



UPDATE #13

5/16/23

Experiencing What is Possible for Our Future

As Julie and Paul have been out of the country, we have had the privilege of receiving sermons from several of our ordained ministers. We are most fortunate to have many ministers and chaplains as members of our congregation. I am expressly grateful to Thelma Flowers, Steve Tate, and Pat Boswell for providing our congregation with powerful and tender, thought-provoking Scripture-based messages these last few weeks. While I imagine not the intention, these ministers provided us an opportunity to experience what is possible for our future.

Over the course of the three months the Call Committee has been working together and the Listening Sessions were going on, one of the most talked about topics was the quality of Julie's preaching. Many of us shared it was the most important aspect of our experience at Congregational — to receive a message each Sunday based in Scripture connected to the experiences of today with a renewal of hope to take with us into the week. Julie might tell you she honed this skill over time. She studied, read, took classes and over the decades became the preacher she is today.

While a key element, skilled preaching is not a singular skill for which we are searching. We are searching for a well-rounded minister whose skills, talents, and interests fit our congregation, who will prioritize the health of our congregation and our community as we learn and grow together into the future.

This past week our Lead Pastor position was posted on half a dozen divinity school alumni job boards. In the coming 4-6 weeks, the open position should be posted with the UCC. Also, the posting will appear in print and online in the Christian publications, Christian Century and Sojourner. The posting is as follows:

Congregational United Church of Christ Greensboro, North Carolina, a progressive (designated Open and Affirming and a Creation Justice church), vibrant, creative, open-hearted and justice-minded congregation, is seeking a full-time pastor to provide engaging pastoral and prophetic preaching, compassionate pastoral care, strong leadership in our community service and social justice efforts, guidance for staff, and a great sense of humor!

Please continue to pray with us for guidance as begin the next phase of the search process and prepare to receive candidate applications and ministerial profiles. Thank you!

—Robin Long