

A Few More Words: Progress in the Interim (Continued)

The Interim Minister's role is to help move the congregation ahead in these tasks. It's not a straight line of progress, ever. Two steps forward, a step back, more forward. It's more like a roller coaster ride than a merry-go-round (I hope) but not too much like a roller coaster and more like traveling along low hills, a few curves, some straightaway.

I have been with you for nearly 6 months at the beginning of the 24-month interim period. Looking at forward progress, we all should ask ourselves from a place on the balcony, are we making progress in meeting these goals? Where are we along a continuum of progress? Where do we go from here?

The balcony view: when you can step back and up and look at the whole rather than the pieces and parts you may be involved in (btw, when you choose your search committee, candidates have to be able to operate from the balcony rather than their own corner of the congregational universe, or it won't work as well as it might).

There are additional goals an Interim Minister makes. These are particular to the congregation they serve. My first three goals have been that the congregation work to:

- A. Improve systems of communication.
- B. Clarify Mission and Vision.
- C. Assist to shape program elements and their systems of support to work more creatively, effectively and spirit-enlivening.

Some of this work necessarily begins at the Board of Trustees level, some on the staff administration level, and some at the program or ministry level.

Where are we? Where do we want to be? How can we put in the maximum focus and energy into preparing our “house” to invite in a new minister? Each member of this loving congregation has a piece of this work/play to do.

Thank you to all of you for doing all you can to move MPUUC forward on this journey in the wilderness. The way I see it, all is well. All will be well!

-Rev Benson