

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE: April, 2009

Since the Pastoral Search Committee was commissioned at the Feb 22nd Sunday worship service, we have had two meetings as of March 15th:

Our first meeting was with our UCC Regional Minister Rev. Ineke Mitchell, who introduced us to the search process and resources available. The UCC has been very helpful in steering us in the process of searching for a new Pastor. At the second meeting, the Committee established some leadership positions within the Committee:

Co-chairs: Joan Colglazier & Craig McAllister	Secretary: Jim Magennis
Corresponding Secretary: Polly Rice	Chaplain: Geri Bunnell
Hospitality: Cora Mutch	Public Relations: Craig McAllister

Other Members: Katha Kerr, Brad Bowman, Charlie Whitney, Dan LeGeyt, Phil Doyle and Beth Lingenheld.

NOTE: We have added Anna Burbank to our committee !!

I would like to emphasize that the committee wants you to be aware of the entire process and the status of our search for our next permanent Pastor. We encourage you to stop or contact any one of us and ask questions; they are welcome. But we cannot answer questions about individual applicants; we have agreed to a confidentiality Covenant and cannot discuss specifics about individuals until we have made our final selection to present to the Church Council and Congregation for approval.



The Committee has a lot of prep work to do prior to collecting and reviewing ministers' profiles. First is the preparation of a fairly lengthy church profile, which will be sent to prospective pastors. This document will describe our Church now, our Congregation, the aspects of Pastoral leadership most important to our Church, what God is calling our Church to do/become in the next few years, and our expectations for our new Pastor. Our Committee cannot do this for the whole Congregation unless you help us.

You can help by taking part in two different types of surveys that we expect to set up in the next few weeks. Both surveys are extremely important toward finding the Pastor who will be the best long-term fit for our Congregation:

Enhanced Coffee Hour Survey: This will be after worship for one or two Sundays and will be easy and enjoyable. We'll ask you to meet in small groups for brief discussion, each led by a Search Committee Member, then check off your expectations on a prepared list. Your reward will be elegant coffee treats that I'm sure you'll like.

Hartford Seminary Pastoral Search Inventory: This is an anonymous written survey that will be tabulated by the Seminary. You will have the opportunity to write comments to the Search Committee in the survey. Hartford Seminary will send us a report with the tabulated results and a complete list of the comments. Any evidence of who wrote the comments will be removed. You can be assured that the Committee will read and take every comment seriously.

We ask that you all come to the Enhanced Coffee Hour when announced and that you complete the Hartford Seminary Survey as soon as possible after you receive it.

Right now the Search Committee is busy planning these activities and learning to be comfortable working with each other, so we can be open with one another on matters of religion and our personal beliefs.

We ask you to keep us in your prayers that we grow in openness as a Committee, the better to serve you and the Church, and become better equipped to discern and do God's work.

Faithfully, Craig McAllister for the Pastoral Search Committee
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