

Press Release

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

2050 Periwinkle Way
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For More information call: Reverend Denise Terry

Sanibel Island Florida: Over 400 members and friends of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ welcomed The Reverend Dr. John Howard Danner and his wife, Linda, Sunday November 15th. The congregation voted to accept the recommendation of its search committee to call Dr. Danner as its new Senior Pastor with a resounding 99.6% of the congregation voting yes. Dr. Danner will begin his ministry near the end of January 2010.



Reverend Dr. John Danner and child at his current Church in Westport Ct.

Dr. Danner's undergraduate degree is in Philosophy, from the University of Maine. His Master of Divinity degree is from Bangor Theological Seminary. His Doctor of Philosophy Degree is in Religious Studies and was granted by Boston University.

His first full-time parish was in Gloversville, New York. John served as Pastor of the First Congregational Church in River Edge, New Jersey and has served as Senior Pastor at Saugatuck Congregational Church in Westport, CT, since 2001.

John is married to Linda Bradbury-Danner and between them they have three children. Over the years they have also served as foster parents for an additional thirteen children. They are the proud grandparents of two boys and two girls, all of whom live in Florida.

John sees his calling to ministry as central to his life. "Serving as a pastor," he notes, "Is a great privilege. To share people's lives in times of celebration and crisis, is an honor. To help others understand the great love God has for each one of us, to share the old story in new and fresh ways, is truly a joy."

The Sanibel Congregational United Church celebrated its 30th year on the island in 2008. Its congregation has a rich history of community involvement on a local and global level.

The Rev. Dr. John H. Danner was born in Bangor, Maine, and raised in northern New England. His father, the Rev. Howard S. Danner, Jr., was a pastor in the United Church of Christ, and his mother, Dr. Constance Danner, is a retired English professor.

John graduated from Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, NH, and then went on to study theater at Bradford College in Haverhill, Massachusetts. He worked for several years in the restaurant business before going to seminary.

His BA is in Philosophy, from the University of Maine, and his M.Div., from Bangor Theological Seminary. His PhD is in Religious Studies and was granted by Boston University. John also studied at the Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center and the Shalem Institute of Spiritual Formation and is a Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

John served two tiny churches in Maine while in seminary, and then worked as a Minister of Christian Education at West Concord Union Church in Concord, MA, while completing his residency requirements at BU. His first full-time parish was in Gloversville, New York. While there John helped found the Mountain Valley Hospice, and served as its founding president.

John served as Pastor of the First Congregational Church in River Edge, New Jersey from 1991-2001, and has served as Senior Pastor at Saugatuck Congregational Church in Westport, CT, since 2001.

John is married to Linda Bradbury-Danner and between them they have three children. Over the years they have also served as foster parents for an additional thirteen children. They are the proud grandparents of two boys and two girls, all of whom live in Florida.

John is a practitioner of yoga, meditates on a regular basis and loves to take his morning walk along the river. He looks forward to walks along the beaches of Sanibel! John is an avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction, enjoys music and theater, and is a fervent Red Sox fan. John is not above a good pun, and delights in a well told story.

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SANIBEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Rev. Dr. Dale G. Kent, Interim Senior Minister

The Rev. Denise Terry, Acting Associate Minister

November 2, 2009

Dear Friends:

At last we are able to introduce to you our choice for the new senior pastor for Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ.

He is the Rev. Dr. John Howard Danner of Saugatuck, CT, and the following biography tells you of his experience, education and interests. Just as important is the feeling each of us has about John as a person.

We feel that John Danner's wisdom, education, and experience combined with his compassion, intellect, humility, love of music and theater, and his good sense of humor weave together into a solid mosaic of Pastoral qualities that we were asked to find.

After many months of searching and prayer, reviewing 52 candidate profiles, listening to many sermons and conducting interviews by telephone and in person your Search Committee came to a unanimous conclusion. As one of his references stated "above all else John Danner is a person of faith and is a stunning preacher and an approachable pastor."

We are confident that we will all be energized and challenged by his preaching, learn and grow from his teaching, appreciate his quiet manner, thrive and grow under his leadership and enjoy John and Linda as members of our church and community.

We hope you are as excited about meeting them as we are to introduce you at the open house on Saturday the 14th. Stop by Fellowship Hall anytime between 1-4. We look forward to seeing you there.

Remember too, he has not told his congregation yet, so please keep this information locally for a few more weeks.

Your Search Committee

Marion Bayers
Mary Ellen Pfeifer

Barbara Cavanaugh
Paul Roth

Jim Drotleff
Patti Sousa

Don Hunter
Mike Vargo

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