

Annual Report 2012/2013

Ministerial Search Committee

June 6, 2013

On Sunday, March 17, a special meeting of the congregation was held for the purpose of voting on the nominations of a slate of seven members to serve as the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua Ministerial Search Committee. A quorum was established, the candidates announced, and the slate received unanimous support.

The Members

Cecile Bonvouloir	Carol Houde
Laurie Goodman	Gary Lerude
Kathy Grossman	Donna LaRue
Steve Hedges	

Search Committee Purpose and Process Summary

The Search Committee takes on the responsibility for discerning the needs and desires of the members of the congregation in regard to the skills, qualities, and characteristics of our next settled minister. This is done through conversations, surveys, group meetings, and more.

Secondly, the committee compiles information about the church and congregation in order to prepare a packet of information in the form of photographs, charts, and narrative that convey our history, religious views, what we value, our buildings, governance including staff and lay leaders, committees, finances, Life Span Education program, demographics, stewardship, culture, and what we desire in our next settle minister. This profile will also attempt to convey the ways our congregation interacts with and is viewed by the larger community.

This packet is given to prospective candidates to determine if our church might be a good fit for their style of ministry. We will also receive similar packets of information from the prospective candidates. Eventually the committee will narrow down the prospective candidates to 3-4 through a series of steps, and eventually to one candidate who will be presented to and voted on by the congregation.

Retreat

On April 19 and 20 the Search Committee members held an overnight retreat with Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR) Reverend Olav Nieuwejaar, who will be guiding us throughout the search process. The purpose of the retreat was to coalesce into a team, gain a better understanding of the search process, and to begin to plan our work. The retreat was successful on all counts. Gary was named chairperson and Kathy, assistant chairperson.

Cottage Meetings

The Search Committee organized a series of small group meetings starting May 5th and will continue for approximately one more week. These meeting are the first step in the SC's effort to involve the congregation in providing vital input to help identify the qualities we would like to find in our next minister. In addition, the responses will be used to form the basis of a profile that will be used to introduce prospective ministers to our congregation.

Keeping the Congregation Informed

The Search Committee uses a variety of methods to keep the congregation updated on the progress of our work. A Ministerial Search Committee Bulletin Board has been put up in the Dining Room. It includes a timeline outlining the major steps involved in settling our next minister and our progress to date, and is the place for members and friends to look to find announcements regarding the search process and ways to work with the committee to accomplish our goals. The committee will also continue to update the congregation through occasional announcements at the start of the service, Order of Service entries, newsletter columns and through our web page on www.uunashua.org