

TRANSITIONS...A message from your President, Linda Ice

October 2013

Well, I can't believe it is October already! I appreciate the opportunity to bring you up to date on the ministerial transitions taking place at Westside. But first, I would like to say how pleased the entire board was with the turnout at both the first Town Hall Meeting and then at the Special Congregation meeting in September. This makes it clearly evident that you are very interested and have a voice to share!

I want to make sure that everyone knows about the business that transpired at the congregational meeting held on September 8th. Following an eloquent motion placed by longtime member, Dick Trice, the attendees unanimously voted to bestow the designation of Minister Emeritus on Dr. Russell Elleven! A church wide reception and brief Emeritus ceremony was held on September 22nd in Russell's honor. We would like to thank all of those able to attend. Russell will be spending two more Sundays with us in October – October 6th and October 27th – before he departs, with Gayle, for Chicago.

The first Town Hall meeting was held on September 4th and approximately 60 people were in attendance! I presented all of the information that we currently had regarding three topics: interim ministry, Minister Emeritus, and contract ministry. A printed copy of that presentation can be found on the church website under Church Business/Ministerial Transition. I encourage you to take a look at that document to see all of the details, but “in a nutshell” – your board has decided to pursue the UUA interim ministry process, allowing for modification pursuant to Westside's specific needs and desires; the board recommended bestowing the status of Minister Emeritus on Dr. Elleven defining a specific scope of characteristics; and, offered information about the possibility of pursuing a contract minister – but at the time, had not made a final decision regarding this matter.

Russell then shared his thoughts on the same topics and endorsed the idea of following the prescribed interim ministry process. Following Russell, we opened the floor to questions and comments from those attending. There is not a printed version of this Q & A, but notes were taken for the board's review and future reference.

While the future of Westside may “look different”, we are also looking forward, focused on the vision and mission of our church and community. Just take a look around at all of the committee activity! We are a community that is alive and vibrant! Your board invites you to attend the next Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, October 2nd at 7:00

pm in the sanctuary. We will give you our next set of updates and once again open the floor to questions.