



September 20, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of University Congregational United Church of Christ,

In the days since Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz sent his resignation, we have experienced a profound sense of gratitude for his ministry, and impending loss with his leaving. His twenty five years with this congregation have been significant in our life and ministry, and his time with us has been a blessing. These next three months together will be precious time. Please stay tuned to learn more about special events to celebrate his ministry, including a special gathering on Saturday December 29, and a worship service on Sunday December 30.

University Congregational United Church of Christ is a healthy and faithful community, and we are confident that we will move forward through this time ahead with tears of gratitude and loss for Peter, and with the assurance of a future unfolding even now.

We have been in touch with Mike Denton, the Conference Minister for our UCC Pacific Northwest Conference. Mike has been and will be helpful as we look at tasks, priorities, and questions for the interim-time to follow Peter's departure. Mike will help us and the Church Council learn about and put in place UCC best practices during a time of pastoral transition.

In the meantime, here are some significant steps in the transition period:

1. **Interim Search Committee:** The Church Council will appoint an Interim Search Committee to recommend specific areas of focus for the interim time, and the staffing to help us carry out those tasks. Interim Search Committee members will include some council members, at-large, and a member of the Leadership Staff.
2. **Interim Staff:** The Church Council will call the Interim Staff.
3. **Interim Task Force:** Once interim staffing is in place, the Church Council will appoint an Interim Task Force. Together with Leadership Staff and the Interim Staff, the Interim Task Force will invite all of the congregation to be part of a learning process to help identify our church's imagination for the future, and corresponding leadership needs.
4. **Next Steps:** Following that process, we will make decisions and recommendations about our leadership staffing needs and proceed as appropriate.
5. **Congregation:** The congregation will have the final say in affirming and implementing recommendations and direction.
6. **Transparency:** Throughout the process, we commit to transparency and to staying in touch with the congregation in all the ways possible and appropriate, acknowledging that some aspects may require confidentiality, though as rarely as possible.

And in all things and at all times, we invite you to join us in resting into the assurance that God is indeed with us on this journey. We have been blessed by Peter and his ministry, and we are confident that we will discover new and surprising gifts and blessings as we proceed.

Faithfully,

Amy Roon, Minister  
Catherine Foote, Minister  
David Anderson, Church Administrator

Margaret Stine, Moderator  
Terry Moore, Assistant Moderator  
Mary Sue Galvin, Secretary  
Don Guthrie, Treasurer