

Your Search Committee: Stepping on the Gas

July 2020 Report to the Congregation

From Jim Verschueren on behalf of the Ministerial Search Committee

July began and has ended with major steps forward. We are feeling the excitement, joy, trepidation, and satisfaction of a search process that is fully under way. At this point we are right on schedule.

The participation of the congregation is now a central component. We ask everyone to be on the alert for our messages and our calls for your engagement and specific help.

Needed Right Now

Please complete the Congregational Survey

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZfiqgU-IniQOSn0ravKq6sTayqHNk0iGCf36vSnv7lOx-Fg/viewform?fbzx=4595020170037764079>

July Highlights

- On the weekend of July 11-12 we held a two-part, **virtual retreat** with our coach from the UUA, Laura Graham. Our expectations for what we could gain from a virtual retreat were far exceeded as Laura guided and encouraged us to consider carefully our functioning as a team and our responsibilities to the congregation and the larger UU world. We all came away with a deeper appreciation for our responsibilities, how we as individuals and as a group will grow through this process, and a high level of confidence in each other and our ability to work well as a team.
- At the retreat we adopted our **Search Committee Covenant**, now posted on the Search Committee Page on the South Church website.
- The **Search Committee Page** on the South Church website is live: <http://www.southchurch-uu.org/search/news-and-updates/>. We invite everyone to check it out – lots of information there. These reports and other communications to the congregation will be posted there along with search materials as they are created. We intend to lead a transparent search process.

- The **Congregational Survey**, so critical to the process of presenting an accurate and robust picture of our congregation to prospective ministers, was finalized and has been distributed. As I write this message, 163 surveys have been completed toward our goal of 267 (a 60% response rate). We have extended the original deadline of July 30 to the latest possible moment we can: Monday, August 10.
- Early in the month we learned of Michelle Anderson's need to resign from the committee. Michelle had been a central force in our work as she served so effectively as co-convenor. Going forward, Alice will serve as convenor with enhanced support from the rest of us.
- **Coming Next:** Survey results will be compiled and shared with the congregation. Cottage Meetings and Focus Groups will be set up to start in late August. As a team we will be pulling together our Congregational Record and a Documents Package for submission in November. A plan for a general South Church website enhancement is going to the Board.

Throughout this process we invite and strongly encourage members and friends to be in touch with us: search@southchurch-uu.org. Let us know your thoughts, give us your suggestions, share your hopes and apprehensions. And when we ask for specific help, please make every effort to engage.

We are building our future – all hands on deck!

Thank you!