

**4-14-26**

### **News We've Been Aching For**

Though it's been interesting to sample our in-house and conference supply minister journeys since November; I think you might agree with me that after several months of road-tripping with different bus drivers week-to-week, it will be good to settle in with a steady and familiar tour guide one of these days.

As you are aware, the Transition Circle has been charged with finding an interim minister. Our Request for Transitional Leadership which included a short-form church profile has been in the hands of the NH (UCC) Conference since the beginning of the year. The net result of our search has been discussions with three interested candidates from the mid-west to the northeast. I want to add that every one of these individuals expressed to us that we are an attractive congregation (You know it baby!) and have a strong profile and a bright future.

Three virtual interviews and two on-site visits resulted in the Transition Circle's enthusiastic selection of one particularly qualified and vibrant candidate who is currently praying on our search call. In anticipation, the Trustees Circle will meet this week and begin the process of considering an Interim Call Agreement, hopefully with a May-June start date. Prayers are now being accepted.

Also during Holy Week, the Search Circle received news that our church profile had been uploaded to the conference and national UCC websites. So, we are officially on the market as a church looking for a settled minister. Indeed.

The development and polishing of a profile is a lot of work and we should commend Dan Isaacs, Ann Gordon, Susan Peterson, Karen Shea Defresne, Cindy Rouvalis, Lee Debell and Ben Wheeler for their dedication and cooperation. Lots of viewpoints come together during the profile document process and consensus is an vital element in creating a cohesive profile message.

For those interested in the visioning, statistics, financials, demographics and analytics of your church, here is the profile in its final form. (Click on the blue [Download More Information](#) button for all the minutia).

[https://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastdetails.aspx?id=7056&KeepThis=false&TB\\_iframe=true&height=859&width=960](https://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastdetails.aspx?id=7056&KeepThis=false&TB_iframe=true&height=859&width=960)

For those looking for a short read, the most vibrant and passionate aspect of this report is found on page 1. I think this statement is extraordinary and so well describes what we strive to be and what kind of pastoral character we are looking for.

*"We are searching for a new pastor who can guide our community as we continue to honor the sacred echoes of our past while remaining open to the unfolding light of the present, striving to be a sanctuary of peace, a source of joy, and a heartbeat of hope for the world. God is calling First Church in Jaffrey to become the civic heart of our region—a community defined not by the walls of our historic building, but by the depth of our reach. We are being transformed from a Sunday-centered destination into a "Sanctuary Without Walls," a living embodiment of God's extravagant welcome that provides essential care for every stage of life. By centering our identity on the fundamental needs of our neighbors—food security, housing, and intergenerational care—we are becoming sacred stewards of Jaffrey's physical and spiritual well-being. We are answering a call to be community weavers, divine bridge-builders who connect local organizations and neighboring congregations in a tapestry of support. Ultimately, we are becoming a people who ensure that no one in our region walks alone, Reflecting a theology where our neighbor's flourishing is our highest holy calling."*

This vision statement is an important reminder to all of us of what and who we are. I can't wait to greet the next individual who is called to share this table.

Blessings - Sam