

Search Committee

In the midst of our busy lives we sometimes struggle to find time to sit back, put our feet up, and reflect on where we have come from and where we are. We, as a Congregation, are to be congratulated for having taken time over the past few months to participate in both the Church History Conversations and the Survey as parts of a process of reflection and information collection that will lead to the settlement of our new minister.

Now, as the Summer months and their slower pace draw near, the Search Committee invites you to attend one in a series of informal, small group gatherings during which we will reflect not on the past or the present, but on the future of our church and its next minister. We are calling these gatherings Cottage Meetings and they will be held in the homes of our Congregation's members or at the church during July, August, and September.

What qualities do you most value in a minister and what can each of us do to support him or her in their ministry?

In order to stimulate your thinking we offer the "Ten C's of Ministry" in an accompanying chart. They describe the attributes a congregation might hope to find in their new minister. Is this list complete? If not, what other qualities would you add? Which would be the most important?

Your participation in one of the Cottage Meetings is yet another contribution you can make to the search process. The members of the Search Committee want to listen carefully to your thoughts and learn from the collective wisdom of the congregation in order to find our ministerial match. A strong level of attendance will tell candidates that a vibrant, engaged community awaits their arrival. The Cottage Meetings promise to be relaxed, stimulating, and thought provoking.

Please plan on attending. A schedule of the meetings can be found elsewhere in this edition of Parish Notes. Sign-up sheets will be available in Fellowship Hall after church through the remainder of the church year. Child care will be available for some of the meetings. We are very much looking forward to spending time with you at one of the Cottage Meetings.

- The Search Committee