

Essay Questions for Pastoral Candidates
First Congregational Church, Hillsboro, WI

Please answer the following questions on a separate document, and submit along with your other application materials.

1. Do you agree with everything in our Statement of Faith? Are there any changes or additions that you would make? (A link is on the website under "Beliefs")
2. Define the Gospel in one paragraph.
3. What is your theology/philosophy of ministry? What is the place of preaching in that philosophy/ theology?
4. How do you preach (i.e., expositionally, topically, textually, doctrinally)?
5. What are your thoughts on worship music for the Sunday morning gathering?
6. As a church, we have been growing on our understanding of "On essentials unity, non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity." Our congregation has some diverse beliefs on various non-essentials, and some of our people hold their beliefs strongly. How could you benefit from this diversity, minister to us, and keep our unity strong if you were to lead the church?
7. First Congregational Church is in rural Wisconsin (Hillsboro). Many families have deep, generational roots in the church and community, and others have joined us more recently. Our community values its heritage, and at the same time is open to fresh wisdom and direction. Have you had experience in a small rural church, and how might our needs be different than a large city church? How would you help us reach out to the community, and grow as a congregation? What are some ways you are currently involved in your community?
8. How should a pastor and church relate to other churches locally, and (if denominational) to the larger body? Our church traditionally holds an ecumenical Good Friday service with other local churches. Do you feel comfortable cooperating with other denominations? Do you draw any lines?
9. Tell us about your family. How does your wife feel about being married into pastoral ministry? What are your children like?