

Your Search Committee:

November 2020 Report to the Congregation: Congregational Record Complete!

We want to start with a HUGE THANK YOU to the multitude of people who have made this search work both enjoyable and thorough. Beyond those who participated in the Congregational Survey and Cottage Meetings, so many responded thoughtfully and promptly as we asked for more in-depth information in many areas.

Our completed Congregational Record (CR) was submitted on time to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) on Tuesday, November 17. We could not have done this without the help and encouragement of so many. THANK YOU!

As reported last month, the CR is a tome of information about us and our surrounding communities. We worked hard to present an accurate, comprehensive picture of South Church, following the format set by the UUA to provide consistent information from each church in search to prospective ministers.

Saturday, December 5: The next step in this process is for congregation-wide participation in the Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) training/workshop. An invitation with a link to join will be sent to all congregants. For general information about BCT go to <https://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/transitions/bct>. Please plan to join us! The workshop will meet from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. and reconvene from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Timeline Moving Forward: Our CR will be released to ministers on December 1, and prospective ministers can begin submitting their packets to churches on January 2, 2021. Your Search Committee will be conducting screening interviews on some number of candidates in January and follow-up interviews with a select number of candidates thereafter. Please note: The Search Committee will not be able to communicate with anyone outside of the committee once we start the process of reviewing/considering ministerial packets.

By March we expect to have narrowed the field to perhaps three finalists. We will be conducting further interviews and experiencing those candidates in the pulpit. At this point we are hopeful that we may be able to schedule some in-person time with those candidates, dependent on the status of the pandemic. To be clear, we continue to take this process one step at a time, with the understanding that coming to a final call during this uncertain time is more complex than would be the case in other times.

Whatever the outcome in 2021, we are confident that this work is beneficial to our congregation and will serve as a powerful tool for building a bright future for South Church.

We send our appreciation to all!