

SETTLED MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 2020 UPDATE

At the June 21 Annual General Meeting, the FirstU Congregation chose a search committee to look for our next settled minister: Amy Berubé, Mary Ella Keblusek, Jane Lindsay (chair), Mike Lloyd, Jodi McIntosh, Phil Nagy, and Lena Talback.

Since then, the Settled Minister Search Committee (SMSC) has been very productive getting its heads and hands around the work required by the search. The committee had an initial planning retreat on July 10-11. We were joined by Rev. Stephen Atkinson, a retired UU minister assigned to us as a Transitions Coach by the UUA.

Our focus since the retreat has been on a variety of items. We have prepared a budget (with various options depending on whether travel is allowed next spring) which was presented and approved at the August board meeting. We have also been considering tweaks to some of the content on our website, to provide information prospective ministers would want to see, as well as to keep the congregation informed as to our progress with the search process.

As we enter the fall season, the congregation will have an opportunity to be involved in providing input in several ways.

A **congregational survey** will be circulated in early September, to help guide the SMSC in its work. The survey is crucial to our search process for several reasons. It will help us accurately describe our congregation to prospective ministers, and it will help the SMSC identify what the congregation believes is most important when choosing our next minister. The survey will be available both online and in paper format. While the deadline for returning it will be mid-October, we would ask everyone to please complete it as soon as possible to allow us to start analyzing the responses.

There will be a variety of opportunities for individuals to participate in **online Zoom sessions** to share their opinions in discussion formats. Some of these sessions will be open for anyone interested to sign up, while others will be targeted at making sure we hear from various demographic groups within the congregation.

In late September, we are expecting to host an online workshop called **Beyond Categorical Thinking**. Facilitated by the UUA Transition office, this workshop is intended to help the congregation have as expansive a perspective as possible for its calling of a new minister, one ideally suited to us. More details about this will be shared in the e-UU.

Thank you for all of your support and interest in this intense but rewarding minister search process. If you have any questions or comments, you can reach us at MinisterSearch@firstunitarianottawa.ca.