

## Moderator's Message November 18, 2025

### Signs of Progress in the Wake of a Bittersweet Week



Steve and Jill's moving truck headed west at about 4:00 Saturday and Steve and Jill's car headed east to the seacoast on Sunday for a few days. (48 hours later, early reports are that Steve and Jill are enjoying retirement!) If you find yourselves feeling down and blue, which is natural, I ask that you relisten to Steve's sermon from Sunday (when it is posted on the website) and reread the UCC Farewell. It wasn't easy to read "... Others leave us, growing toward new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings", but it is true. Steve and Jill would be grieved to hear that it was only a pastor telling us how to share, love, act, seek, or behold that brought us to church each week. They would expect us to show up for each other and for our community as a weekly act and conduit for accomplishing the change that they and we envision. Going forward, particularly if you are impatient for change or unsure about our future, be reminded that a Congregational Church is different than a church that installs a pastor the week after the former pastor leaves, and where parishioners have no say about who will speak to them over the coming years. That is because, we are the ministers of the church- we are its voters, we are its citizens, and we are its managers.

To that end, the Transitional Circle met last week and will be meeting again this week. We have priorities and timelines. We are not only implementing a roadmap providing supply ministry and then hiring interim and permanent pastors; but also making sure that pastoral care and weekly administration and communications are in place. The Search Circle will be formed at our next Executive Circle meeting. Thank you to the many who have expressed interest in participating in this important process.

Got questions? We have NH conference minister Rev. Gordon Rankin! He will be our pastor this coming Sunday. We will have a short question and answer period over coffee in the sanctuary afterward. He will answer questions about UCC processes for churches in our situation and about the current climate surrounding the “search and call” of an interim or permanent pastor. Rev. Rankin needs to be on the road by 12:30, so we will have to keep this Q&A session short, however, the Transition Circle will have its own follow-up session with Rev. Linda Hirst of the NH Chapter. Linda will also visit us to be a supply minister for the congregation in January.

Next week’s message will be all about the circles! Look for regular updates and reach out to me if you have any questions. 603-533-5151.  
Yours- Sam Greene, Moderator

