

GOVERNING COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S 2019 REPORT

The year 2019 has been a year of both challenge and change.

The year started with issues remaining within the Church body and the Governing Council.

In February at the congregational meeting, many members were surprised to find that Reverend Annika had decided to seek a dissolution of call.

A vote of the members attending was taken and the result allowed Reverend Annika to end her call to the church effective March 15th.

Over the next several months, the Governing Council and I held multiple regular meetings to discuss and vote on Church business.

Among the items discussed were whether or not we should attempt to find a replacement Senior Pastor or an Interim Pastor to guide us through this transitional time.

All the while, Reverend Edward, our Associate Pastor for Family and Youth, stepped up and graciously assumed the duties of our absent Senior Pastor, even to the point that he was named Acting Head of Staff.

Throughout this time I attended several meetings at Presbytery and UCC Conference levels seeking guidance and assistance in the process of discerning our path forward.

We had been urged to apply to the Presbytery for an Interim Pastor but many members of the Council had reservations regarding this action.

Ultimately, it was decided to hold a series of meetings with the congregation.

These meetings were intended to gather the opinions of the attendees regarding the future needs of the Church as regards staffing in our current situation. This would include their feeling and opinions regarding an Interim Pastor search.

As a result of these meetings, it was determined that the majority of our congregation did not want an Interim. Staffing needs were to be filled through the hiring of temporary personnel necessary to assist our Associate Pastor.

At the conclusion of 2019, I leave the office of President with the utmost respect for our new President and the Governing Council. I believe them to be dedicated individuals who will do what is in the best interest of our congregation. I leave believing that our Finances are in an improved & improving condition and with the knowledge that we have completed a successful stewardship drive. May God continue to bless us as we continue our spiritual journey.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Royer

2019 President - Federated Church Governing Council