

ROGER'S RECOMBOBULATION AREA: Interim Ministry Update - 11.3.2021

An interim minister has two primary tasks: filling in for the minister who left and helping the congregation prepare for the next settled ministry. This particular interim start-up has been more occupied with the former given all that the staff and I have had on our plates to shift to multi-platform worship services. This article is about the second part of my work with you.

I will communicate with you about our transition work through regular eNews articles such as this one. Another primary communication vehicle will be a page devoted to our ministerial transition on our website: <https://wbuuc.org/ministerial-transition/>. This page will have documents and updates about the transition; once the search committee is established (likely in the late spring 2022), you will find updates and information about the search process here, too. There are several resources on it now, including a summary of what I learned during the Chats with Roger sessions in August and early September, a wonderful overview from Sheryl Niebuhr about coping with grief (including the departure of a beloved minister), and the covenant that Rev. Sara, Rev. Jack, and Rev. Victoria Safford have created to guide our relationships. I will also occasionally do video updates, and of course the transition will continue coming up in sermons, including this Sunday.

Two years of interim ministry can feel long—and we have a lot of ground to cover. I'm working with the Board this month to zero in on strategic priorities for the interim period. I'm also pulling together a Transition Team that will be a sort of think tank as well as some folks to assist me in the transition work. Stay tuned for an article about priorities for transition work and an introduction of the team. And please: get involved in the process! There will be numerous chances for WBUUC folks to participate.

I am so glad that many of you attended the Chats with Roger or have reached out to me for conversations. I value your ideas, input, and concerns. I have an open door for conversations. I will have an open hour of in-person office hours each week on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 PM, and I will be happy to schedule other times to meet.

I'm excited about our work together. You have a wonderful congregation. Doing the transition work well will help you attract excellent candidates for the Lead Minister position, and it will situate you and your new Lead Minister for a successful partnership. Both of these goals are the focal point of my transition work with you.