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Executive Summary

The East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church (ECPC) Mission Study Committee (MSC) was formed in March, 2010, to determine the present status of the church, its strengths and its needs as it moves forward to appoint a Pastor Nominating Committee in preparation for calling a new pastor. The MSC used the results of a series of congregational meetings at which church members explored who East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church has been, is now, and, what they envision for the future. To supplement the congregational meetings, members of the committee conducted windshield surveys of our community and interviewed residents, especially non-members, about ECPC. We also reviewed the Percept and PC(USA) data for ECPC and the Craftsbury area. We focused our discussion on what each of these resources said about ECPC's future.

Threads emerged which the committee senses are important as the congregation moves forward. One thread is our commitment to meaningful worship of God, through music especially, but also through prayer, strong preaching, and study of the Bible. Meaningful worship is an aspect of ECPC held dear by members who have been with us since birth and also one that draws new members to ECPC from afar.

A second important thread in how our congregation serves God is our church's commitment of time and money to church and international mission giving. However, the committee did notice a gap here, and that is our connection to mission in the Craftsbury region. The Mission Study committee recommends that the Session of ECPC spend time evaluating the nature and purpose of our mission work in the Craftsbury community and ways to expand or improve upon it. Our local mission work will be a challenge, but it is also an opportunity to serve Christ and to teach the values of Christian love and care to our most immediate neighbors.

The third thread that emerged from our work is that we are a church whose special gift is hospitality. We see great life and share the love of Christ amongst each other in our faithful worship on Sundays. We have a long history of welcoming as family guests at Sunday worship from no matter where they come. Several of the interviews mention how friendly we are, or how nice the people are that they know who attend ECPC, or that it feels like family. A challenge for the church in the coming years will be to build on this hospitality and ensure that we extend the full feeling of family to those who have made ECPC their faith home. As our family grows more diverse in background and more scattered in location, we will need to pay special attention to the

spiritual and pastoral needs of our family members the rest of the week, too. Our commitment to this work needs to be as strong as our commitment to prayerful worship, singing songs of praise, and mission giving.

We believe this study lifts up the strengths and values of our church, as well as the needs, concerns, and hopes for the church's future, and that it places ECPC within the wider context of our small, rural community.

Mission Statement of the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church September 2010

Crafting the following statement was the first step in the work of the Mission Study Committee, and it served as a guide for us during the course of the past six months. The Committee recommends that the Session of ECPC consider placing this statement on the inside front covers of our hymnals to provide members and visitors with a better understanding of who and what East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church is and does.

- To provide a center for individual and corporate worship of God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
- To prayerfully seek and follow God's will for our congregation
- To teach the good news of the Gospel and, by example, Christian love and care
- To serve Christ by reaching out to spiritual and physical needs of our community and beyond

The Process

The Mission Study Committee of the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church (ECPC) held its first meeting in March 2010, two months after Interim Pastor Dennis Hett moved into the manse and began his ministry with our congregation. The Committee consisted of Joannie Stinson (co-chair, elder), Victoria von Hessert (co-chair, elder), George Hall, Randi Calderwood, Louise Kinsey, Kay Shields, Nelson Maynard, and Interim Pastor Dennis Hett, who served as our facilitator. The Reverend Rebecca Strader served as our COM liaison.

The committee chose to eschew more traditional methods of engaging in a mission study, such as survey work or a more structured process. Instead, we elected to spend time evaluating who we are, what our strengths and history are, and how these things influence what we are today. We also explored what we hope to be in the future as both our community and our congregation changes and as we seek to live out God's call for us.

To do this, we utilized the results of a series of congregational meetings at which church members explored who East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church has been, is now, and, what they envision for the future. To supplement the congregational meetings, members of the committee conducted windshield surveys of our community and interviewed residents, especially non-members, about ECPC. We also reviewed the Percept and PC(USA) data for ECPC and the Craftsbury area, evaluated the church's previous mission statements, and studied several print resources provided by Pastor Hett that looked at new trends in "religious belonging". We focused our discussion on what each of these resources said about ECPC's future.

Who We Are and Who Are Our Neighbors

I. The Church's History

The East Craftsbury congregation was organized on September 16, 1816 at the home of Robert Trumbull near the present location of the church building. Trumbull was a Scot who had served as a sergeant in the Revolution. Other founding members were "New Light" Yankees from the vicinity of Sturbridge, Massachusetts. The Presbytery of New York, which organized the congregation, belonged to the Reformed Presbyterian or "Covenanter" persuasion, which used no musical instruments in worship. The Reverend Mr. William Gibson of Ryegate helped organize the church. The first minister was Reverend Mr. James Milligan, who shared his time

between Ryegate and Craftsbury.

Attracted by the Covenanter church, sixty families from the lands of the Earl of Loudon in Ayrshire, Scotland moved to the vicinity of East Craftsbury over the next forty years, creating a unique ethnic area in Vermont. During the 1830s, they built a traditional wood-framed church. About 1890, the several Presbyterian groups in Scotland reunited. In 1905, following the death of the minister, the Reverend Mr. John Taylor, the Craftsbury congregation determined to emulate their Scots cousins by joining the numerous body of Presbyterians. They petitioned to join the United Presbyterian Church and to participate in the Presbytery of Vermont.

Prevented from getting the title to the old church building, they commissioned Burlington architect Frank Lyman Austin to design a new building. Resident craftsmen built Lyman's design in 1907. The symmetrical brown shingle structure has not been altered, and presents Austin's idea very elegantly. The Covenanter church building was later moved to Craftsbury Common, where it served as the school gym and later as classroom space for Craftsbury Academy.

II. How We See Ourselves

Despite the fluctuating economic fortunes of farming, the membership at East Craftsbury Presbyterian remains stable. As the years pass, fewer and fewer members are involved in farming, and our newest members are often retired persons who have moved to the area from other parts of the country. The church also draws a number of members and friends from towns as far away as 35 miles, such as Derby, Newport, Hyde Park, and Burke, for worship on Sundays. The phrase "you can't get there from here" is not inaccurate when describing driving times to church from these towns. It can take as much as an hour's drive, sometimes more in winter, on largely dirt and gravel roads to attend worship or other church events. Within the summer months, our sanctuary fills with returning summer residents. Often, recent retirees to the area who join ECPC are former summer residents who have made Craftsbury or its surrounding towns their permanent home. The bonds and stories shared by year-round and summer residents attending ECPC are deep and meaningful, and they often span generations.

Even though the years have seen changes in the composition of our congregation from a few large farming families to retirees and other newcomers to the area from distant towns, the church's commitment to mobilizing around challenges remains strong, from raising funds for capital improvement projects to providing financial and spiritual support for the youth group to

participate in a series of mission trips that culminated in a pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland. As a part of our local mission, we provide classroom space for a private preschool, as well as host local concerts. On an individual level, members participate in a variety of mission work. Some members feel called to offer support to the Craftsbury Community Care Center (an assisted living facility located across the street from ECPC) through participation in leadership roles there, providing maintenance assistance, visiting with residents, and helping residents get to worship at ECPC on Sundays. Some members are active delivering food for our region's Meals on Wheels program. Other members feel called to serve the church in mission beyond Craftsbury. They are active in the governance of the PC(USA), participating on committees of the Presbytery of Northern New England (PNNE), as moderators of PNNE and the Synod of the Northeast, and as commissioners to General Assembly. The church also has a long and strong commitment to international mission, such as Heifer International, Presbyterian and Christian education in Pakistan, and the Ubunye Partnership of PNNE with South African churches.

The committee wanted the congregation to also explore the church's rich history and strengths before we proceeded to flesh out a vision for the future. We held a congregational meeting in March 2010 at which we hoped members would identify and celebrate significant events that have shaped the life of ECPC, whether they were personal events, events in the life of the church, or events in the life of the community and beyond.

The "event" of greatest significance, or what could be best described as a trait of our congregation, that emerged from this exercise was the importance of music to our church and our long tradition of high-quality harmony singing. The congregation particularly recognized the impact and importance of Dr. John Weaver's retirement to the Craftsbury area in 2005, as well as his subsequent gift to the church in his service as our Music Director and organist. Dr. Weaver, the Director of Music and Organist at Madison Avenue Presbyterian in New York City for 35 years, and his wife and children were long-time summer residents and friends of ECPC before their relocation to Vermont.

In addition to music, our commitment to mission emerged as significant for the participants at the congregational meeting. This work is not limited to the international missions already mentioned. Meeting attendees marked our fundraising efforts for the youth group for its trip to Iona, the installation of the lift to improve accessibility in the 1990s and its reinstallation in 2010, and our ongoing relationship with the Craftsbury Community Care Center as significant

mission moments in the life of the church. Individuals also left strong marks in the memories of our congregation. Members recalled how Miss Jean and Miss Mary Jean Simpson of East Craftsbury were powerful forces in the Craftsbury community, as well as in the church. Miss Jean hosted young people for Christian Endeavor on Sunday evenings and also started the church's Christmas pageant in 1930, which we held for the last time in 2009 due to declining numbers of children. Upon their death in the 1980s, both Simpson cousins left a significant bequest to the church.

III. Our Community and How it Sees Us

The past shapes who we are, but we must not allow it to limit our vision for the future. We must be careful not to look wistfully at what the church "used to do" or "used to be" or even what we may currently be doing, but instead should see the past as a strength that will carry us forward, perhaps in a new and unfamiliar direction, but perhaps also in one that breathes unexpected new life into our efforts to do the work of God. It is with this in mind that the committee informally examined the Craftsbury community, its perceptions of us, and the hard survey data available for our use. In doing so, we wanted to better understand how our community is changing and how that might impact what strengths we will need most to carry us forward in fulfilling God's call for us. We conducted a series of windshield surveys, documented here.

Windshield Survey 1

During a walk around [Craftsbury Common], since I am a local resident, the following was observed. As in the last survey done here, the Common consists of residential homes, a funeral parlor, a church, Sterling College buildings, a Post Office, small bookstore, town school buildings, and a library.

Of the residential buildings, several are lived in, and several are generally unoccupied. Depending on the day/time there is relatively little foot traffic. An occasional person at the post office, or school children may be seen, both from the high school or college. There was only one local younger person observed.

Windshield Survey 2

The homes in South Albany look well cared for and there are a few children around. Ages are between 30s and 60s, and they don't seem to feel the need for church. The Andersonville community has only one household attending church (Albany Methodist). Orleans Federated Church has about 35 attendees, but no middle-agers or young people, Barton Church meets downstairs in the

winter because there are so few attendees. Glover has quite a few children and still does a Children's Day. West Glover does not have any middle-aged attendees either.

Windshield Survey 3

On my return drive from Johnson and Morrisville this Monday morning, at around 11 AM, I detoured up the North Wolcott Road to conduct my windshield survey. North Wolcott is a hamlet comprised of a mix of mobile homes, some well cared for and others in states of neglect, and old farmhouses. A few look to be loved, but others have large amounts of trash and junk on their porches and lawns. The town store has been closed for at least the past five years and is very run down.

Continuing on towards Craftsbury, the road bends and twists with the Winding Brook, passing scattered farmhouses and mobile homes, as well as two commercial garages and two vegetable farms. At the crossroads with Collinsville Road, I bore left and headed up towards the Eden Mountain Road. The landscape here has the feel of a narrow valley. The homes are a mix of newer (70s-80s vintage) and older houses, as well as several mobile homes. Some are very lovingly cared for with robust gardens. Others are in states of disrepair with yards in disarray. I continued on Collinsville Road instead of going up the Eden Mountain Road. As Collinsville begins to climb, there are a few newer and "nicer" houses on the mountainside. I turned around and headed back down, eventually making my way up Coburn Hill Road for a stretch. Coburn Hill Road has several larger and newer homes along it, with expansive views of the Common and the valley.

I made my way back to Route 14 and turned north to pick up the North Craftsbury Road. The closer I got to town, the neater and tidier and more "lived in" the area felt. Cultivated fields stretched to the edge of the woods, instead of the semi-abandoned stretches of green I encountered in the Collinsville area. Each had a unique but very different beauty. Before reaching the Common I turned on to Strong Road to pick up King Farm Road down to the Creek Road. King Farm Road has two beautiful, semi-restored farmhouses as well as a few newer homes. At its foot, though, some of the '50s to '80s-era homes have fallen into disrepair. Close to the village, between the intersection of the Creek Road and King Farm Road, the older houses have been restored and some resemble the classic "Vermont Life" homes that many imagine dot our whole landscape.

I did not see anyone out in their gardens or working in the fields, and I did not even meet any other vehicles, except the road grader. I would say that half the homes I passed had at least one vehicle in the driveway, and half had none. I passed one young woman out for a walk with a stroller and a baby in a carrier on Collinsville Road. Excepting the view of Strong's from Coburn Hill and Fairmont Farms from King Farm Road, I only passed one working dairy. From King Farm Road, I could see the Atwood farm, as well as the Kinsey and Urie silos, but I know that these farms are no longer dairying. I also noted two homes

for sale in the village.

Windshield Survey 4

Driving along Paquette/Hatchbrook Roads on a Sunday morning at 9:30 AM, we witnessed a yurt and burned out foundation, several drives with no houses visible. The roads are tree-lined and gravel. We passed a spruce plantation with an upscale house with pond and associated cottage. Two houses owned by family, formerly a chicken farm.

On the Wild Branch Road we passed Denton Auto, an auto repair shop and used vehicle dealer. Turning on to Denton Hill Road, we passed

- 3 doublewides (mobile homes)
- 3 singlewides (mobile homes)
- 2 log homes
- one sugar bush, and
- one rustic wood home.

We turned on to West Hill Road and passed a working dairy farm with farmhouse and a person doing chores. There were several small homes in the woods along this steep downhill gravel road. We passed another log home and a single wide, as well as another working dairy. Turning up Morey Hill Road, we passed

- 4 traditional farmhouses,
- 3 new frame houses,
- 3 apparently seasonal homes,
- 3 small, newly built homes,
- several pastures with horses, one with a pony being exercised,
- one log home, a
- non-working sugar bush, and a
- firewood log job (woods being cleared for use as firewood).

Along Wells Place Road we passed tended fields, a large, working sugar bush and sugarhouse, and a seasonal home. Finally, we turned on to Cemetery Road, which as the name suggests, has a cemetery on both sides of the road. Past the cemetery lie vegetable fields. We reached Craftsbury Village, which has two general stores, one with 2 cars the other with 5 parked out front. People inside were purchasing Sunday papers, coffee, and breakfast.

Some of the contents of these windshield surveys could be described as stereotypical Vermont. General stores, sugarbushes, working farms and traditional farmhouses, and the classic Vermont green (Craftsbury Common) are all evident. Several other aspects of the Craftsbury area are also revealed. We note that there are only four working dairies mentioned in a community that not too long ago consisted mainly of dairy farms. Overall, the surveys show us

that people are not out working the land as much as they were only thirty years ago, and that the Craftsbury area is economically diverse. Second homes and new construction are as much a part of the housing landscape in this region as mobile homes, old farmhouses, and residences in disrepair and neglect. The community demographics are changing, and we must be mindful of this as we shape our vision for the future of ECPC.

The committee also wanted to know how those *outside* the church perceive our work and mission. We interviewed community members, preferably people who do not have an affiliation with the church. Our general guidelines were to ask if they were familiar with the church, if they have a perception of the church, and if there was anything they wanted to share about the church.

Interview 1

It surely was not difficult at all for me to feel at home at ECPC. I have felt welcomed with open arms right from the beginning [45 years ago]. I have not only felt welcomed into ECPC, but even into the feeling of your family.

Interview 2

As far as the impact of East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church at the Common, there really wasn't any as related to me [in my interviews]. In fact, an observation was that even the church ad in the Gazette drew a distinction, in that the ad was not for Craftsbury, but rather under the heading of East Craftsbury, thus showing a distinction within the town.

Interview 3

I interviewed a young mother from Craftsbury. She and her family have lived in the Craftsbury area for about three years. She and her husband are both teachers, and they have a five-year old son. In our talk, she indicated that neither she nor her husband are religious or attend church, and they did not grow up in the Christian faith either. She has, however, been to ECPC for the funeral of a community member, and she participated in the Gingerbread House Auction [a youth group fundraiser] in 2009. Outside of these events, she does not have a clear perception of what ECPC does or who we are.

Interview 4

I interviewed [...]’s tenant, who had heard of the church and volunteered to get me information. The other was the office manager at Denton’s auto who didn’t know anything.

Interview 5

That’s your church, right? Really the most I know of it comes from the weddings and funerals I have attended there. It is a beautiful little church, but I really don’t know much about it. I guess whenever I have been there, people have been welcoming and gracious, but like I said, I have only been there for weddings and mostly funerals. But wait, we used to attend the Christmas Pageant, especially when the girls were young, and that was always very good. I don’t really know much about the religion side of things, like what they believe and all, but when we have attended a function there, we have felt welcomed by the people there.

Interview 6

Yes, of course, [I am familiar with it]. I have been to the women’s breakfast several times. But you know we are not affiliated with the protestant church. Everyone is always very nice. And I know quite a few members too, especially in our neighborhood. And they’re all nice and friendly. I always enjoy myself when I go to the breakfast and I see a lot of people I haven’t seen since last year.

Interview 7

I have passed [ECPC] when I go to Hardwick that way, but we don’t attend church there. I know some people who go there, though. Everyone there has been very friendly toward us. My neighbors have [asked me to come], but we have chosen not to go.

The committee recognized an important thread in each of these interviews, which we will explore in greater depth in the next section of the study.

Lastly, to gain a quantitative understanding of our community, the committee reviewed Percept data from FirstView 2010 (see pages 18-21) and statistical information from the PC(USA). While the area defined by the Percept study is relatively small (5-mile radius) given that ECPC has members and friends attending worship from as far away as 35 miles, the data raised some important questions for us to consider as we move forward. In response to the question regarding which general church programs or services are most likely to be preferred in our area, 24% of respondents considered community and social services the most important, which is 4% higher than the national average. It is also 3% higher than the spiritual development category.

The demographics of our community are also changing. Twenty-three percent of the people in a five-mile radius of the church are Baby Boomers, or ages 50 to 67. The Silents (age

68 to 85) comprise 11%, and the Builders (age 86 and up) make up 4%. Each of these three categories is 2% greater than the national average. In total, those over age 50 comprise 38% of our local population. While the younger generations may make up a greater total percentage of our population, our total young population still lags overall behind the national average by 7%. We are ministering to a community composed of more mature generations, as well as one that considers church programs that provide community services to be of significant importance in the life of a church. The hard data from Percept suggests that given the high percentage of residents over 50, we need to place a special focus on the pastoral and spiritual needs of our community's aging population. It emphasizes our need to utilize our gift for hospitality and commitment to mission in ways we may not have seen or understood in years past.

Where God is Calling Us

With all this information in hand, the committee set out to discern where God is calling the congregation of ECPC. Our windshield surveys tell us that we need to be prepared for and open to ministering to neighbors that come from all economic backgrounds. We need to be willing and open to nurture and provide pastoral care to those from diverse walks of life, whether they are recent retirees to the area building their dream home, or families living in a singlewide.

The interviews reveal more complex and challenging problems for our congregation. The first interview reflects a comment often made by *members* of ECPC about our congregation: it feels like family. This feeling of hospitality, of openness and welcoming, pervades many of our own perceptions of our church, perhaps in part because we are on the inside. When we listen to the voices of the non-members of the church, however, we hear that people do not consider the church to be relevant in their community, that the church is not relevant to them individually, or that ECPC does not have an impact on their lives. They do, however, consider our membership to be friendly and welcoming.

Comments shared with the committee by some *members* who felt that their pastoral needs had not been met in the past raised similar concerns for us. We wondered if this is a result of the changing dynamic within the church family itself. The days when three or four families comprised the majority of the congregation are fading. Our newer members may not have a network of blood relatives within driving distance, and may need greater support from the church in times of need than has happened in the past. We take it for granted that our members know, understand, and treasure the sense of family we gain from being in the church. But these

comments should lead us to examine how we can better use hospitality and fellowship to extend that familial embrace beyond the green doors of the sanctuary. People do travel from afar and join our church because we are Presbyterian. We can, and should, continue to develop this trend of being a “magnet church” for Presbyterians in the Northeast Kingdom. However, when we do so, we must remember that we not only serve Christ and praise God through our commitment as Presbyterians, but also by reaching out in Christian love to fill the pastoral and spiritual needs of our neighbors and members. We want to be a church that lives out the Gospel through the care it takes of its neighbors, pastorally *and* spiritually, members and non-members alike, young and old.

Presented with all this information, how is ECPC to move forward in its ministry? What is our vision for the future and what do we believe God is calling us to do? How do we, as members of God’s church, respect traditions and the past, dream of a future for our congregation, and still listen for God’s gentle voice urging us onward?

We called a second congregational meeting to explore some of these issues in May 2010. This meeting, called a Vision Meeting, was designed to have our members discern what *they* feel God is dreaming for the ECPC congregation, as well as what gives life to our church right now. At a fellowship dinner after church, we broke into small groups to share aspects of church life that were meaningful to each of us. Following is a distillation, in no particular order, of what the church members attending the meeting found to be the most life-giving aspects of our church.

- 1) The congregation of East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church seeks in all that it does to glorify God.
- 2) ECPC members and friends seek spiritual growth and nurturing through a strong preaching tradition that is true to God’s word and also brings us closer to God in our daily lives. Our worship brings people together, both young and old, to share in God’s love for us, as revealed in the Bible.
- 3) We endeavor to provide supportive fellowship that inspires each of us to nurture and care for our members and neighbors as well as fellowship that ignites Christian faith and love in all of us. We share our lives’ tragedies and joys as a family.
- 4) ECPC is a congregation that embraces all people and welcomes newcomers as family. Our doors are open for all people to enter and feel the presence of God.

- 5) ECPC members and friends live out their faith by engaging actively and prayerfully in missions to the local and worldwide community.
- 6) ECPC utilizes the power of prayer to discern God's will and to encourage its members and friends to live out the Gospel in their lives.
- 7) Members and friends of East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church also listen for God's will for us through invigorating study of the Scriptures. Our Sunday Schools for both adults and children teach us how to be a faithful Christian and rely on serious and sound exposition of His Word.
- 8) ECPC praises God with worship and song. Music is vital to our worship. We embrace opportunities to praise God with varied music traditions and recognize them as opportunities to sing God's glory. Our fellowship is deepened through music and singing together as one.

The vision points above are those things that we feel will give us continued strength and vitality as we seek to do God's work. As ECPC moves forward, we need to be mindful of these vision points, as well as what the Percept data, our surveys and our interviews reveal about our church family and our neighborhood.

Conclusion

It takes many threads to weave the life of a congregation. The vision points above elaborate on the three strongest threads that the MSC feels bind our congregation. A deep and abiding commitment to meaningful worship with strong preaching and excellent music will likely always serve as the foundation knot that holds our congregation together. We are first and foremost a center for corporate worship of God, and even when our attendance is low due to inclement weather or the season, we always feel united in the bond of strong worship. It is on this that we build our spiritual life together.

The second thread mentioned earlier, our church's commitment to church and international mission giving, is a natural extension of our commitment to worship. Hearing the word of God on Sundays, we intend to go out into the world and live it in our day-to-day lives. This thread of mission work and giving adds color and life to the weaving that is our church. However, the committee did notice a gap here, and that is our connection to mission in the Craftsbury region. Our interviews with locals show that our community does not have a good

sense of whom we are and what we do in the Craftsbury area. One interviewee mentioned the Women's Breakfast and two interviews pointed specifically to our church being a place that they have frequented for funerals, but there is no mention of our connection with local mission projects that have an impact on the Craftsbury community. The Mission Study committee feels that ECPC can add more diversity to its mission work, especially locally, and in so doing, strengthen the bonds within the congregation, as well as our ties with the community.

The last thread that the MSC felt weaves its way through the life of our church is our special gift for hospitality. It has often been overlooked, but it gives a vibrant color to our congregation that people both inside and outside of our church family point to as what they know about ECPC. Our green door is always open. As we celebrate this thread in the life of our church, we will also need to be mindful of how we carry it forward. Hospitality should extend beyond a warm handshake and a brief check-in on Sundays. It needs to include pastoral care, both physical and spiritual. This is the thread that will not only pull us closer together in the life of Christ, but also the thread that will support us as we continue to weave the tapestry that is the life of ECPC.

The MSC offers these threads of congregational life to ECPC for their thoughtful review. We hope that we all see the rich opportunities they present for us to weave the continuing and ever more vibrant tapestry that is the life of our church.

East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church Property

The East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church is an architect-designed three-story building dedicated in 1906. It measures 36' by 60' with a 12' by 14' addition containing the new entrance, a newly installed, three-stop elevator to improve handicapped accessibility, and a stairway to the ground floor. The exterior is wood shingles stained dark brown. The congregation recently upgraded the church roof to a standing seam metal roof. The interior walls are plaster, and the stained glass is in six large windows. The sanctuary has eighteen pews with seating capacity for 150-160 people. In 2010, the congregation purchased a new sound system for use from the pulpit with wireless microphones. Just below the bell tower on the third floor there is office space and a classroom, neither currently in use for these functions, and a storage closet. On the ground floor is the Fellowship Hall, which does double-duty three mornings per week for a church-supported preschool. A fully equipped kitchen is also on the ground floor, with tableware for 80 and two restrooms, one of which is handicapped accessible. Two oil furnaces on different zones, installed in 2009, heat the church; our water is supplied by a well.

Besides the pulpit in the sanctuary, there is an excellent pipe organ and a choir loft for 15 – 18 singers, as well as a vintage Steinway grand piano. The church's original Reed organ has also been restored and sits beside the piano. Both organs see use on Sundays. The church has excellent acoustics, and it often hosts local concerts.

Our parking area can accommodate 35-40 cars.

The manse is a charming 1840s Vermont house. The white house has two stories with a full cellar and stone foundation. It has oil-fired furnace and its own well. The second floor has three bedrooms and a bath. The first floor has four rooms, one currently being used as a bedroom, as well as a kitchen, bathroom, and a utility room. A screened-in porch is accessible from the back of the house and looks out on a church-owned five-acre field cultivated by a local farmer, as well as on the backyard. The home has new dual-paned windows as well. Storage space includes an attic as well as an attached one-car garage.

The manse grounds consist of well-maintained lawn, as well as flowerbeds, shrubs, and a few mature trees in the backyard. In 1995, the church granted an easement for a sewer line for the Craftsbury Community Care Center, located across the street from the church. It runs through the church parking lot to a septic system and leach field located under the five-acre field.

**East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church and Craftsbury, Vermont
Relevant Percept and PC(USA) Data, May 2010**

Subject	Craftsbury
United States	
Current Craftsbury population 301 million	1136
Projected 5-year population change 4.8%	.3%
Largest Lifestyle group Middle-American Families (31%)	Rural Families (61%)
Non-Anglo Population 34%	5%
Households with No Faith Involvement 35%	32%
Average Age 37.3	41.5
Average Household Income \$66,670	\$57,336
College Graduates 24%	30%
Percentage of Population:	
Born after 2001 9.4%	10%
1982-2001 27.8%	25.4%
1961-1981 29.5%	26.2%
1943-1960 21.4%	23.3%
1925-1942 9.7	11.2%

Subject	Craftsbury
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United States

Community Issues:

The Basics tops the list for Craftsbury (adequate food, health insurance, abuse, finances, day-to-day worries) 24%	27%
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Which general church programs or
Services are most likely to be preferred
in the area?

Personal Development 10%	9%
Recreation 38%	37%
Spiritual Development 25%	21%
Community/Social Services 20% (food pantry, care for the terminally ill, family counseling, etc.)	24%

**East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church
Membership Information (from 2009 Statistical Report)**

Active Members: 81 (2008 PC(USA) average: 200)

Total Adherents: 102

Female Members: 47

Average Attendance: 50 (2008 PC(USA) average: 111)

Age Distribution:

25& Under:	7
26-45:	13
46-55:	9
56-65:	15
Over 65:	37

Session: 3 men, 6 women

Committees: Christian Education, Budget & Finance, Mission & Care,
Nominating, Outreach, Property,
Worship & Music

General Local Information

<u>Churches</u>	Craftsbury:	East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church United Church of Craftsbury (Craftsbury
Common)	Greensboro:	Mission New England United Church of Christ St. Michael’s Church
(Hardwick)	Nearby:	Albany Methodist Church St. John’s Episcopal Church (Hardwick) Hardwick Bible Baptist Church Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witness
(Hardwick)		St. Norbets Church (Hardwick) Touch of Grace Assembly of God
		Barton United Methodist Church Glover Community Church West Glover Congregational Church
<u>Schools</u>	Craftsbury:	East Hill Preschool (located at ECPC) Craftsbury Elementary School Craftsbury Academy
	Greensboro:	Four Seasons of Early Learning Lakeview Elementary
	Nearby:	Hazen Union High School Hardwick Elementary School Albany Elementary School Glover School
<u>Community Services</u>	Hardwick	Hardwick Area Health Center AWARE (women’s crisis assistance) Hardwick Area Food Pantry Greensboro Nursing Home Craftsbury Community Care Center Glover Nursing Home