



# Pastoral Residency Program

“It glorifies God that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

~John 15:8

Wellesley Village Church is seeking an outstanding seminarian or recent graduate as our next Pastoral Resident, to serve from **August 2021-June 2023**. This position is an ordainable call in the United Church of Christ, with full-time salary and benefits.

Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. on February 22, 2021**, and interviews will begin in early March. Please send applications to [residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org) or via postal service to: Pastoral Residency Program, Wellesley Village Church, 2 Central St., Wellesley, MA 02482. With specific questions, please contact Sharon Funk at [residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org) or 781-235-1988, ext. 25.



*“If I had not had the benefit of the Pastoral Residency Program, I strongly suspect that a good deal of my time would be spent wondering if I am doing ‘the right thing’ in any given situation in ministry.*

*The Pastoral Residency is a compass I still turn to every day in ministry.”*

*~ Former Resident, Rev. Dr. Catriona Grant*

*“The Village Church just gets it: they get ministry, they get loving community, they get leadership development. As a congregational leader, I find myself in places I could not anticipate, but I can, and I do, trust my instincts. So much of that is directly attributable to the practices the good people of the Village Church built within me.” ~ Former Resident, Rev. Kaji Spellman Douša*

# Who We Are

*Bold in Worship*

*Extravagant in Hospitality*

*Intentional in Faith Formation*

*Radical in Generosity*

*Life-Changing in Mission*

*Joyful in Community*

Wellesley Village Church is a vibrant community of faith, centered in the heart of Wellesley with its arms stretched wide across the globe. Since 1798, faithful Christians have gathered here to worship the Triune God, grow in faith together and bear witness to the Gospel. As an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, we believe that God is still speaking and that we should still be listening! We marvel at the way God's love nurtures our love, Christ's grace transforms, and the Holy Spirit's presence makes more of us together.

In 2017, we began a visioning process, which included a series of Holy Conversations in Lent. From that rich and grace-filled time we discerned what matters most to us, relationships: our relationships with God, with one another, and with all of God's creation. This core value is expressed in our varied ministries, from our robust youth programs to our racial justice work, from our support of City Mission, For His Children and Family Promise to our fellowship dinner groups, Moms & Dads Groups, Family Life and Senior Life. At the center of it all is meaningful worship, which serves as our shared nourishment, and connection and inspiration.



In the Fall of 2019, we embarked on a community-wide Vision2020 initiative to examine where we as a church are now and to imagine where the Holy Spirit may take us moving forward. In the Spring of 2020, we entered into a collaboration with the Congregational Church of Weston, our neighbor in location and in faith, that may open even more pathways for growth and fellowship going forward. It is an exciting time in our faith journey!

Since 2002, the Pastoral Residency Program has been an integral part of who we are as a community and how we serve the wider church. We know that the fresh leadership and voices of Pastoral Residents are a gift and we not only welcome but enthusiastically wonder how God will continue to shape us through your presence among us. We are humbly honored by and committed to the task of helping form current and future leaders for the church.

*“Let this church love you; that is transforming on its own.  
The people of Village Church have a faith, and a depth of religious life, that is quite rare.  
Let it rub off on you. I think that is the greatest gift I have received from this program:  
a chance to see people who love God and love each other,  
working it out faithfully in all their imperfections.”*

*~Former Resident, Rev. John Allen*

# Why the Residency Program?

*Sustainable in Ministry*

*Intentional in Reflection*

*Healthy in Practices*

*Joyful in Service*

*Faithful in Leadership*

The mission of the Pastoral Residency Program is to provide a first call experience in which recent seminary graduates can practice and cultivate the art of pastoral ministry in a healthy congregation. While residents have been fully prepared for ministry by their seminary education and Member in Discernment process, they wish to intentionally continue their pastoral formation while serving in a local church. Our goal is to enable new clergy to build the kind of skills and practices, both professional and personal, which will provide a firm foundation for a lifetime of fruitful and faithful service to the church.

As full-time pastors, our Pastoral Residents participate in all aspects of the life of the congregation. Each resident will have multiple experiences in six essential areas of pastoral leadership: Worship, Faith Formation, Pastoral Care, Transformational Leadership, Mission/Justice and Professional Development. Residents have the experience of both stepping into existing ministries and forming new ones. We intentionally leave space in our Residents' portfolios so they, and we, can be responsive to the Spirit's movement among us. With a staggered call process, our two residents have the opportunity to progress in their learning, development and leadership while having the support of a peer.

In a time when the very nature of ministry and church life are rapidly changing, we believe that the church needs pastors who can lead adaptively, while being fully grounded in God. Through the program, residents will develop skills in self-differentiated and transformational leadership, finding healthy rhythms for professional and personal wellbeing, engaging ministry at the margins, and collaborating with ministry partners—both pastoral and lay.

Intentional reflection and formation are built into the Program through:

- ♦ Regular Seminar gatherings with the entire pastoral staff to reflect on Christian Theology and the practice of ministry;
- ♦ Support for participating in a New Clergy Group through the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC and working with a Spiritual Director or other coaches as needed;
- ♦ Colleagues who are committed to their own reflection and formation and who value the nurture of new pastors as integral to their own calling.
- ♦ Dedicated group of lay leaders—Emmaus Group—who journey with each Resident through their call here and into their next call.





*“There is no doubt that the Church as we know it is changing quickly. The Pastoral Residency Program created a safe and loving environment where I could explore what it means to be the leader God is calling me to be in a world that is hungry for the Church to be in the business of transformative love.”*  
~Former Resident, Rev. Nicole Lamarche

## Who You Are

*Someone who loves:*

- ◆ Serving God and God’s people
- ◆ The local church, in all its messiness and faithfulness, as the Body of Christ
- ◆ Working collaboratively with colleagues and congregants

*Someone who desires:*

- ◆ To be a disciple of Christ and journey with other disciples
- ◆ To be a transformational leader
- ◆ To see the church grow in its faithfulness and fruitfulness

*Someone who is seeking:*

- ◆ To serve with gladness
- ◆ To be immersed in the rhythms of professional work, liturgical seasons and congregational life
- ◆ To follow the Holy Spirit’s guidance

*Some specific requirements:*

- ◆ Have or will have graduated with an M. Div. in the last 1-2 years
- ◆ Are a Member in Discernment in the United Church of Christ, on track to be ordained within the time frame of the program
- ◆ Have discerned a call to parish ministry
- ◆ Can make a two-year commitment to the Pastoral Residency Program





## WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

*Congregational † United Church of Christ*

### **Pastoral Residency Program Application Instructions**

*To be considered as a candidate please send the following documents (either by email or as hard copy), to be received no later than **5:00 p.m. February 22, 2021***

- ◆ Completed application form (see below);
- ◆ A current resume;
- ◆ Two letters of reference. Please have two people write a letter about your gifts for pastoral ministry and your potential as a Pastoral Resident. Letters should be sent directly to the church;
- ◆ Two phone references. Please list two different people whom we can contact and who can also reflect on your gifts for pastoral ministry and your potential as a Pastoral Resident;
- ◆ Essay questions (500-750 words each):
  - ◆ Describe your call to pastoral ministry and how you see the Pastoral Residency Program supporting that;
  - ◆ Share a recent moment in ministry that was particularly successful or fulfilling;
  - ◆ Reflect on one Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministry\* that is particularly present in your ministry and one you hope the Pastoral Residency Program will help you develop further.

\*The Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministry are widely used across the United Church of Christ for pastoral preparation, formation and discernment. They can be found at:  
<http://uccfiles.com/pdf/THE-MARKS-OF-FAITHFUL-AND-EFFECTIVE-MINISTERS.pdf>



Pastoral Residency Program  
Wellesley Village Church  
2 Central St., Wellesley, MA 02482  
[residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

With specific questions, contact Program Administrator,  
Sharon Funk at [residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:residency@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
or 781-235-1988, ext. 25.

## Pastoral Residency Program Application Form

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Member in Discernment Information

Name of Association/Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Name & Position \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

If you have ever been in a discernment process in any other association/conference or denomination, please tell us where and what led to your transfer.

### Written References

*Please list two individuals who will be sending us a letter of recommendation.*

Name & Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

### Telephone References

*Please list two different individuals we can contact to learn more about you and your ministry.*

Name & Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_