

Your Search Committee: On Time & On Target

August 2020 Report to the Congregation

***HUGE THANKS to the 268 people who completed the Congregational Survey. This response is a tremendous affirmation of confidence in our future and support for the search process.***

### ***August Highlights***

- The Search Committee set an ambitious goal: a 60% response rate to the Congregational Survey. This we considered to be an important benchmark in our consideration of the efficacy of doing a search in virtual times. On to the next step! The results are now being compiled and analyzed to be placed on the South Church website for the congregation to review and digest.
- The next stage involves Cottage Meetings and Focus Groups. Cottage Meetings are group discussions to include consideration of the survey highlights and discern together our vision for the future of South Church. We are planning 8 virtual and 7 in person gatherings spread over the month of September. If more are needed, we plan to add them. The more participation we have, the better we will be prepared to give our prospective new leadership an accurate, compelling picture of our South Church community.
- The first portion of our extended August meeting involved a training program for Search Committee members and our first group of facilitators: Mary Banach, Tracey Clarkson, Kimberly Green, Rita Weathersby, and Cathy Wolff. Special thanks to Jesse Lore for his leadership in developing the Cottage Meetings schedule, a carefully constructed meeting format, and excellent training.
- The second portion was a dialogue with Kirsten Hunter. Kirsten shared her thoughts, hopes, and vision for how South Church might create new, collaborative leadership structures that could enable us to grow more fully into our mission and sustain our community through future transitions and challenges. We understand that the Board is looking at this issue as an important part of our presentation of the congregation to prospective new leadership and we welcome the guidance as we prepare search materials.

Throughout this process we invite and strongly encourage members and friends to be in touch with us: [searchcommittee@southchurch-uu.org](mailto:searchcommittee@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!*