

News from Your Ministerial Search Committee

You may not have been hearing quite as much from the Ministerial Search Committee lately. This is because we've been heads down, working on materials that will present our congregation to potential ministers. Each congregation looking for a new minister creates a profile or 'resume' of themselves, called a Congregational Record, which is loaded into a special database system at the Unitarian Universalist Association. This Congregational Record includes information gathered in the Congregational Survey, the Focus Group Meetings, and interviews with staff members. It describes the history and life of the church; it offers factual information about the congregation, e.g. membership, attendance, pledging, and budgets. More importantly, it is designed to offer candidates a picture of who we are: why is our church important to us? What is its role in our lives? What tasks confront us in the coming years? What problems have we faced and how have we handled them? And what qualities are we looking for in a new minister?

We've also been working with Rob Zuckerman, Jenny Klein and Charles Klein, who have spent countless hours designing and developing the Information Packet, which is a website that presents information about the Unitarian Church in Westport in a more visual, welcoming and attractive way. In addition to the "vital statistics" included in the Congregational Record, the Information Packet includes welcoming letters, pictures and videos of the church facilities and activities, reports on spending, and recent newsletters, orders of service and information about the region and towns we live in. It will also contain information about the staff, the proposed contract and such things as our policy

for screening and doing background checks on candidates. The Information Packet is our opportunity to shine.

The Congregational Record will be made available to potential ministers on December 1st. On January 2nd, we'll find out which ministers are interested in learning more about TUCW and potentially becoming our next Senior Minister. At this point we will unveil our packet to all interested candidates and they will send their packets to us so that we can learn about them. Our information packet will also be made available to anyone in our congregation who would like to see it. For the next few months we will narrow down the ministerial candidates, then on April 2nd, we will make an offer to one final candidate. From April 25th through May 3rd this minister will visit the church for a Candidating Week which includes preaching at both services, two Sundays in a row, attending meetings with key committees and groups, participating in social gatherings and other events, and interacting with members in a variety of ways. The culmination of this occurs after the second Sunday service on May 3rd when our congregation will vote on a motion by the Ministerial Search Committee to extend a call. The vote will be taken by secret ballot, but the result will be announced for all to hear. If 90 – 95% of the congregation approves, we will have a new minister!

Members of the Search Committee:

Jim Cooper, Charles Harrington, Linda Hudson, Kristen Leddy, Carrie McEvoy, John Mason, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Anita Pfluger and Kathy Roberts



Bad Weather Closure and Delay Announcements

In the event of severe weather, the following are ways that you can get information on whether the church will close and cancel all activities:

- **Check your email – we will send out a group email with a cancellation notice**
- **Check our www.uuwestport.org website**
- **Check the UU Westport Facebook page**
- **Watch Channel 8 or Channel 12 (Cablevision) on your television.**

Please do not call the office. We are not able to update the phone messages nor can we make automated calls to individuals.

Above all else, do not venture out if you do not feel it is safe to do so. Your safety is our primary concern.

Do you yearn to connect with your inner sound man or (yes!) sound woman? Do you share our desire to help make our Sunday morning services SOUND as good as they really ARE? We are looking for a small but mighty group of individuals with a little audio mixing knowledge/experience and a willingness to lend an occasional helping hand and ear: to join our Sunday morning tech team in a rotation that will supervise the live sound at our services. If interested or to learn more, please contact Andy Gundell: gundelmuse@aol.com

***Come One, Come More,
JEWELRY SALE
Sunday, December 7th
after each service
in the East Wing
Bargains and Beauties!***



Flowers for November

November 2

In celebration of poetry, music and people... may we be constantly reconnected.

November 9

In memory of K. B. Khanna

November 16

For Mary Elizabeth Peterson
with thanks from
The Unitarian Church in Westport!

November 23

Given anonymously