

Report of the Nominating Committee October 12, 2009

Review of Process:

A Ministerial Search Committee had been authorized by the Board to begin the search process (in Spring of 2008), but that committee eventually disbanded in early fall of 2008 at least partially as the result of conversations with the Ministerial Settlement Representatives and our then contracted interim minister, Rev. Hnottavange-Telleen.

The Nominating Committee was originally constituted in Nov./Dec. of 2008 to identify a slate of candidates to fill Board Positions available during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. After the committee had begun its work a second task was added, that of identifying a slate of seven individuals to serve the congregation as a new ministerial search committee. A call for applications and nominations was sent out in Jan. of 2009, but not many nominations were received. The Nominating Committee felt that its first priority was to complete the process of identifying persons to fill officer and Board of Trustees positions and therefore did not put much effort into the Ministerial Search Committee selection process.

The arrival of Rev. Schaal as our Interim Minister in Jan. of 2009 also put a pause in the process of selecting a new ministerial search committee. The remembering sessions began in March of 2009 and the nominating process fell into hiatus until the congregational meeting about the Ministerial Search process on the evening of May 5, 2009. At this meeting it was decided that the church was ready to move forward with a ministerial search process and the Nominating Committee was re-constituted with a slightly different membership. The membership of this second version of the Nominating committee was (Ted Haller, Rosemary Johnston-Lawton, Carolyn Nolan, Joe Polman, Susan Mueller and Margaret Weck). The call for applications and nominations was re-opened and extended through the summer. Two open meetings concerning the Ministerial Search Process and desired qualities in Search Committee members were held on July 26, 2009 and Aug. 9, 2009 to increase the level of participation among the congregation in the search process.

As the result of the feedback from the congregation the Board established on Aug. 10 a process for selection of Ministerial Search Committee members that would include a vote of the members of the congregation. This congregational vote would be the final deciding step in selecting the seven member Ministerial Search Committee. The election of the Search Committee would be held after services on Sunday Nov. 1, 2009. The Nominating Committee was charged to bring before the Board a list of ten names to stand for the election before the list of nominees was published to the congregation. It was the Nominating Committee's job to receive all applications and nomination and verify each candidate's eligibility to serve and capability to fulfilling the duties of the Ministerial Search Committee as outlined by the UUA. All candidates listed below are members of the congregation in good standing, understand the time commitment that is being asked of them, and possess individual qualities and talents that would be put to good use on a search committee.

List of Nominees recommended to be presented for congregational vote on Nov. 1, 2009:

The Nominating committee reviewed the 41 names submitted by application or nomination from 17 members of the congregation and the six members of the committee. As a result of their review and deliberation and verification of interest on the part of the nominees the following list of members of the congregation is submitted to the Board for its approval and ratification:

Anatole (Tolly) Browde
Jeff Cary
Tony Fathman
Chris Fawcett
Pam Gempel
Rob Harding
Donald Jeffries
Joan Kindleberger
Caitlin McQuade
Jeannette Myers

Next Steps:

Once the approved by the Board is conferred, an announcement of the ten nominees will be made through a variety of media, including the internet announcement board, the church website and insert in the weekly order of service. Nominees are preparing 200-300 word biographies to introduce themselves to the congregation and explicitly describe the specific strengths and experience they would bring to the Ministerial Search Committee. As soon as possible these will be posted to the church website (in the Ministerial Search section). Paper copies will also be available after church. Two open sessions for members of the congregation to meet all the nominees are currently scheduled for after services in Hope Chapel on Oct. 18th and Oct. 25th. Right now these are intended to be relatively open-ended, rather than formal electioneering types of events. There will not be formal statements of prepared remarks from each candidate in turn. The short biographies are meant to serve that function. Once the second session on Oct. 25th is over the Nominating Committee's work will be done and the committee will be disbanded.

Report respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Weck, Nominating Committee Chair
October 12, 2009