

## Ministerial Search Committee Updates - November & December, 2015

November was a very busy time for the MSC as we pulled together all the documentation we have been gathering for the website/packet and the congregational record. We added some Saturday meetings and a couple of us had speaker phone meetings as we tweaked the website. That website, the Westside Ministerial Search website, is available at <http://www.westsideuu.org/minister-search/>



Important information includes the Congregational and Ministerial Profiles. Also, the website provides prospective ministers with a view of the Fort Worth community, our building, our committees, even how we function in governance and finance. The “in-progress” Statement of Purpose is here, along with Westside's Strategic Action Plan. Go take a look at the site, and please enjoy the photo gallery under Our Community.

A lot of work went into putting the website together. Digital Communications Committee members, Craig Bowes, Paul Corbett and Matt Craig were the initial creators. Craig and our packet editor, Jeff Rodriguez, were instrumental in getting it completed. Many thanks to their work for us and Westside!

At the same time we were writing content and pulling photos together for the website, we were also putting together the congregational record. This is a UUA transitions website open to the MSC, our MSR (Ministerial Settlement Rep.) and prospective ministers. It gives much of the same information as the website, but also answers questions that were asked of the congregation in the survey and cottage meetings.



Another part of this whole package is the Draft Ministerial Agreement which was put together by the Negotiating Team, Debby Rake, Bill Terry and Tom Woods. This is essentially the contract that a minister would sign on to, explaining duties, salary, benefits, etc. It is a draft agreement, as each minister is different. A final agreement would be established with the candidate who is selected by the search committee.

All of these items went “live” November 30 and December 1. So, now ministers are looking at Westside, both on the search website, our regular church website, and through the UUA. We also posted the ministerial position at Brite Divinity School and Perkins Theology School.

But, when do we get to look at the ministers? This happens, January 2, 2016 when informational packets will be released by the UUA transitions office. The MSC will be reviewing packets from all candidates who have expressed an interest in Westside. We then plan to narrow the field to three or four pre-candidates, after interviews by phone or Skype. The next steps in February and March would include in-person interviews and visits to neutral pulpits to hear the pre-candidates speak in regular Sunday services.

Confidentiality is important to the integrity of the process and with respect to potential candidates. Members of the congregation will not be allowed to meet with these individuals or to know anything about them. The MSC appreciates very much your consideration of this need for confidentiality. And, we thank you for entrusting this work to us.

Dates to Save: April 24 – Candidate at Westside to give reflection

April 25 – 30 – Candidate meets with Westsiders

May 1 – Candidate conducts service again: congregational vote held afterward.

