

# News From Your Ministerial Search Committee

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The Ministerial Search Committee is in the middle of pre-candidating visits; each of four potential ministers explore the area, meet with us for an intensive interview and for informal conversation, and preach for the committee at a “neutral” pulpit. In April we will select one of these ministers to come to The Unitarian Church in Westport for Candidating Week, when you will get a chance to meet them and hear them preach. At the end of that week after the 11am service on May 3rd, the congregation will vote whether to call this minister. The time to welcome our new minister is approaching quickly!

## What Can I Do to Prepare for a New Minister?

The most important thing we can do to prepare for a new minister is to be open minded and open hearted, have no pre-conceived notions of who that minister should be, and understand that one person cannot meet all of the needs of TUCW and each of its congregants. Ministers are, after all, human beings with unique personalities, strengths and weaknesses. Each of us has a unique combination of needs and desires for TUCW and our new minister. As much as your Ministerial Search Committee would like to find the perfect minister for each and every person in our congregation, that’s impossible. However, at each point along our search process, we have kept foremost in mind and heart what you, the TUCW congregation, have told us.

Taken from our Congregational Record, here’s a description of the minister we seek:

What we want above all else is a minister who connects with us, has warmth and charisma and who will build a sense of community. This minister must give sermons that inspire us, minister to our souls and make us think, with humor as well as intellect. We want a minister who is approachable, a good listener, compassionate, humble, and authentic, who is creative, articulate, and involved in social justice. This person must be capable of being an effective Chief of Staff and help us implement policy governance, as well as provide a vision of stewardship that will inspire generosity. This minister will help our congregation grow, attract more young families, and become more diverse.

This is a long list of skills and qualities, and many of the ministers we have spoken with have most if not all of these qualities. We’re excited that so many great candidates would like to be part of TUCW! But the minister we choose will not be perfect for each and every one of us. What one person finds inspiring in a sermon may not be what another person is inspired by. Some may find being in the choir the most important activity they participate in, and another might enjoy social justice activities the most. Our new minister will not be Frank Hall or Roberta Finkelstein. All of our current and previous ministers are permanently woven into the fabric of our congregation. Our new minister will pick up where previous weavers have left off and guide TUCW in our mission to Inspire, Connect and Act. The minister cannot do this single-handedly. It will be up to each of us to bring our best selves to this situation and to work with the new minister - whoever he or she may be - in helping our congregation achieve its greatest potential.



## **CALL TO SPECIAL MEMBER MEETING**

The Board of Trustees is calling a Special Meeting to consider changes to our Constitution Sunday, March 8, following the late service and lunch for all

### **AGENDA**

- 1. *Revise the size of the Board of Trustees***
- 2. *Clarify membership***
- 3. *Extend the length of Nominating & Leadership Development Committee terms***
- 4. *Change the size and composition of future Ministerial Search Committees***
- 5. *Clean up wording, grammar and redundancies***

This isn't difficult work but it is very important and we need a quorum to make it happen.

(We also will need to finalize our decisions at a much shorter meeting on March 29)

Please arrange to attend. Only the necessary amendments will be given consideration – no other business. Child care will be provided.