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## ENewsNotes



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### Search Committee's Thoughtful Approach Yields Results

Following the mutual decision of the Rev. Susan Henderson and CCC to conclude her interim in June and with the work of the Senior Minister Search Committee continuing, then-Moderator Tim White convened a search committee to identify a Senior Minister who could sustain the momentum of Susan's interim until CCC calls a permanent Senior Minister. According to the Senior Minister Search Committee, a permanent Senior Minister could start as early as January if the committee identifies a candidate this fall.

Armed with that information, the Sustaining Minister Search Committee, whose members were Kathleen Boucher, Paul Holmes, Tim White and Cyndy Wright-Johnson, began their search with assistance from the Central Atlantic Conference (CAC). The role of the Conference and Potomac Association Minister, the Rev. Dr. Kwame Osei Reed, is to provide seeking churches with profiles of qualified candidates seeking the specified type of position. CCC's committee obtained the profiles of six candidates who Tim described as "well-qualified and bringing different talents and experiences."

The committee took a "5 + 2" approach to its search. Members identified 5 key areas for which a sustaining senior minister should provide active, future-oriented leadership:

1. Worship and worship planning
2. Pastoral care
3. Administration of a multi-staff church
4. Team building with staff
5. Stewardship planning / talking openly about money

Two key areas for which a history of experiential involvement were critical were:

1. Supporting CCC Covenants (Just Peace, Open & Affirming, Becoming Anti-Racist)
2. Having a relationship with the wider church (Central Atlantic Conference and the United Church of Christ denominational

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leadership)

The committee conducted telephone interviews of all six candidates and three in-person interviews and listened to tapes of candidates' sermons. In the committee's judgment, the Rev. Richard Thayer met the 5 + 2 criteria and projected the "best fit" for CCC in this time in its history. For Rev. Thayer, CCC's sustaining senior minister position comes at a good time in his professional life (see related article in the July issue of *ENewsNotes*).

Rev. Thayer's first Sunday in worship is August 22, when he will preach at the 10 a.m. service. Members and friends are invited to a reception immediately following the service to greet and welcome Rev. Thayer to CCC.

*Jackie Walters, Communications Officer*

## CCC Pilots First Sunday as Sabbath -- a day of rest and worship

Beginning September 5, CCC inaugurates a six-month pilot to keep the Sabbath holy by holding the first Sunday, communion Sunday, free of church meetings. The Executive Council agreed to support the concept, recommended by the Transition Committee, following conversations with the ministerial staff.

The congregation is invited to reserve the First Sunday for worship and fellowship. Sabbath is meant to be a day of rest, a day of worship for ourselves and our church, and a day to be present in the wider community in activities of fellowship and justice. We invite you to spend extra time at fellowship hour - enjoying coffee or juice and each other's company without hurrying off, cup in hand, to a different room for a meeting. We encourage you to connect with others at CCC, in your extended family, and in your community and in new or renewed ways. We welcome your suggestions on new ways to expand our hospitality to one another, to friends and to visitors.

When considering scheduling something for First Sunday, boards, committees, workgroups and taskforces are encouraged to ask themselves these questions: Does the interaction have an agenda? Will there be minutes? Will anything be voted on or decided? "No" is a good response. Asking "Can I bring this group together with personal contact and not a list group or ENews Flash?" and hearing a "YES!" is a response we hope to hear more frequently.

In keeping one Sunday a month as Sabbath, the staff and Council are aware there will be challenges to finding room in volunteers' busy schedules to do the work of the church. We welcome your comments and suggestions. In the meantime, as CCC moves into the Fall of 2010, listen for opportunities as they are created for fellowship and for relaxation together.

Here are some dates that are already planned

**September 12, 2010** - ALL-CHURCH PICNIC - 2-6 p.m., Sligo Creek Park

**September 19, 2010** - Taste of Ministry Sunday - Fellowship hour in the social hall and a "tasting fair" to share the many ministries of CCC.

*Cyndy Wright-Johnson, Moderator*

## CCC Loaner Closet for Medical Assistive Devices

Did you know that CCC has assistive medical equipment available for temporary use for CCC members and friends? CCC has available: wheelchairs, bedside commodes, shower/tub benches, an elevated toilet seat, crutches, canes and walkers with and without wheels. If you are planning a surgery, or have a mishap or illness and need some temporary assistance, consider borrowing equipment from CCC before purchasing on your own. Contact the church office to arrange pick up and check out of equipment.

CCC currently has an over abundance of all types of walkers and bedside commodes. We are in need of more quad/footed canes and single point/straight canes and one foldable wheelchair with foot/leg rests. To donate equipment to the CCC loaner closet, please contact Trish Esposito 301-593-1858 or [trishespo@yahoo.com](mailto:trishespo@yahoo.com)

The Wheelchair Society of the Washington Area accepts donations of all types of medical equipment. They have a donation location in downtown Silver Spring, 8220 Mayor Lane, 20910, 301-495-0277. Please contact them directly for hours and directions.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Our Red Cross blood drive at Christ Congregational Church last week was a success as we collected twenty-one units of blood donations from congregants and members of the community. Thanks to all who volunteered their time, and thanks to CCC for hosting this important event. Our next blood drive is scheduled Sunday, October 24. Please consider participating.

## Deacons Fund

The Deacons Fund has proved to be a blessing to a number of people in our church and community. Recently two people were saved from eviction through help we were able to provide at a difficult time in their lives.

The fund is used at the Minister's discretion to alleviate a number of short term problems. We continue to be grateful to our members for their contributions which, traditionally, have been received on Communion Sunday each month. Yellow envelopes are provided in the pews or church office to be marked with your name or pledge number and may be placed in the collection plate on any Sunday.

In a struggling economy we are always appreciative of new contributions of any amount to this valuable outreach. *The Board of Deacons.*

### Contact Information

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