

Good morning. My name is Bill Boutwell and I have had the pleasure to serve as the chair of the Associate Pastor Search Committee.

For those of you that were here two weeks ago I gave a very short update that indicated we had made a lot of progress in the past month and the search committee would have some specific information to share in the next couple weeks.

Well, today is the day. It has been five months since we had our first meeting and this morning I am thrilled to announce that the committee is unanimously recommending Robin Bird to you as our next Associate Pastor.

The name may ring a bell for some of you. Robin joined us in worship on April 7th and shared her gift of preaching with us that day. Little did we know at that time that we would meet Robin again and select her to be a partner in ministry with us as we move into the future.

As I said earlier, Robin is the unanimous choice of the committee. She stood head and shoulders above her peers and we are thrilled to be able to recommend her to you without reservation.

Ministry is a second career for Robin after working in the public school system for more than 20 years as a teacher and behavior specialist. She completed her Master of Divinity program in 2010 and has served in various pastoral roles as a

worship leader during a sabbatical, as a supply preacher, leading bible study and youth groups, and much more.

I want to share with you what one search committee member wrote as we were doing our debrief after Robin's on site interview.

Driving home Wednesday night I knew my choice but decided to pray and sleep on it for a day or two. To help me, I made up a pros and cons list and here is what I came up with:

Pros:

- Faith Driven
- Charismatic
- Contemporary
- Confident
- Open and engaging
- Smart
- Articulate
- Devoted
- Funny but serious
- Mature
- Engaging

While this committee member didn't list any cons there is one, as a UCONN fan, I feel I have to share with you. Robin is a huge Tennessee Lady Vol basketball fan.

I believe I speak for the whole committee that the most powerful moment for us was when a committee member asked

Robin the last question during the on-site interview, “what are you passionate about?” Little did we know how moved we would be by an impromptu, mini sermon from Robin about her faith and beliefs, and how passionate she is about serving God and people in the congregation and community she is called to serve.

The search process is a two way street. As chair of the committee I have had the opportunity, and privilege, to speak with Robin more than the other members. I can assure you that Robin is as excited as we are to have the opportunity to be a part of our community and minister with us.

A letter will be going out this week to introduce Robin to the congregation and to invite everyone to join us on September 21st and 22nd for candidating weekend. There will be an opportunity to meet Robin informally on Saturday and on Sunday Robin will lead us in worship. Following worship a special congregational meeting will be held to call Robin as the next Associate Pastor of FCCV. I encourage all of you to take advantage of the opportunity to meet Robin and share in worship with her.

Thank you for your support and prayers during the past five months. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the committee members if we can answer any questions for you. We hope you share in our excitement as we move forward during the next four weeks to candidating weekend.