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"My house is a house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:7) • An Open and Affirming Congregation

Good morning everyone, we wanted to give you a quick update as to where we are today:

You probably know that Council met on July 24 to hear Shawnthea's announcement and to begin discussing the transition process. Nayiri Karjian, the General Minister from the Living Water Association (the UCC organization for NE Ohio), joined us to explain that she would be our point of contact, to discuss the general path for identifying an interim and permanent senior minister, and to give an overview of the next steps. We will be continuing to have discussions with her, but the final decisions on how to proceed will be ours.

Council is in the process of doing a number of things to plan for and manage the transition:

1. We are working with Nayiri to identify candidates to fill the role of interim minister. Brian and I had a conversation with Nayiri at the end of last week to see how the search for an interim is going, but there's more conversation to be had. Our hope is to identify candidates and have Council meet and approve an interim as soon as possible, ideally by October 1, but we also want to find the best fit for us, and so will take longer if need be.
2. We will be putting together a Transition Team that will work from now until the end of the year to make sure daily/weekly activities are handled according to the transition plan.
3. We're also beginning to work on the Search Committee, whose main task, starting in January, will obviously be to find our next Senior Minister.

Once both teams are in place, Nayiri will meet with them to confirm what they are tasked to do, answer any questions and make sure that everyone is comfortable with what they need to do.

4. In addition, Brian Grube, Matt, Jim and I have met several times to discuss what support our staff will need to carry on daily activities. **At the Council meeting, we discussed the possibility of having Jim serve as interim Head of Staff to maintain continuity. There was unanimous support and we likely will be moving toward installing him in that position shortly.**

5. We are taking affirmative steps to ensure that we are clear and transparent during the transition process and that everyone can know what is happening. For starters, Nicole, our office administrator and communication coordinator, has set up a page on the website, "Pastoral Transition." We will be posting there announcements and relevant documents to make them available to everyone. We will also put them, whenever possible, in the Perspective and have them on Sunday mornings with the bulletin.

6. Looking ahead: At the August 28 Council meeting, we will update Council on where we stand in the transition. We also will be beginning our discussion of the annual the budget process. We're starting early in light of the obvious changes and Council members will receive their packets at the meeting. Remember, too, that council meetings are open to all members. So, if you would like to get more information, or find ways in which you can help in the transition, please join us.

Thanks,

Gloria Sturghill