

# **BLAINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE**



**Our purpose here at Blaine Christian Church is  
to live and share the love of God  
as revealed in Jesus Christ  
through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

Blaine Christian Church  
7018 Putney Rd  
Arcadia, MI 49613  
(231) 352-9148  
blainechurch@gmail.com

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## INTRODUCTION



## INTRODUCTION

God founded a small church in the rolling countryside of Benzie County in 1895 with a handful of committed Christians. Since then, we have proudly served our Lord and the community around us in the tradition of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ (DOC).

Originally, this family was brought together to fulfill three primary purposes; the Great Commandments of Matthew 22:37-39-to Love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves and the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-to go and make Disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey Jesus' commands.

These are the three pillars of Blaine Christian Church and after 127 years, we are still faithfully serving in these same ministries.

All are invited to worship, study and attend any event at Blaine Christian Church.

**JOB TITLE AND BASIC  
INFORMATION**



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**Position Being Filled:** Senior Pastor, full time

Blaine Christian Church  
7018 Putney Rd  
Arcadia, MI 49613

church phone: (231) 352-9148  
church email: [blainechurch@gmail.com](mailto:blainechurch@gmail.com)  
church website: [www.blainechristianchurch.org](http://www.blainechristianchurch.org)

**Search Committee Chair:** Wayne Faber  
[blainechurchsearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:blainechurchsearchcommittee@gmail.com)



*Blaine in the fall*

**MEMBERSHIP  
PROFILE**

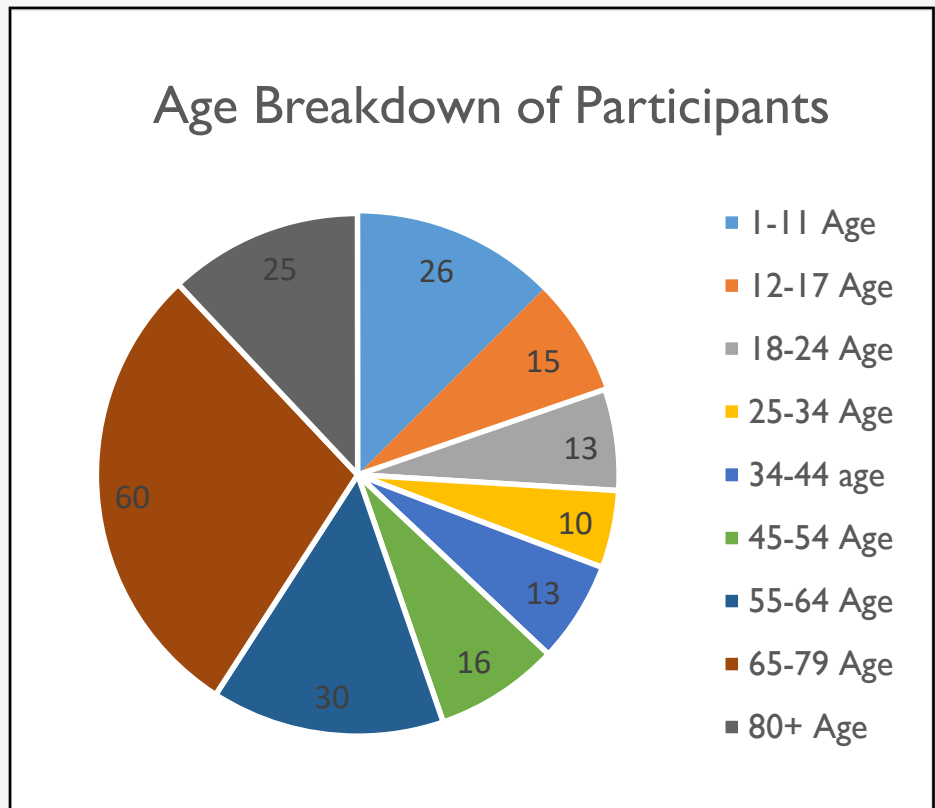


The nearby Frankfort Beach, pier and lighthouse

**MEMBERSHIP PROFILE**

<i>On average over the past year</i>	
<b>Total Number of Participants:</b>	~200
<b>Current Total Number of Members:</b>	~150
<b>Participating Members:</b>	112
<b>Participating Non-Members:</b>	60
<b>Children &amp; Teens:</b>	45

Blaine Christian Church is located in beautiful northwest Michigan a sought after location for second homes, vacationers and is a retirement location for many. The majority of our congregation reside here year round but we do have seasonal and “snow-bird” members as well.

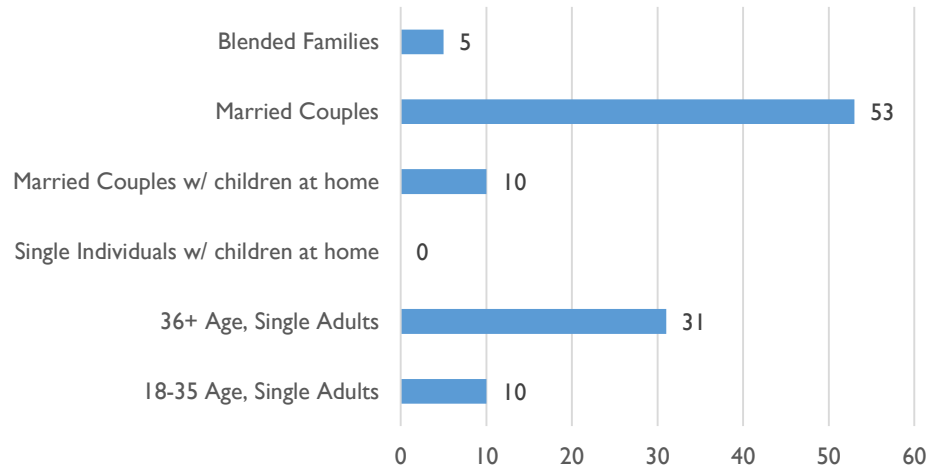


## MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

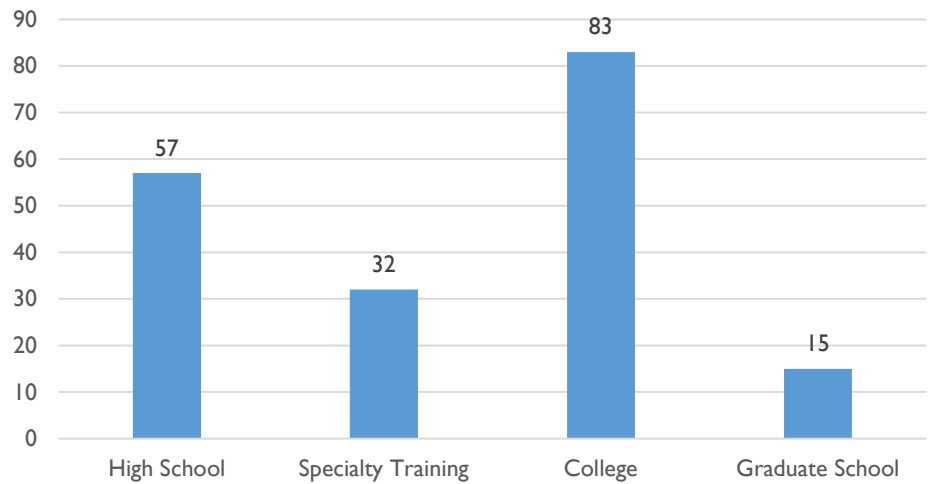


WinSome Women Retreat on Mackinac Island

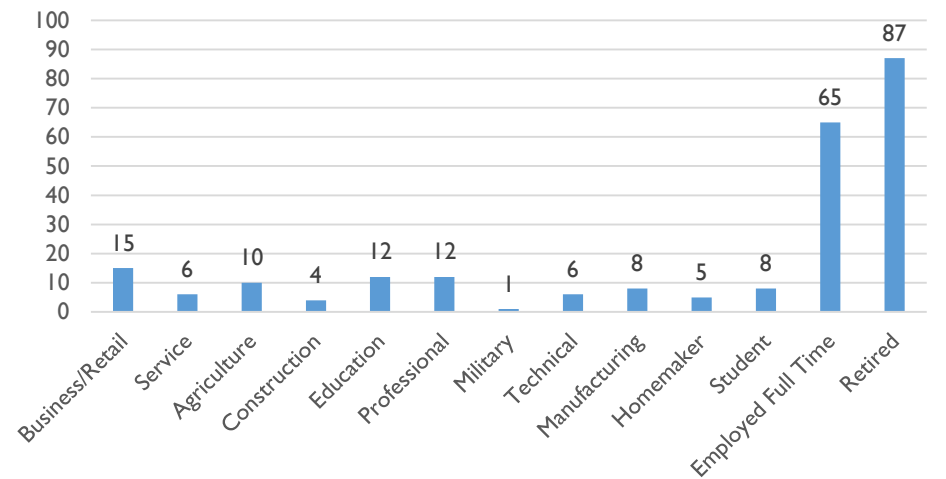
### Church Family Profile



### Education Level of Adults



### Occupations of Participants & Employment Status



## ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION



Inside the main sanctuary



Children's ministries

## ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

### Worship Services

2 each week, communion at every service

*Average attendance numbers are for the year 2022 to date.*

#### Sunday Schedule:

Praise and Worship Service - contemporary style 8:30 AM

Sunday School - all ages 9:45 AM

Blended Service 10:00 AM in summer; 11:00 AM non-summer months

Average Attendance for 8:30 AM contemporary style service	43
Average Attendance for 11:00 AM (or 10:00 AM summer) blended service	71
Total weekly average attendance	114

### Weekly Educational Ministries and average weekly attendance

Sunday School - classes are offered for children (beginning at 2 years) through adults, September through May.	63
Nursery Care - Staffed by loving adults who will care for your children ages infant – 2 years. <i>*Has been offered in the past but currently is not being utilized. Can offer again if need arises.</i>	0
Kid's Kare - Staffed by loving adults and/or high school students who will lead children ages 2-6 years in planned activities. Offered during each service.	5 to 10

### Administrative and Oversight Groups that we have at Blaine

- Board
- Elders
- Planning/Functional Committees
- Pastoral Relations
- Diaconate

## ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION



*Blaine is a church that is active  
in ministries and groups*

## Ministries and Service Groups and Congregational Outreach *The heartbeat of Blaine*

### **Christian Education Committee:**

- Sunday School for all ages: 2 years - adults
- Men's Bible studies (short term and ongoing)
- Women's Bible studies (2-3 a year)
- Vacation Bible School (4 days in August with children leading worship on the Sunday after VBS)
- Bibles to new 3rd graders each fall
- Blessing of the Backpacks in September
- Kids' Kare for young children during worship following children's moment
- Christmas Program by children and youth in mid-December
- Women's annual retreat, a 1/2 day each fall
- Discipleship class for youth and others
- Marriage Date Night program for encouragement for married couples
- Advent and Lent studies during these seasons of the year
- Periodic Youth activities
- Young Adult Ministry - currently meeting twice each month, childcare and dinner is provided
- Special studies when desired by a group

### **Worship Committee:**

- Sunday worship services
- Choir sings at the blended service every Sunday, September through May, with a special music Sunday in June and a Cantata Sunday at Christmas time.
- Praise team at early service
- Special music offerings in place of choir anthem in summer at 10 am service
- Christmas Eve Candlelight service
- Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services
- Combined services of worship for special Sundays
- Devotional materials at Advent and Lent for our participants
- Children's Moment in both services each Sunday

### **Congregational Fellowship Committee:**

- Hospitality
- Fellowship times after each worship services
- Thanksgiving potluck meal
- Special potluck meals during the year as desired
- Summer picnic
- Other fellowship events as desired by church family
- Monthly potluck group(s) at participants homes
- Dinner for Veterans with our Boy Scout troop
- Senior nursing home dinner for area nursing home residents

## ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION



### Missions Committee:

- Support of local, denominational and world mission projects (tithe of budget)
- Special mission offerings when a need arises
- Mission trips or local mission projects each year
- Community involvement by church participants and the local community helping agencies like: BACN (Benzie Area Christian Neighbors), Blessings in a Backpack, Habitat for Humanity, Senior Resources & Kids Hope
- Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan's Purse

### Membership and Evangelism Committee:

- Welcome desk each Sunday with information for guests
- Visits to guests at home early in week with a small gift
- Welcome notes to worship guests
- Congregational Care (prayer shawls, meals, cards, gifts, flowers...for appropriate events in the life of a church person)
- Publicity for upcoming ministries at church and outreach to community
- Celebration Sunday—a Sunday to celebrate our church family and reach out to others—worship, meal, games, and fellowship
- Wild game dinner
- Shepherd Ministry: visits to and care of our shut ins
- Pizza with the Pastors—a get together for new participants to get to know the pastors and the church
- Easter Egg Hunt for children with story-time
- Water bottle ministry—handing out water in the July 4th parade
- Prayer garden and landscaping of our church grounds
- Offering of church spaces for community events & meeting spaces

### Others:

- Pie Day: church makes approximately 1,000 apple pies and the money is donated to Mission projects
- Sponsor a Boy Scout troop



*Pie Day*





## STAFF INFORMATION



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## STAFF INFORMATION

### Presently Employed/Serving staff members

- 1, Senior Pastor - full time
- 1, Associate Pastor - part time
- 1, Office Manger - part time
- 2, Pillar Members - part time
- 1, Music Director - volunteer
- 1, Organist/Pianist - volunteer
- 1, Custodian - part time

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

<b>Church Building &amp; Grounds Details</b>			
<b>Type</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Year Built</b>	<b>Adequate?</b>
Large Sanctuary w/ cry room	300	2008	yes
Historic Sanctuary	~100	1895	yes
Fellowship Facility	~100	2008	yes
Classrooms - 1 large w/ divider	25		yes
Classrooms - 4 small and one nursery space	10		yes
Basement w/ classroom/rec-space	50	remodeled in 2018	yes
Admin Space - 4 offices	-		yes
Library - small	8	-	ok
Off street parking lots	yes	-	yes
Out Building for Storage	-	-	yes

Blaine Christian Church is located in a beautiful rural setting surrounded by farms and orchards. The church does not own a parsonage.



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION



*Nearby Crystal Mountain*



*Summer concert at nearby  
Interlochen Center for the Arts*



*The Betsie River*

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## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

The main characteristics of our community are agricultural/rural and tourist/recreational. Main streets in the local villages fill up with visitors and summer residents during the warmer months. Nearby Crystal Mountain describes itself as the Midwest's favorite golf, ski and spa resort destination and draws many to our area in the winter. Benzie County is a rural community with one stoplight. The cities of Traverse City and Manistee are about 40 minutes away from the heart of Benzie County.

According to the 2020 census, Benzie County has experienced a .5% over 1 year growth rate. Due to its natural beauty, this is a popular area for many and the median property values increased 5.34% between 2019 and 2020.

Since Benzie County is a sought-after area, it can be a challenge to find housing. There is also seasonal unemployment due to the nature of the agriculture and tourism industries.

### Facts:

Benzie County is the smallest county in Michigan with approximately 36% of the land being public. A portion of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is in the northwest portion of the county and was named "the most beautiful place in America" by ABC-TV's Good Morning America a few years back. Crystal Lake is the largest lake within the county at 9,711 acres. Platte River and Betsie River also run through the county. Benzie County has 57 inland lakes, rivers, forests, and areas of productive farmland. There are two public school systems within the county; Frankfort Area Schools and Benzie County Central Schools. Frankfort has one elementary school and one middle/high school both located within the city of Frankfort. Benzie County Central has three elementary schools located near Benzonia, Lake Ann and Thompsonville. The middle/high school is located near Benzonia/Beulah.

<https://www.benzie.org/>

<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/benzie-county-mi/>

Manistee County is located just south of Benzie County. It has 25 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline with 270 miles of rivers. There are four school districts located within the county; Bear Lake, Kaleva Norman Dickson, Manistee Area, and Onekama all located within the cities and villages of Manistee County.

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

<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/manistee-county-mi/>

COMMUNITY  
INFORMATION

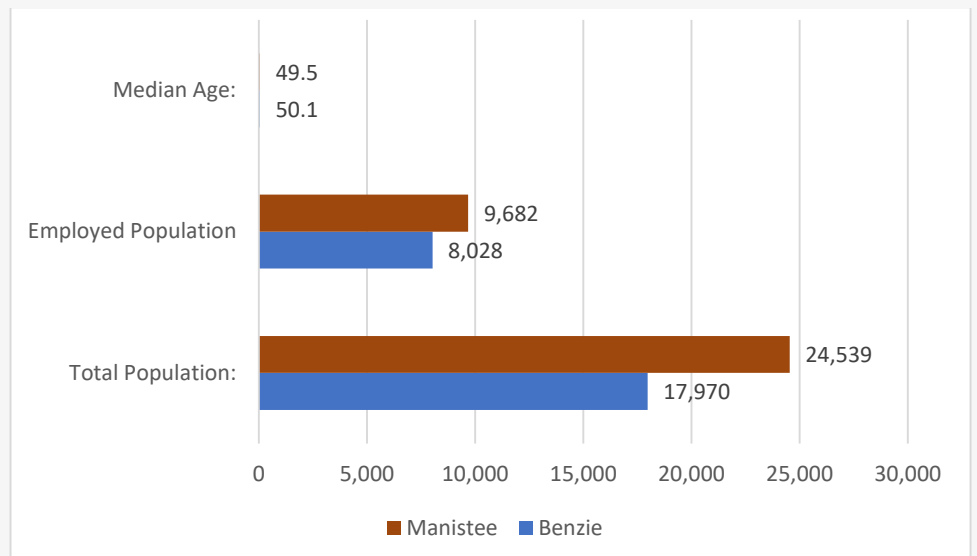
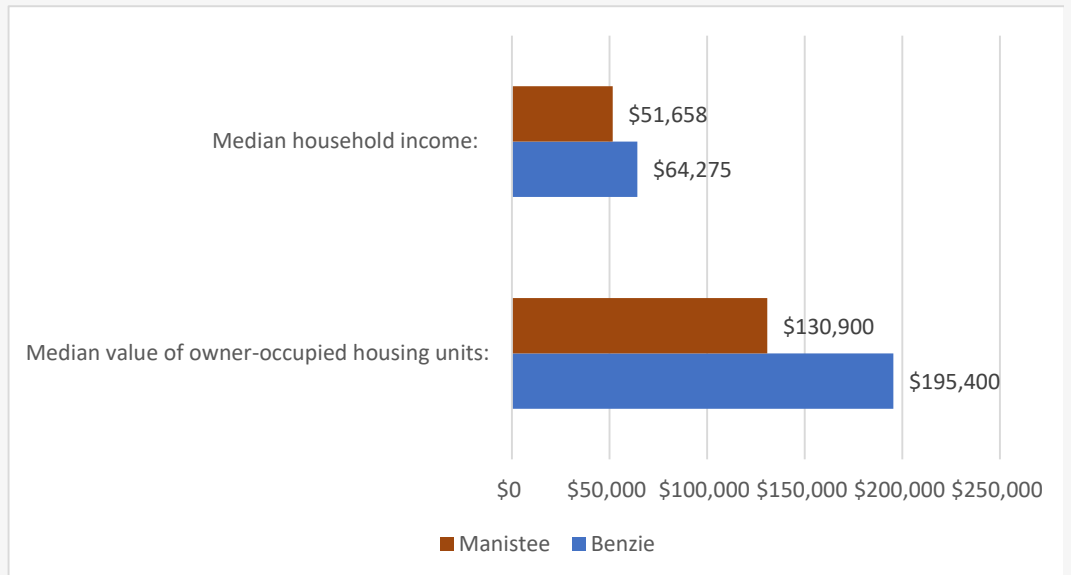
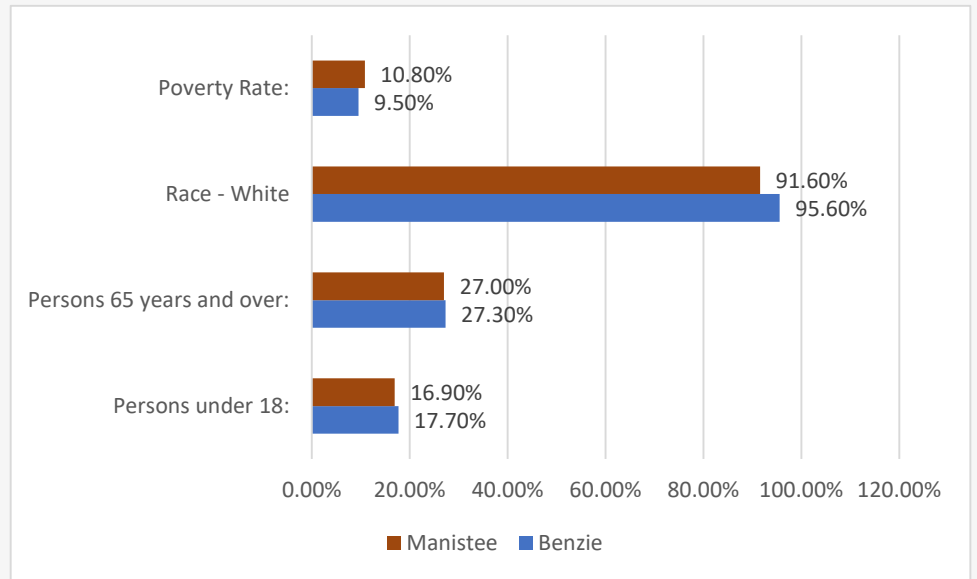


Lake Michigan



The beauty of M 22 in the fall

**Benzie & Manistee Counties**  
**Demographics based on the 2020 Population data:**



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

<b>Income &amp; Expenses for the last four years, beginning with the most recent year:</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Operating Receipts</b>	<b>Capital Receipts</b>	<b>Total Outreach Paid (includes Disciples outreach)</b>	<b>Total Disciples Outreach Paid (DMF, WOC, Reconciliation, etc.)</b>
2022 (as of 11/2022)	\$170,038.29	\$7,637.02	\$14,257.62	\$7,128.67
2021	\$221,035.60	\$17,934.00	\$26,393.18	\$13,376.57
2020	\$248,894.15	\$10,401.50	\$27,138.98	\$14,274.46
2019	\$221,793.79	\$11,686.09	\$23,900.97	\$11,742.24
<b>Current Total Debt</b>				<b>\$0</b>
<b>Reserve / Restricted / Endowment Funds as of 8/31/22:</b>				
			Building	\$29,980.79
			Savings	\$95,000.00
			Memorial	\$4,174.57
			Contingency Fund	\$10,000.00

**PREVIOUS  
PASTORAL LEADERSHIP**

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**PREVIOUS PASTORAL LEADERSHIP - HISTORY FOR PAST 20 YEARS**

Starting with most recent:			
<b>Name of Minister</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date Began</b>	<b>Date Ended</b>
Pastor David Spalding	Associate Pastor	3/01/2022	present
Pastor Brett Spalding	Associate Pastor	4/2005	5/2007
Reverend Robert D. Larimer	Senior Pastor	8/20/2000	present

CONGREGATIONAL DYNAMICS/DEALING WITH CONFLICT

Characterizing or rating our congregation's experience with conflict given the following possibilities: C=closely, S=somewhat, N=not at all	
C	As a church, we respect and listen to each other and work through issues without generating divisiveness.
N	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.
S	Some have left our church because of conflict.
N	Conflict hurts our sense of unity, but we tend not to talk about it.
C	Painful experience with conflict has been present, but it has been worked through, and we have learned from the experience.
N	We have had some painful experiences with conflict, and they linger in the background.
N	Open conflict is present, and we need a minister who can help us deal with it.

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## CONGREGATIONAL DISCERNMENT

*Taking feedback from a Long Range Planning project done in the past here at Blaine and the results from a recent Congregational Survey, our pastoral search committee has come up with the answers to the following questions.*

**1) What has God uniquely called you to be and do as a congregation (both now, and looking to the future)?**

Blaine Christian Church is known for: friendliness, sense of community, missions, community service, outreach, biblical teaching, faithfulness, stewardship, music, hospitality, and its love and caring for each other. These attributes are evident when you look at what is listed under the Ministries and Service Groups and Congregational Outreach which truly are the heartbeat of Blaine. Continuing what we have been doing and growing our small groups to include more participants is what we are called to do as a congregation.

**2) Describe the processes you used to hear God's unique call for your congregation.**

God founded a small church in the rolling countryside of Benzie County in 1895 with a handful of committed Christians. Our church founders have long since passed on but the love of Blaine has carried on through the generations. Over the years our congregation has grown and we have gone through the process of Long Range Planning in order to be sure we stay on track with God's call.

**3) Describe the Spiritual Disciplines that are regularly practiced throughout this congregation.**

We have many opportunities for various small groups and bible studies at Blaine. There are also many ways to serve. There is Sunday School for all ages each week and we have two worship services with communion each week. We invest in on-going education for our pastor and believe in granting our pastor the freedom to preach Biblically based, Christian convictions without fear.

**4) Describe your sense of God's covenantal call to be a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and broader ecumenical/interfaith ministries.**

As the introduction states, this church family was brought together to fulfill three primary purposes; the Great Commandments of Matthew 22:37-39-to Love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves and the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-to go and make Disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey Jesus' commands. These are the three pillars of Blaine Christian Church and after 127 years, we are still faithfully serving in these same ministries. All are invited to worship, study and attend any event at Blaine Christian Church. We also make sure to communicate to our participants about ecumenical services at area churches to encourage unity within the whole body of Christ.



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**5) In what ways have members of the congregation been engaged in the Search and Call discernment process?**

The pastoral search committee surveyed the congregation asking for feedback from them and for specifics on what they would like to see in a new pastor. The following is a summary compiled from the survey results:

We would describe our new pastor as one who believes that the Bible is the true word of God. They must be God fearing and a loving follower of God. Hopefully they have a family, they're honorable, friendly, loving, humble, compassionate, a good listener, and will participate in our programs and activities. We would also like them to be involved with the local community and area churches and have an interest in rural farm life. Be a person who is confident in their faith and feels called to serve Blaine Christian Church. They should be interested in youth activities and have leadership qualities. They must believe in the Trinity, be Pro-life, applying biblical principles to our daily lives. Teach us how Jesus and scripture are relevant today with the historical context of scripture. In addition, be a good "story teller" and mix in a little humor. Be biblically sound and Spirit filled. We hope our new pastor will be excited to be a part of the Blaine Christian Church family.

**6) What are the ministry opportunities you see in your particular context? What are the resources and gifts you have within the congregation to respond to these opportunities (including particular talents represented by members of the congregation; financial and other resources you have; the traditions you have manifested over the years)?**

One of our greatest dreams for Blaine Christian Church: to grow members – especially young families and youth and to live out our mission of faith. We would also like to see our legacy preserved at Blaine and have it continue to grow forward. Perhaps we could share more of Blaine congregations' spiritual wealth in the community and serve more as mentors to others in the area. Kids Hope was an elementary aged outreach ministry that came to a halt during Covid. Hopefully it can be started back up again as there are definitely kids and families in our area that can benefit from that ministry.

**7) Describe the congregation's strengths and growing edges.**

The following was compiled from results of the congregational survey: Some of Blaine Christian Church strengths are: we are a friendly and welcoming congregation, outreach and missions, biblical teaching, strong body of faith and being nonpolitical or judgmental. Other items mentioned were our strong theology, support of our members in need and the flexibility of two services. Areas in which our church could do better are: increased young family attendance, better numbers of youth attendance and youth programs, inviting people to attend church and more member activities. Also, encourage more volunteers within the church family as participants and put more emphasis on evangelism. Another suggestion was to find a way to unify 1st and 2nd service participants without going to one service.

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**8) Describe the ways you make decisions and carry them out as a congregation.**

Here at Blaine Christian Church we have specific committees that oversee different branches of the church. The practice is to communicate with chair people and members of the specific committee that covers the area of the particular decision in question. Discussions are held during meetings of these committees. Certain issues may need to go before the board or approval may need to be sought from other committees if they may be affected. Committees are formed according to church by-laws in order to be balanced.

**9) How is this congregation relevant to the needs of (a) the local community, (b) Disciples mission, and (c) the world?**

We would tell someone who is asking about Blaine Christian Church to come attend a worship service, contemporary or blended. We are a welcoming congregation, the sermon will be biblical and inspiring, we are a faith and love community with great music and we offer Sunday school for all ages. We support each other and the local community in many ways.

**10 How does this congregation bear witness in tangible ways to God's healing, welcoming, reconciling presence In a broken world?**

Blaine is an active church and we can show this by sharing some of the favorite memories from respondents of the congregational survey: Blaine has welcoming and supporting members. Our amazing strong pastoral support. Being in the old sanctuary and the building of the new sanctuary. Writing Bible verses on the floor of the new sanctuary before the carpet was installed and paying off the new sanctuary. Mission trips, Sunday school and special programs like Celebration Sunday, Pie Day, and children's Christmas programs. The amazing big tree that had to be cut down in order to build the new sanctuary and the use of the wood from it to build the communion table and pulpit made by church members. Our church being in "the country" with our 100+ year history.

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**GOALS OF THE CONGREGATION - NEXT FIVE YEARS**

One of our greatest dreams and the main goal for Blaine Christian Church: to grow members – especially young families and youth and to live out our mission of faith. We would also like to see our legacy preserved at Blaine Christian Church and have it continue to grow forward. We have a desire to increase the attendance of young families and to have better numbers of youth attendance and stronger youth programs. We want to be better at inviting people to attend church and at encouraging more participants within the church family to step up when there are opportunities to serve. Overall, an improved emphasis on evangelism and a Christ centered community outreach is our goal.

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## PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

First and foremost, we desire a pastor who is absolutely Bible based and Jesus centered. They must love the Lord our God with all of their heart, soul and mind and be one who yearns to live out the Great Commission.

Educational Level:

Must have a high school, undergraduate and seminary degrees.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The responsibilities of the pastor shall be to perform the duties which usually pertain to that role in the church such as:

I. Is an active, regular member of Blaine Christian Church.

II. Plans and leads effective worship, working with the congregation to fulfill the purpose God has given us and to develop a rich worship life. As the spiritual leader of the church, shows a continued interest in the spiritual and moral welfare of the church and the community and represents and leads the congregation in ecumenical ministries and ministries of the wider church through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

III. Provides pastoral care for the congregation, endeavoring to call on all members and potential members of the church as needed. Visits the ill in hospitals, nursing homes or at home, provides counseling when requested, and will be available to those in crisis situations.

IV. A. Is an ex-officio member of all Functional, Standing and Ad Hoc committees except the Pastoral Search and Pastor/Staff Relations Committees.

B. The pastor is also an ex-officio member of the Boards of Elders, Diaconate and Trustees.

C. Works with the staff to help coordinate the work of the various officers and committees and assists in the performance of their functions.

D. Encourages others to assume and carry out their roles as active members of the church.

E. Makes quarterly reports to the Congregational Board.

V. A. Is directly responsible for the actions and performance of any Associate Pastor(s), Office Manager, Pillar I, Pillar II and Pillar III.

B. Administers the staff in accordance with the recommendations of the Congregational Board and the Pastor/ Staff Relations Committee, annually reviews the staffs hours and salary and makes recommendations to the Pastor/Staff Compensation Committee.

### COMPENSATION - SALARY AND BENEFITS

- A - Salary - based on experience and is set by the church board
- B - Housing allowance - toward housing and utilities
- C - Social Security offset- 7.65% of A & B above amounts
- Retirement - 14% of A, B & C amounts above
- Medical Insurances offered or \$5000.00 additional toward retirement.
- Reimbursements
  - Automobile \$6,600 per year
- Vacation- 20 days vacation per year, no more than 2 consecutive Sundays
- Education leave time :
  - Spiritual retreat - 3 days per year
  - Sabbatical - 3 month Sabbatical after 7 years, additional 3 month sabbatical after every 5 years
  - Continuing Education allowance (including books and journals) up to \$700 per year
  - Conventions/meetings - up to \$500 per year

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## DISCERNING AREAS OF GREATEST NEED FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP

### The main areas of greatest need in our next pastor:

#### Biblical Knowledge

Rooted and grounded in scripture and able to interpret and apply the scriptures in ways that are appropriate to original and contemporary contexts.

#### Pastoral Care

Able to engage other persons with empathy and assess situations and relationships with the compassion of Christ, with sensitivity to culture and context, and to convey the healing power of God to those who suffer.

#### Proclamation of the Word

Know the practice and theory of Christian preaching, and can proclaim the Word of God, share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and help congregational members apply their faith to daily life.

#### Spiritual Development

Establish and maintain spiritual disciplines that lead to personal growth and help others develop a rich spiritual life.

#### Communication

Be an effective communicator and able to facilitate effective communication within and on behalf of the church.

#### Theology

Able to articulate a coherent view of God's nature and activity in relation to the Christian tradition, critically engage human situations from a perspective of faith, and help persons recognize theological issues in their daily lives.

#### Worship

Know the purpose and elements of Christian worship, and can plan and lead meaningful worship by working with the worship team, musicians, and congregational members.

*Final Thought:* You will experience Blaine Christian Church as a community where people will love you, and your family. You will make friends quickly, and be prayed for regularly. There are so many opportunities for you in our church and community, and we look forward to exploring how the Holy Spirit leads us in the days and years ahead.

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## CONGREGATIONAL CONDUCT

Our congregation has taken official action to adopt and abide by the “Ethical Guidelines for Congregational Conduct”, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The document is listed under Congregational Resources after you click the link: <https://disciples.org/gcom/resources/>