

August 19, 2013

Fellow Members of the First Congregational Church of Vernon,

On March 24, 2013, a group of folks met in the corner classroom next to Fellowship Hall. After some initial words of guidance and encouragement from members of the recent Senior Pastor Search Committee, we introduced ourselves to each other and prayed for guidance on our journey of faith.

Following our first meeting in March, the Associate Pastor Search Committee had many meetings, prayers, e-mails, consulted, read profiles, ate muffins and candy, interviewed, and shared in the search process. Updates were provided to the congregation including Sunday announcements, the Carillon, and a UCC poster. Many applicants, local and oceans away, were considered and discussed.

The Associate Pastor (Executive) Search Committee (affectionately self-proclaimed APES), had many tools to help us along our way. The church by-laws, the Executive Committee summary, the Senior Pastor Search Committee, our new Senior Pastor, Boards, Council and the entire FCCV Body of Christ, all assisted in our decision to call our next Associate Pastor.

After prayerful consideration of all applicants' profiles (resumes), reviewing on-line sermons, interviews via Skype and in person, phone calls with references, and many...many discussions, we are proud and excited to announce that we have unanimously selected Robin Bird as our candidate for full-time Associate Pastor at FCCV.



Robin is the best candidate for the Associate Pastor position because of the very evident spiritual connection that we felt beginning with our Skype interview in July. She exudes all of the qualities we are looking for in a pastor to accompany us on our faith journey. Robin is faith-filled, spirit-led, compassionate, emotionally mature, a team player, hard worker, and great preacher with an amazing sense of humor. Her experience during the last 20 years as a Behavior Specialist/Educator in Orlando, FL has led her to realize her love for all God's children and her passion for bringing the word of God to life within all whom she encounters.

Robin lives with her partner Taunya, and their energetic pup, Sketcher, in Orlando, FL and is extremely excited about her move north to begin her second career as a Minister in the United Church of Christ.

Candidating weekend for Robin will be September 21-22. We will have an opportunity to meet her on Saturday from 2:00pm-4:00pm, and Sunday we will be blessed with Robin's sermon at the 10:00am service. Following the service, there will be a Congregational Meeting to vote on calling Robin Bird as our next Associate Pastor. If anyone would like a preview, check out Robin's 04/07/13 sermon, when she was our guest this past spring, under "Videos" on FCCV's website.

Sincerely, Your Associate Pastor Search Committee