

Tacoma: Summit United Methodist Church | [Website](#)

Summit United Methodist Church (UMC) is located in a rural part of Pierce County on the edge of Tacoma and Puyallup. While there are some residential neighborhoods, most are modest homes on large parcels of land. The community is small with only 4,377 households as of 2014. Approximately 1,200 of those households include children 18 and under which also means that the majority of the residents are older, late 40's and up, including a higher than state average of seniors aging in place. The area is 81% Caucasian with Asian, Pacific Islander and Hispanic populations accounting for approximately 6% each. The median income per household is \$62,000 earned by mostly blue-collar workers.

Diversity is one of the pressing issues of the community with 23 different languages spoken within the local school district. In addition, there is a seasonal homeless population that moves to the wooded areas of Summit after the winter nightly housing program, ends each year. The need is so great that everyone in the local elementary school receives free breakfast, lunch, and snacks.



Summit UMC is responding to the needs of the hard working families by providing a Homework Club for teacher identified students in need of extra help at the neighborhood elementary school. They also provide and serve meals to the Habitat For Humanity workers, donate food to the local food bank from a church garden, and operate an affordable preschool. Community groups who use their building include: AA, Al-Anon, CODA, a local fruits grower's society, and a senior fitness program. In addition, they share their worship space with a local Presbyterian congregation.

The ideal pastor for Summit UMC would have gifts in spiritual formation, worship leading, preaching, and be a visionary. The pastor should also have the desire to engage with a wide range of ages (seniors to children), have experience working cross-culturally, and can work with a theologically diverse congregation. Because music is an important worshiping element at Summit UMC, a pastor who enjoys or has musical gifts would be an added blessing to this congregation.

For further information, please contact the Tacoma District Superintendent, Cara Scriven, revscriven@gmail.com or (425) 328-8881.