

January 2017

Friends and family at St. Martin UCC,

Following the resignation of Rev. Adrian McLean your church council began to make plans for what would come next. We have met with several members of the Missouri Mid South Conference including conference minister Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel and Associate Conference Minister Rev. Dale Parsons. We have been assigned a Search and Call Steward who will be assisting and guiding us in the process that will lead to the calling of our next Pastor.

It is not easy to think about ending a Spirit filled ministry and the celebration on December 18 was bitter sweet. Pastor McLean had been with us for almost 13 years. While some in our congregation have nervously expressed "What is next?" or " How soon will we have our next Pastor?" That time line is not a given. We want to share with you the steps being taken:

- ❖ For the next several weeks our pulpit is being filled by Pulpit Supply Pastors from the Conference listing. In the event of an emergency or Pastoral need, please contact one of the Elders.
- ❖ The council is in the process of selecting an interim pastor to provide continuity in worship, pastoral care and program oversight. Rev. Dale Parsons will be advising and assisting us through this process. We have been assured that there are several candidates available for this position that have specialized skills needed for the transition period. This pastor will not be a candidate for the "settled" position.
- ❖ After the interim pastor is in place, we will initiate a search process for the new pastor in accordance with our by-laws. We will invite all to be a part of the self study that will identify our church's pastoral needs. And we will develop a profile for our potential candidates.
- ❖ Our Conference office staff will be a guide to our search. They will advertise our vacancy among UCC clergy all across the country. Our search committee will read these ministerial profiles, screen candidates, conduct interviews, check references and eventually select a candidate who will be recommended to our congregation.

This letter is intended to help all know the steps we are taking and to think about our future. We will keep all informed on a regular basis. For now, let us express our gratitude to God for Rev. McLean's ministry and wish them well on their next adventure. We pray God's presence in all they may endeavor and ask His guidance on our future.

In Christ's name,

Donna Goede, Church Council President and the Council