

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

Transition update 11-12-08

We are entering our third phase of a four-phase program to transition our Pastoral team.

Phase 1- Recognition - began over five years ago when Ran, Jim and Sandy entered into an agreement to share time as pastors. The agreement included their retirement in 2008. Ran retired in May, Jim and Sandy retire this November. We will be recognizing Jim and Sandy's years of dedication and devotion to our congregation Sunday, November 16th.

Phase 2- Interim Search - began 18 months ago and it was the process that ended when Dale Kent accepted the position of Interim Senior Pastor and Denise Terry accepted the position of Acting Associate Pastor. As you get to know Dale and Denise you will learn how blessed our congregation is. Dale began his service September 1 of this year and Denise began October 1.

During this interim phase we began a tradition of inviting comments, suggestions and concerns through the use of email, written request and input during sessions held during season. You can review this trail of events and progress on our web site:

www.sanibelucc.org

Phase 3- Interim Period & Senior Search is beginning this fall. We will solicit input from the congregation, guidance from our UCC Florida conference staff and utilize the talents of our pastors and lay leaders. This phase is expected to take at least 18 months. The first step is our council meeting in November. It will be followed by the selection of a search team who will be working with the congregation to call the optimal Senior Pastor. To provide input you will be invited to sessions on the subject. In the meantime I have set up an email address for you to send any concerns, questions or comments:
mike@sanibelucc.org

If you are uncomfortable with email, write to me at the office or talk to any member of our lay leadership team. This team consists of the members of the various committees that make our congregation what it is. We will use a process to keep you up-to-date that proved successful during phase 2: our website frequently asked question (FAQ) section. We will also post these FAQs on our bulletin board.

Phase 4- Steady State will begin when our Senior Pastor begins service and our Associate Pastor becomes permanent. We expect this phase to begin in 2010.

I would like to thank all the congregants that have been involved to make our transition successful and look forward to a successful search for our Senior Pastor.

Blessings

Mike Vargo, Moderator

