

Transition Team Update (4/20/2018)

We are rapidly approaching the half-way point in our two-year transition. How time quickly passes. It was last spring when we bid Reverend Barbara McKusick-Liscord good-bye as she embarked on her new adventure. Shortly after that we were welcoming Interim minister Reverend Carol Strecker. It does seem like a whirlwind, but that seems endemic to a Transition period.

Your Transition Team includes Donna Ryan, Linda Goodman, Ellen Groh, Bryan Higgs and Carl Olsen. We meet monthly with Reverend Carol to plan and implement the Transition process.

During this first year Reverend Carol met with many of us individually. This was not only an opportunity to meet Reverend Carol, but a time to express our thoughts (joys and concerns) about our Congregation and the future.

One of the first projects we tackled was the History Timeline Project. We took the time to look at our past and identify important events in the history of this Congregation. The purpose of this exercise was to lift up the best of who we've been so we can intentionally focus on those things going forward. We also participated in an Appreciative Inquiry Process which led us to a to the Stewardship and Budgeting campaign. This exercise helped us hone in on the values that are most important to us - again providing focus for who we want to be going forward. These gatherings while fun were an opportunity for Reverend Carol to challenge our thinking about the future.

The Council recently convened the Search Committee that will be responsible for finding the candidate best suited to becoming our next settled minister. They will continue the process we've begun; gathering information that will help us clarify our strengths and needs. Then their focus will shift to taking that information on the road in search of the best possible ministerial candidate. The Transition Team will continue their work in the fall. It will be more introspective; providing the congregation with opportunities to work on deepening our relationships with one another - helping us become more intentional about who we are together. The roles of the Transition Team and the Search Committee will overlap and then become more divergent with the Transition Team taking more of a back seat as the Search Committee gets closer to Candidating Week next spring.

If you have questions please seek out one of the Transition Team members. We look forward to hearing from you and your thoughts about this two-year process.