



SR. MINISTER
EUGENE N. NELSON, JR.

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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April 12, 2016

Dear Church Families,

As stated in a recent email from the Pastoral Search Committee, *We have found an excellent candidate for Senior Pastor and he is just as excited as we are about becoming part of our church.* Our church Council has called a congregational meeting to be held **Sunday, May 8th**, immediately following worship. You will have a chance to meet our candidate and his family on that Saturday, hear him preach Sunday, and then church members will vote on his call.

Please rest assured that all 13 of us on the Search Committee feel we have found the very best candidate for the senior minister position. We undertook our work with a sense of heavy responsibility and through all the avenues of exploration open to our committee—ministerial profiles, viewing of sermons, Skype interviews, personal references, and, finally, a face-to-face interview including attending a **moving** worship service led by our candidate—through all these avenues he has continually stood out as an excellent fit for our church. The Search Committee feels God sent us this candidate as we all felt an immediate connection and had no reservations. He is an answer to our prayers.

Your chance to meet him and his family will be on **Saturday, May 7th**, as outlined below.

9:30-10:30 am: **Council, Committee Chairs and Transition Committee** gather in Fireside Room with the candidate and his wife. Invitations will be sent.

11:30 am: **Teen get-together** at Mary's Pizza—middle- and high-school age; information will be forthcoming

5:30 pm: All inclusive, informal **Church Family Meet & Greet** in Memorial Hall. Dinner will be provided; participants will be asked to bring appetizers and dessert. More information as the date approaches.

On Sunday, he will preach and participate in the worship service. Immediately following that service, a congregational meeting will be held for the purpose of giving each church member an opportunity to vote by ballot on whether a formal call will be issued to this candidate. We share with you in the excitement of the possibilities ahead for our church.

We cannot, however, give you his name just yet because, like anyone considering a move, he will not give notice to his congregation until after our vote on May 8th. We cannot stress the confidentiality issue too much. To ensure confidentiality, **DO NOT EMAIL OR POST ANYTHING ON SOCIAL MEDIA related to our candidate until TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 10TH.** His congregation needs to hear the news from him, in a letter that will go out on May 9th.

We can tell you he holds a Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry in Preaching from UCC-related seminaries, is in his 17th year of ministry, and is married with children. His enthusiasm, warmth and openness enhance his total commitment to the Christian faith and parish ministry. He has something important to say and says it very well. He has a keen mind and sense of humor, is creative, perceptive, fun to be with, and enjoys working with people of all ages.

The Transition Team has set up a schedule for Sunday worship for the summer. If the vote is affirmative on May 8th, our candidate will be able to begin his ministry with us **August 1st.**

Perhaps these words from his profile will give you a glimpse of this man:

Becoming ordained doesn't make a minister any more than "getting married" makes a marriage. In ministry, as in marriage, the question for me is whether I am continuing to discover and develop who I am in light of the One who calls to me to fulfill who I am created to be. I seek to become the best minister of the gospel and servant of the church that I can become. In other words, I seek to fulfill my baptismal calling as a disciple shaped by Christ.

In Joyful Anticipation,

THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Andy DelMonte, Co-Chair

Nancy Shimetz, Co-Chair

Ben Rasmus, Youth Representative

Bobbie Johanson, Chaplain

Caitie Carciere, Meeting Secretary

Lisa Dawson, Corresponding Secretary

Karl Kachigan, Corresponding Secretary

Warren Brisbin

Jim Jenkins

Debbie McCallum

Patty Raney

Gail Thomas

Denelle Tognozzi