

## SETTLED MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

### SPRING 2021 UPDATE

Your Settled Minister Search Committee has been moving a lot faster than molasses this winter. Five months of detailed planning and hard work was transformed, on January 2nd, into 14 applicants showing interest in our congregation. Your Committee had to act fast, reviewing and discussing the applicants, then deciding on whom would be best suited to our congregational needs.

Seven applicants made the initial interview cut in January, with four of them passing to the next round, known as Pre-Candidating. Each pre-candidate participates in a full weekend of formal interviews and social activities with your Committee. These weekends, in non-pandemic times, would normally see each pre-candidate visit with your Committee in person. So, there was a lot of ad hoc planning to be done in order to ensure we kept “a human touch” to all of our virtual interactions in this time of COVID restrictions.

The weekends are spread out over February and March. In addition to a minimum three-hour interview session, there is: one-on-one time between the pre-candidate and each member of your Committee, a presentation of a sermon to a neutral congregation that is also witnessed by your Committee, as well as an ample amount of social time allowing us to get to know each pre-candidate and their family on a personal and professional basis.

All of this leads to the most crucial time of all for your Committee, when we make the all-important decision of whether or not we have found the best person for the job. Once this happens, the selected candidate will be invited to come and meet the congregation in late April to early May, during which time they will lead service on two Sundays. On May 2nd, after the second of these services, we will hold a vote on calling the candidate as our minister. Specific details about this exciting time will be shared once the pre-candidating process is completed in early April. Until then, please keep your Search Committee in your thoughts and intentions!

“Thank you!” from your Search Committee members: Amy Bérubé, Mary Ella Keblusek, Jane Lindsay, Mike Lloyd, Jodi McIntosh, Phil Nagy, and Lena Talback.

*-submitted by Mike Lloyd*