

Your Search Committee:

October 2020 Report to the Congregation: Nov. 15 – A Big Day in Our Search

Our Congregational Record (CR) is due to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) on this day. The CR is a tome of information about us and our surrounding communities. The primary purpose of the CR is present an accurate, comprehensive picture of South Church. The format and content are set by the UUA in order to provide consist information from each church in search to prospective ministers.

During the month of October, we have been compiling and analyzing the results of the Congregational Survey conducted over the summer and the Cottage Meetings held throughout September. A special Youth Survey and a Focus Group with current staff are underway this month to augment that data.

The immediate primary use of all that information is to complete a set of 53 focused questions that form the largest component of the CR. The topics in those questions range from the expectations the congregation has of a minister to our congregational culture, from detailed financial information to the state of our facilities, from our religious education offerings to our administrative practices, and much, much more. The responses to those questions, standard data about the church as an organization, and a set of 10 additional categories of general information constitute the CR. In December, the final piece of our Application, a compilation of organizational documents, is due.

While completing the CR is a big job, as we knew it would be, we are ever more convinced of the wisdom of the process. We have learned a great deal, had our own preconceptions challenged, grown in our appreciation of the strength of our church community, become more aware of where we can do better, seen exciting visions of who we as a congregation might be in the future, and had the pleasure of exploring all of this with so many of our fellow members and friends.

We are only beginning to appreciate what the CR may do for our congregation as a tool for growth in the future. It is exciting to think about what may come from this effort when the CR is complete, shared with everyone in the church, and the conversations about it begin.

Finally, we say Thank You! To all those who have been so important to this process – survey respondents, cottage meeting facilitators, hosts, and participants, and the many individuals who have so quickly and thoughtfully responded to our queries for information and insight.

*Thank you!*