

## CHURCH INFORMATION FORM

New Gilead Reformed Church, ECO  
2400 Old Salisbury-Concord Road  
Concord, North Carolina 28025

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

<https://www.facebook.com/newgilead>



### ➤ Identity, History, and Community

#### **Identity:**

New Gilead Reformed Church is a small church and community of faith seeking to grow toward maturity in Christ and to be ever more effective in bearing witness to our community, spiritually and materially. Our members are bound together with strong bonds of love and caring. The Elders are committed to their respective functions, leading the congregation to live into its identity as a Christ-centered, Biblically-based church characterized by full endorsement of ECO's Essential Tenets.

The majority of our members are elderly, living on fixed incomes. The stewardship of our congregation has supported the church's needs with an annual budget in the range of \$133,000. In addition to providing for the normal operation of the church, we are strongly committed to local benevolences. We help, both financially and materially a number of community services, including Bible teachers in our county schools as well as domestic and foreign missions. We have three annual fund raisers which helps support the operations of the church but more importantly to bring the community together to offer support and extend a warm and friendly hand. As a result, the church is highly respected in the community. Also, we are the sponsors of Boy Scout Troop #59, for whom we built their own scout cabin/meeting lodge. The Troop is currently inactive.

We have had excellent relationships over the years with other churches in the community, (over fifteen churches in a five-mile radius). Local outreach programs at New Gilead include Young at Heart and Meals on Wheels.

### ***History:***

New Gilead Reformed Church, is a historical part of the New Gilead Community. The church was an outgrowth of German immigrants that settled on Coldwater Creek, northeast of Concord. They started meeting in the area where Coldwater Lutheran Church on Gold Hill Road meets today. The congregation was made up of Lutheran and Reformed members. Many of our members are direct descendants of these immigrants.

A historical timeline follows: (*\*occurred at the national level of our Church's denomination*)

- 1766 - organization of Coldwater Church
- 1854 – Land granted to: Mt. Gilead Reformed Church, property on Old Salisbury Road  
(still within a mile of original meeting place)
- 1888 – Our present sanctuary was completed; church renamed New Gilead
- 1934 – \*Reformed Church merged with Evangelical Church creating E & R Church
- 1950 – New Gilead Church hires first full time minister
- 1957 – \*E & R Church merged with Congregational Christian Church forming the United Church of Christ
- 1966 – Celebration of 200 years for New Gilead Church
- 2007 – New Gilead Church congregation voted to seek to be dismissed from the United Church of Christ
- 2021 – New Gilead Church congregation voted to join ECO.

Our church has functioned as a multi-generational congregation with a full-time pastor since 1950. The 1970's -early 90's resulted in the greatest increase in attendance. The late 1990's – present day has seen a slow decline in our average attendance.

### ***Community:***

Located in the Piedmont of North Carolina, New Gilead Reformed Church is in Cabarrus County and is just two miles from the City of Concord town limits. Cabarrus County is on the northeast edge of one of the country's most vibrant regions. With Concord, Kannapolis and Harrisburg ranked among the Charlotte Region's fastest-growing communities, many more people are choosing Cabarrus County to live and work than almost anywhere in the country. Cabarrus County has experienced rapid growth in recent years – our population grew almost 27% from the 2010 Census to 2020 Census. The current estimated population for Cabarrus is 226,000.

#### Quality of Life:

- Cabarrus County offers diverse housing options from historic downtowns, established neighborhoods and rural living.
- This region is home to some of NC's top tourist destinations and has numerous attractions and things to do including professional sporting events and a variety of arts and entertainment.

- North Carolina has some of the country's top medical facilities. Cabarrus County is home to Atrium Health, a regional 450+ bed hospital in Concord.
- Interstate 85 runs through the Concord and Kannapolis communities of our county. New Gilead is located less than 5 miles from Interstate 85 at exit 63.
- The Charlotte Douglas International Airport is conveniently located less than 30 minutes from the Concord community. Concord is also home to Concord-Padgett Regional Airport. Allegiant currently offers commercial flights to 8 destinations in Florida and also to New Orleans from Concord.
- Our community is served by two K-12 public school systems, Cabarrus County and City of Kannapolis Schools. There are also 2 Charter Schools and 10+ Private or Christian Schools within a 10-mile radius. Rowan-Cabarrus Community College has several locations throughout the Cabarrus community as well. And finally, UNC Charlotte is located only 30 minutes from the church at the northeastern edge of Charlotte.
- We are also conveniently located less than 2 hours to the mountains and about 3 hours to the beaches.

### ➤ Profile, Purpose, and Goals

#### ***Profile:***

##### Strengths:

- Strong history of our church
- Committed and caring congregation
- Working with our Community on their needs as well as local and national requests
- Women's Guild that assists members during funerals and other organizations with appeals
- Since Covid we have employed streaming live services on Facebook and YouTube

##### Weaknesses:

- An aging population
- Lack of youth in the congregation
- Sunday School decline

##### Obstacles:

- Recruiting new members

##### Opportunities:

- Excellent standing in the New Gilead Community
- More use of current methods of social media
- Reforming New Gilead into an ECO church

#### ***Purpose:***

##### Five purposes of the Church:

- Worship – praising God
- Fellowship – growing together as a church family
- Discipleship – teaching and raising new leaders

- Ministry – caring for fellow Christians
- Missions – caring for and teaching non-Christians

**Goals:**

- Better engage with church members who are on roll, but not active, with goal of bringing them back to church.
- Identify ways to connect with members of our surrounding community who don't currently have a home church, especially looking to bring in younger members.
- In conjunction with the previous goal, support and grow our Youth Ministry.
- Maintain ministry of caring and connecting with older members of our church.
- Continue outreach ministries such as food bank, meals on wheels, etc.
- Upgrade and improve church communications through website, Facebook, etc.
- Identify ways to connect younger and older generations in church through specific events designed to bring all generations together.
- Maintain and upgrade aging church facility with focus on more modern amenities as well as technology for better live streaming of services. All while preserving the historic feel of New Gilead.
- Increase activities and opportunities to fellowship outside of Sunday Worship.
- Connect with former UCC Churches as was done in the past to keep up relationships and possibly recruit new ECO Churches. New Gilead could possibly host an information session in the coming year where other churches can learn about ECO.

➤ **Our Current Quest**

*We anticipate calling a Pastor based on these criteria*

**Requirements:**

Being committed to the essential tenets of ECO and recognizing the *Bible* as the inspired Word of God is crucial. To spend approximately 40/fulltime hours per week serving the church congregation and its community through sound communication, leadership, and administration. It is very important to possess good people skills and to be a compassionate and caring person.

**Qualifications:**

Master of Divinity or equivalent from an accredited theological seminary preferred.

**Position Description:**

- Preaching and teaching the Word
- Administering the Sacraments
- Pastoral care of the congregation in joy and sorrow
- Showing a presence in the community, as time permits
- Continue to equip the covenant partners in discipleship

***Salary:***

\$75,000, (including normal benefits)

Please submit your resume to Samantha Grass: [grasssamantha@yahoo.com](mailto:grasssamantha@yahoo.com)

***Our Contacts:***

PNC Co - Chair: Carolyn Cline – 704-789-3546 - [ccline3jams@aol.com](mailto:ccline3jams@aol.com)

PNC Co - Chair: Ned Weavil – 704-619-0133 - [nweavil@yahoo.com](mailto:nweavil@yahoo.com)

PNC Secretary: Samantha Grass - 980-521-1512 - [grasssamantha@yahoo.com](mailto:grasssamantha@yahoo.com)

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ECO References

Janie Beaver -MPT Chairperson – North Carolina Presbytery  
704-591-6122 - [jsbeaver1@att.net](mailto:jsbeaver1@att.net)