

Dear Members and Friends of Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church

Since Pastor Mitchell's announcement last year of his retirement, we have been trying to prepare everyone for this moment. His twenty-one plus years with us have been very significant in our congregation and it will be sad to see his term end at the end of July. These next several weeks together will be a precious time. We would like to remind you of our plans for special events to celebrate Pastor Mitchell's ministry before his departure. (see calendar in the back)

We want to assure you that we have been in touch with our Conference Minister, Rev. Rachel Pryor, about the process of seeking new ministerial leadership. We have already begun putting together our church profile and will include a survey process so that we have a good understanding of the wishes of our congregants. Thereafter, we will schedule a special meeting with Rev. Pryor to move forward in the process of soliciting candidates.

In the meantime, we would like to give you of a brief overview of what to expect in the months following Pastor Mitchell's departure.

1. We will invite everyone to complete a survey which will be distributed at church, on the church website and via email. The survey(s) will be part of a learning process that will identify our church's desire for the future and the corresponding pastoral needs. We will also develop a church profile for potential candidates, and we will form and commission a search committee.
2. Until we have in place an interim or designated term pastor, the Diaconate Board will be in charge of filling the pulpit with guest preachers and lay leaders to ensure the continuity of our worship time.
3. The Search Committee will begin the search process. Our conference will advertise our open position to UCC clergy across the country. Our search committee will read ministerial profiles, screen candidates, conduct interviews, check references, and eventually select a candidate who will be recommended to the entire congregation. Please note that this process will possibly take several months if not longer.
4. Our goal is for the congregation to elect, in a unified way, a new pastor whose gifts God can use with us and among us for the sake of the Gospel.

The tradition practiced in the United Church of Christ of "calling" a pastor affirms the active presence of God's Spirit in the search process. We will prayerfully seek a pastor with particular gifts and skills while recognizing that candidates are also engaged in a Spirit-led discernment process. We will keep you informed on a regular basis as we move toward God's future as a congregation.

For now, let us express our gratitude for Pastor Mitchell's ministry and enter into a time of celebration and prayer with him.

In Christ's name,
Moderator, Lori Katayama and the Church Council



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE YOUNG'S FAREWELL

July 5, Sunday	Four weeks until Farewell Celebration
July 11, Saturday	Church Picnic with Taco Man
July 12, Sunday	Three weeks until Farewell Celebration
July 19, Sunday	Summer Ex Sunday, Two weeks until Farewell Celebration
July 26, Sunday	Pastor Mitchell's Last Sunday Preaching, MPCC Potluck
July 31, Friday	End of Pastor Mitchell's service to MPCC
August 2, Sunday	Morning Worship at 10am with Rev. KarenFay Ramos-Young Celebration of Ministry at 3pm in the J.K. Fukushima Chapel Farewell Party (catered) at 4pm in Mori Hall – please RSVP at RSVP@montebelloucc.org