

**The United Christian Church in Caracas, Venezuela seeks a new minister.  
*A traditional church with a contemporary feel.***

[www.unitedchristianchurch.com.ve](http://www.unitedchristianchurch.com.ve)

**Background:**

The United Christian Church of Caracas had its origin in the desire of a small group of English-speaking residents of Caracas for the type of worship which they had known in their homelands. It was started in 1940 with the help of the local Presbyterian Mission. It was agreed that the mission would assist the group to organize an interdenominational church.

The church grew in size with the expansion of the oil industry in Venezuela, but shrank again following the General Strike in Venezuela in 2002 and the closing of many companies. It still provides a spiritual home for a mix of visiting expatriates and long-term residents – both those born in Venezuela and those who came originally from other countries. In common with most international churches, we have a rapidly changing congregation. It was striking that many of those who left us last summer commented how the UCC had been the best part of their stay in Venezuela, mostly for the fellowship it provided.

The church consciously offers a mix of worship styles – both traditional (a robed choir) and more modern (a worship band), combined in the Sunday morning service.

**Mission Statement**

Our mission, as a congregation, is to foster and to develop discipleship to Jesus Christ through:

- Worship services
- Rites and sacraments
- Education and study for people of all ages
- Pastoral counseling
- And Christian fellowship within an international framework in the English language open to all seeking God's presence in their lives.

Our duty as a congregation is to accept the challenge of discipleship

- Reaching out a hand of welcome to newcomers
- Extending help and care to people in need
- Supporting with our prayers, our time and our resources individuals and organizations serving those less fortunate
- Making available our facilities in support of activities within the community
- Initiating and sponsoring service groups to increase the well being of people in Caracas and throughout Venezuela.

Challenging and supporting one another as we grow in Christian understanding and dedication

- for the betterment of the individual
- for the benefit of the congregation
- for the welfare of the community
- and for the glory of God.

**Purpose:**

The Purpose of the Church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key Scriptures:

We Believe a GREAT COMMITMENT  
To the GREAT COMMANDMENT  
And the GREAT COMMISSION  
Will HONOR CHRIST in His Church

The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:36-40  
The Great Commission: Matthew 28: 19-20

## **Belief Statement**

The United Christian Church  
Statement of Faith  
*What We Believe*

In essential beliefs---we have unity.

“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...” Eph. 4:4-6

In non-essential beliefs---we have liberty.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” Romans 14:1,4,12,22

In all our beliefs---we show charity.

“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains---but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” 1Cor.13:2  
(Ph)

### The Essentials We Believe:

#### 1. About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are all God.  
Genesis 1:1,26,27,, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; Peter 1:2; Corinthians 13:14

#### 2. About the Father

The Father is ‘the first amongst equals’ within the Godhead, in that it is His will that is followed by the Son, the Spirit proceeding from both the Father and the Son. As his title, Father, suggests He, in one sense, presides over the Godhead, and yet at the same time gives equality of status to both other members of the trinity.  
John 14:31;Mark 14:36;Romans 8:9; John 10:30;Matthew 28:19

#### 3. About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven’s glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, Lord of Lords.  
Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13

#### 2. About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

2Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galations 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

### **Membership:**

The UCC is an international Church serving the English Speaking community in Caracas. It is a congregation made up of ex-pats and Venezuelans.

Average total attendance 150 today      3 years ago: 135

### **Facilities**

The church building is simple but charming with a wood altar and stained glass windows. The ground floor is the sanctuary, offices of the church secretary and pastor, a nursery facility for infants and small children, a room for the choir, a room for meditation and meetings of small groups, a room currently being used as a resource center, a small storage room, three bathrooms.

Downstairs is a large meeting hall; kitchen; custodian quarters; bathrooms; closets for storage; and two meeting rooms that are used during the week for a nursery school.

There are limited parking areas on the grounds and that continues to be a problem for the church. The facilities are adequate except for parking which is very limited and presents a challenge for the church.

No major facilities projects are planned for the next five years.

### **Budget Information**

Net Operating Budget: \$180,000.

Benevolence Budget: 12% of Church Income

### **Church Staff and Services**

The Church employs a full time minister, secretary, two custodians, one organist, one pianist, one choir director, and three guards for parking.

Church service is at 10:30am

Sunday school is at 9:15am for children and adults

There are special services for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

### **Programs:**

#### **A. Children:**

There is a nursery for children under three years of age, Sunday school at 9:15 for children ages 4 through high school and Children's time during the second half of the service for children three through eight years of age. A Youth Group for teenagers is led by parents and the International Youth Group of Caracas.

#### **B. Adults:**

Sunday school for adults is held each week at 9:15am. As a congregation we studied the Purpose Driven Life. Various Bible study groups meet during the week. A men's group meets every Wednesday morning. A weekly women's Bible Study Group also meets.

A well stocked resource center containing Christian books video tapes and sermon notes is open to all church goers.

#### **C. Special programs**

There is annual Service of Thanksgiving and Harvest in conjunction with other English speaking churches that is open to the entire community. Several times throughout the year, potluck lunches are held after the service.

#### **D. Outreach programs:**

The Alpha Course is conducted on an ongoing basis. Through the Mission and Benevolence Committee, the church helps to support twelve mission within the greater Caracas area including such groups as orphanages, drug rehabilitation centers, and an AIDS Hospital.

**E. Membership Drives**

Members learn about the church through word of mouth, brochures in hotels and notices in the English newspaper. There is more we could do in this area given the transient nature of our membership

**F. Special Opportunities in the next five years**

Develop new ways to promote the church to the English-speaking community. Establish regular ongoing activities for new comers to the area.

**G. Special Challenges in the next five years**

This is a very transient society where many expatriates are leaving because of the political situation. Some companies are closing their Venezuelan offices. We face a possible shrinking congregation unless we do more to attract members – both Venezuelan and ex-pats. We need to ensure that newcomers to Caracas are quickly integrated into the church to make up for the constant turnover of church members. .

**H. Objectives for the next 5 years**

Refer to G. above

**Are your members ready to consider changes in purpose and program to achieve these objectives?** We consider the majority of our members to be open to change in order to implement the mission of the church.

**I. Activities considered to be important**

Community building such as home visits, hospital visits, representation at various community events

- Outreach Programs to the Caracas Community
- Emphasis on Youth programs
- Confirmation Program

**Community Information:**

Approximate number of English speaking people in the Caracas area: 20,000

Other English Language Congregations in the community.

- St Mary's Episcopal
- St. Thomas Moore, Catholic

**Application Details:**

Official Name: The United Christian Church

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Deadline date for candidates search and transmittal of PDF's and sermon tapes: March 7, 2007

**Required Qualifications:**

Ordained minister  
Experience with diverse populations in a congregation

**Preferred Qualifications:**

Spanish language  
Community builder  
International Experience

**Salary and Benefits:**

**Salary** is competitive and will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

**Benefits:**

Furnished house  
Maid service at home  
Utilities (phone-local calls)  
Base rent on cell phone  
House repairs  
Yearly vacation trip back to the US for pastor and wife  
1 trip for Pastor for Christian seminars, studies etc.  
Health insurance  
Pension  
Death and disability  
Dental  
Book allowance  
Legal documents allowance  
No US income tax but will need to file U.S. tax returns

**Contract period:** Two Years, renewable

**For Further Information Contact:** Pilar Rottner, Chair of the Church Council