



UPDATE #19

08/01/2023

Search Themes

As I've shared, the committee is conducting interviews and continuing to review ministerial profiles. We have had promising conversations with clergy who share our passions and demonstrate qualities and skills we identified as important to our congregation. Prior to every conversation, we consider, **"How might we create more room for the Holy Spirit to speak? How are we willing to be surprised? What is God up to?"** These questions allow us to open our hearts and our minds to listen closely.

Some months have passed since our Listening Sessions, so I thought it might be beneficial to revisit themes that emerged from those sessions. These themes guide the way in which we evaluate candidates as well as the questions we ask and what we are listening for in responses. This is certainly not the entirety of the list; these capture the key themes informing our search parameters.

- Prophetic voice/narrative preaching style - relating to everyday life
- Pastoral care experience
- Challenges us - what's next inside and outside these walls?
- Strong conviction of Christian beliefs with emphasis on social justice advocacy
- Emphasis on interfaith dialogue and building strong alliances in the community
- Seeks relationship with church/ knows our congregation
- Evolves our mission rather than changes who we are
- Strong interest in engaging young adults/young families and youth in particular
- Ability/willingness to navigate difficult and challenging situations
- Sense of humor

There is not a Sunday that goes by without someone expressing their love and support to me for our committee and the work we are doing. These kind words continue to lift us up and remind us of the power of prayer, faithfulness, and listening for what God is up to here at Congregational. Thank you.

—Robin Long