



UPDATE #27

News from the Search Committee!

As we look forward to welcoming Rev. Amelia Fulbright and her family to our Sanctuary this Sunday, I would like to share a wonderful story of divine connection. I had the pleasure of speaking with Amelia's references and one of those references was Dr. Stephen Russell, who asked me to call him Stephen. I introduced myself and immediately Stephen shared that he knew our church well. I was interested and asked him to explain. He went on to say that he had been at Congregational for the baptism of his niece in the 90's. His sister and her husband were members and Julie performed the baptism. He told me he loved the Sanctuary and his sister and her family remained members for a couple years before moving to another town in North Carolina.

What an amazing story...what were the odds that Amelia's close colleague in Austin, Texas knew of our church and had been in our Sanctuary. But it gets better! Stephen went on to share that his father had served as the Conference Minister in the Southern Conference, UCC, and knew Julie and Paul very well. These were the early years of Julie's tenure at CUCC. Stephen's dad is the Rev. Dr. Rollin Russell.

Of course, I had to ask Julie about this story, and she actually recalled the baptism and spoke very fondly of Rev. Dr. Rollin Russell. He has been a strong advocate through his life fighting social injustices and continued his activism into retirement where he attends a UCC church in Chapel Hill, NC. He remains active in the Southern Conference as well.

There's more...I am recounting my amazing conversation with Stephen to the committee members the following week and Lynn Wright-Kernodle says, "Oh, Rollin and my husband were very good friends. We knew him well." Julie, Paul, Rollin, Stephen...and now Amelia will share with us a deeply important time in our Sanctuary this week.

Please plan to attend and let us all listen for God speaking!

Thank you,
Robin Long