Pastoral Search Committee Report

How we got here

- The Search Committee voted on by the congregation in January
- We gathered information in a variety of ways to gain an understanding of the views and desires of the congregation
- This thoughtful and expansive information was used to create a CUCC profile which we used to compare applicants
- The Search Committee reviewed 27pastoral profiles and contacted references on several potential candidates
- We found one candidate met the requirements of the CUCC profile extremely well and the references were very good
- We had that candidate visit during a weekend in August
- The Search Committee found that this candidate not only measured up to the Church's profile, she exceeded our expectations in many ways – including wanting to stay for 10 years at her next church. We decided to present her to the congregation as our candidate to be the next CUCC minister

Introduction of Rev. Nicole Lamarche

candidate for settled pastor at CUCC

Background and Personal

- Raised in Eastern Washington state
- Graduated with a BA in International Studies, University of Arizona
- Master of Divinity, Pacific School of Religion
- MA in Theology, Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley
- Currently on Sabbatical living on Orcas Island
- Husband Jeremy Nickel and daughter Eliza age 7
  - Jeremy is a UU minister who does not work in a church
  - Currently he has a grant to work on an online meditation application

Community and Wider Church Involvement

- 2017 Prophetic Resistance Summit, Faith in Action National Gathering;
- 2016-Present Chair, Committee on Ministry Section C for the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ
- 2016-Present Facilitator, Clergy Community of Practice group for the Santa Clara Association of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ
- 2012-Present Faith Leader, PACT (South Bay PICO affiliate)
- 2009-2010 Member, Board of Directors, United Church Homes, Inc. Mashpee Village Low-income housing in Mashpee, MA
- 2008-2010 Member, Commission for Leadership Development Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ
- 2008-2009Member, Associate Conference Minister Search Committee Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ
- 2006-2009 Member of the 20,30 Clergy National Planning Team of the United Church of Christ

Awards, Honors and Publications

Awards and Honors

AWARDS 2011 Winner, America's Next Top Faith Voice Auburn Media Training,

- Auburn Seminary 2003-2004
- Miss California 2003, Fourth Runner-up Miss America 2004

Publications

- MA Thesis, Changing Church: Toward a Feminist Process Theology 2005
- "Pulpits and Politics" in Split Ticket: Independent Faith in a Time of Partisan Politics, Edited by Amy Gopp, Brandon Gilvin, Christian Piatt (Chalice Press, 2010)
- Leadership, Failure and the Cost of Spiritual Entrepreneurship, Bearings Blog, September 23rd, 2015 http://www.thebtscenter.org/failure/;
- God is Not a Boy's Name, Bearings Blog, March 16th, 2016 http://www.thebtscenter.org/god_is_not;
- Faithful Resistance is Persistence in Love, Bearings Blog, February 16th, 2017 http://www.thebtscenter.org/faithful-resist

UCC Experience

- Active in campus ministry while at the University of Arizona
- Minister in Training, Congregational Church of San Mateo – 2002-2003
- Wellesley Congregational Church, Pastoral Resident, UCC – 2005-2007
- Cotuit Federated Church, Pastor, UCC/UMC – 2007-2010
- Silicon Valley Progressive Faith Community, Founding Pastor, UCC – 2012-2018
  - Created a Launch team, raised $250,000
  - Started worshiping in 2014
  - Combined with a small DOC church with similar theological views
    - Began weekly worship 2016 in a historic church in San Jose
    - Created an intergenerational, economically and theologically diverse urban church

Summary of Rev. Nicole's Attributes

- Progressive theology
- History of Social Activism
- History of acting on compassion at individual level
- Highly organized, capable, and trained leader
- Unique combination of youth and experience – and interested in serving a church 10 years
- Collaborative approach to leading
- Genuine and transparent
- Caring and compassionate

Candidate Weekend Oct 11 - 14

- Thursday, October 11 – Staff meets Rev Nicole at lunch
- Friday, October 12
  - 9:00 – 11:00 Small group meeting in non South Boulder location
  - 3:00 – 5:00 Meet Rev Nicole at CUCC
- Saturday, October 13
  - 9:00 – 11:00 Small group meeting in non South Boulder location
  - 3:00 – 5:00 Meet Rev Nicole and her family at CUCC
- Sunday, October 14
  - Rev Nicole conducts worship service
  - Congregational meeting