

April 16, 2024

Greetings from the Transition Team! We are hard at work getting us to the point where we can put the paperwork together to call a new pastor. As we have started this work, with the guidance of Pastor Jeanie, we decided that we wanted to better understand who we are as a church. That started the Transition Team talking about our experiences at United in Faith and then a congregational forum was held March 10th where the Team, together with other members, reviewed the history of UIF.

Through those conversations, the Team discovered that we think there are still some unresolved issues around conflict and transition that we, as a church, need to acknowledge and discuss. Working through this process, we believe, will not only make UIF a healthier place, but also put us in a great position to welcome a new pastor.

In our last meeting, we set some goals for the Transition Team to address these issues:

- Learn how to engage in healthy conflict and forgiveness
- Examine how we help the blessings of our community flow so that the workload is better shared
- Be a place where youth organizations and others can have a space when they need it
- Engage in a fuller processing of leaders who have left and for the synod which includes grieving, honoring and truth telling

In order to accomplish these goals, you will see things like:

- Preaching on these topics
- Cottage meetings with intentional conversations
- Public events to lament and give joy
- Forums after church to include
 - Updates from the Transition Team (5th Sundays)
 - Metro Chicago Synod Representative Presentation
 - Conflict workshops
- Sunday school class on forgiveness

We are excited to accomplish these goals and see United in Faith continue to grow. **We believe that this will help us bring the right pastor for us.** We ask for Christ's guidance in this process and for your prayers as well. While the Transition Team is leading these efforts, success requires the help of all parts of the Body of Christ.

In Christ,
The Transition Team