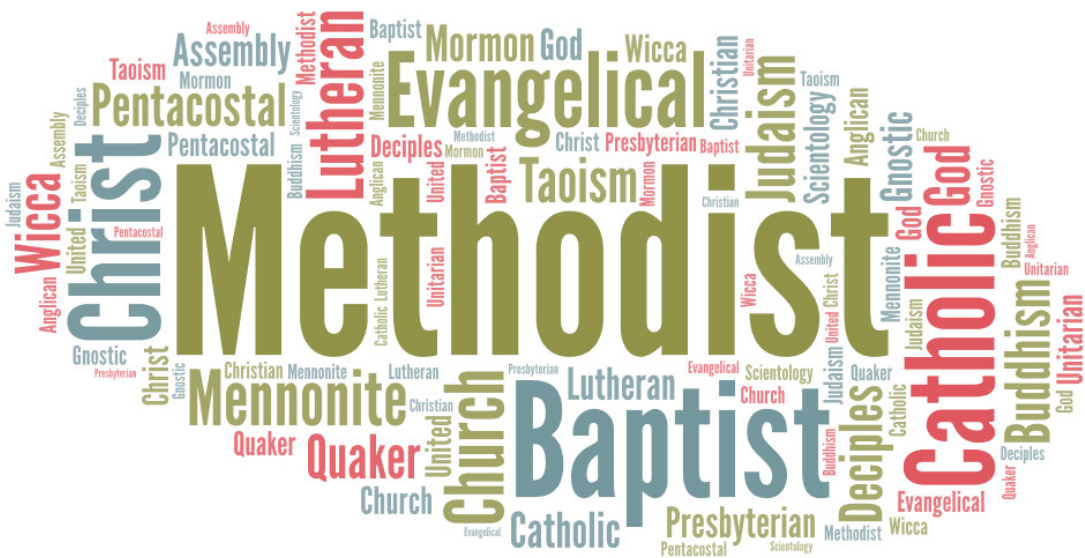
**Effective Communication:** They should be skilled communicators, delivering good sermons that are relevant and inspiring, while also being approachable and responsive to congregational concerns.

**Community Engagement:** A willingness to engage with the community, collaborate with other churches and community leaders, and advocate for social justice issues, including support for the local LGBT+ community. We are seeking someone who is comfortable being outgoing, friendly, and welcoming to people from all walks of life, ensuring everyone feels included and valued within the church community.

**Integrity and Trustworthiness:** Maintaining high moral standards, being honest, trustworthy, and willing to speak truth to power when necessary.

**Continuity and Connection:** While recognizing the unique qualities of the previous pastor, the new pastor should aim to maintain continuity in the church's ethos while forging their own meaningful connections with the congregation and broader community. This requires being hands-on in various aspects of church life, including outreach, administrative oversight, and maintaining good boundaries.

Our personal faith history







The Table of Hope Praise Team

At this table  
*everyone is seen*



Brad Thomison  
serves as Director of  
Music and Technology



## Church & Food Pantry Staff

The church staff is led by the Pastor who also serves as the personnel director and supervisor of all staff. The congregation approves special line-item funding for a Director of Music, Director of Technology, Accompanist, Drummer, and an office support worker at their annual meeting. Additional funds are budgeted for use to pay other musicians, singers, and tech operators for worship services and special events.

The Food Pantry employs additional coordinators and partners with People First, an organization which employs adults with developmental disabilities. The Food Pantry also relies on numerous volunteers to operate throughout the year.



Table of Hope MCC is current on its tithing obligations to the UFMCC Denomination.

The planned annual general fund budget for 2024 is \$221,000

Table of Hope MCC has owned it's building debt-free since 2015.

The building was upgraded to be fully ADA accessible in 2019



## The David Alley Charitable Trust

David Alley was a founding member of the church and attended consistently until he entered long term care in March 2020 at the very beginning of COVID. David had been a tool and die maker at Boeing Wichita for about 35 years at the time of his retirement. David gave regularly and even provided a large sum of money when we were in danger of losing the building many years ago. David was committed to the continuation of this Church well into the future and, upon his death in August 2021, his estate provided for both an endowment for the Church and a Charitable Trust for the financial security of the Church. Only the income from these accounts are used by the Church to provide continuity and, to some extent, to fund the operation of the food pantry and purchase food for distribution. If used appropriately, David's legacy will provide financial stability for the church for many years to come. David had no family so, in deference to his commitment to the Church, the urn containing his ashes was placed in the hollowed out cornerstone of the building at the conclusion of his Memorial Service.



### What we are looking for:

- ◆ Completion or in-progress professional religious education with preference for Master of Divinity.
- ◆ Ordained or eligible for ordination in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
- ◆ Open and inclusive theology which invites individuals from all (or no) faith traditions to gather as a community in worship and service.
- ◆ An individual willing and prepared to be the primary pastoral care provider for not only our church membership, but also all of Wichita and the region's LGBTQ+ community.
- ◆ Participation and representation of our faith community and the greater Wichita LGBTQ+ community at events, meetings, and all places where our voices must be heard. This will include working with community organizations, with Wichita Police Department, schools, and other faith communities.
- ◆ Support and participation at the food pantry.
- ◆ Available to start on September 15th, 2024.

### Technically Speaking:

Excerpts from the FMCC of Kansas Bylaws: The Pastor is the UFMCC clergy person with a license to practice who has been called by God and elected by the church to be responsible for the duties of teacher, preacher, and spiritual leader until such time that the relationship is terminated. The Pastor shall also fulfill such other roles and responsibilities as are stated in the UFMCC Bylaws and the policies of the church.

The Pastor shall have authority for ordering all worship services of the church; determining when other worship services will be held, subject to approval of the Board of Directors; appointing compensated and uncompensated church staff, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors; and determining compensation, vacation periods, and titles of office of the church staff, subject to approval of the Board of Directors. The Pastor shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors, personnel director, and as the primary spokesperson of the church to the community. The Pastor may delegate such duties as seem wise.

### Invitation To Apply

If you feel called to join our community of faith, please send your resume and responses to the questions below via email to [tableofhopetech@gmail.com](mailto:tableofhopetech@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

**What is something you are especially proud of in your pastoral career?**

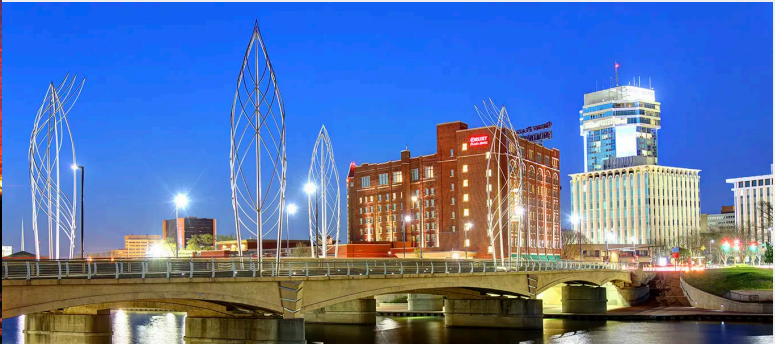
**How do you prioritize and find balance when time is limited and needs are great?**

**What goals do you have for your next church?**

**Tell us about your fundraising and stewardship philosophy and experiences.**



At this table  
Everybody Matters



### Compensation Information

With consideration for education and experience, our faith community is offering a compensation package of \$50,000 - 65,000 annually. The compensation can be allocated to salary, housing allowance, health insurance, retirement savings at the selected candidate's discretion. The church is current with payments to the UFMCC Board of Pensions.

Additional benefits include paid vacation and sick leave annually with pulpit fill arranged by the pastor for any time off occurring during regularly scheduled worship services. The church community also supports pastoral sabbatical after a negotiated amount of time served by the selected candidate.





So come as you are  
*the perfect gift is your heart*

*Contact*

— Table of Hope MCC —

Address : 156 S Kansas, Wichita KS 67211

[www.tableofhopemcc.com](http://www.tableofhopemcc.com)

Email : [tableofhopetech@gmail.com](mailto:tableofhopetech@gmail.com)

Phone : (316) 267-1852