

January 18, 2019

Dear Trinity Members and Friends,

I am honored to accept the nomination of the Pastor Search Committee to be the next Settled Pastor of TUCC.

I look forward to meeting you in person on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I am drawn to this congregation by the powerful witness you express in your decision to create a new vision for ministry and service in the world, and your desire to be “wholeheartedly inclusive”.



We have become overly partisan in our politics and in our spiritual practice. That creates a place of fracture, competition and real danger. The heart of faith in all traditions is reaching for something larger than ourselves, as well as something that connects us all (including the earth). As Trinity continues to explore and model concrete ways that can take place – it sets off ripples that are transformative for the larger culture.

There is a need for diverse people to find a place to call “home”. Individuals of all ages and races, interfaith families, interracial families, families with gay or lesbian parents, immigrant families, divorced or blended families could all feel welcome and experience new meanings of community -- here. I hope to take my place alongside you in doing God’s welcoming and healing work that the world, and the people of Deerfield so desperately seek.

I attended Washington University in St. Louis and Eden Theological Seminary. I have been ordained in the United Church of Christ since 1984. I have served at every level of the church including national staff in what was then the Office for Church in Society (the justice and witness office), conference staff as the Interim Association Co-Minister for the Chicago Metropolitan Association, as an Associate Pastor in a 1600 member congregation, as Interim Senior Pastor in several congregations where I specialized in resolving deep-seated conflicts. Most

recently I served on the staff of Glenview Community Church where I was responsible for Congregational Care (particularly for the seniors, and people with aging parents).

I was born in Kentucky, the oldest of 3, with 2 younger brothers. We moved around the Midwest as my father was completing his Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology. I went to high school in Oshkosh, WI where my father was on the faculty at the state university. (My parents and youngest brother later moved to Atlanta, GA where dad was a professor at Georgia Tech for over 30 years.)

One passion of mine is equipping people for the journey with aging loved ones in conversations, decision-making and care until the end. About 10 years ago I created an online educational site called [Talk-Early-Talk-Often.com](http://Talk-Early-Talk-Often.com).

Finally, I was the one who received the phone call that placed me in the realm of long-distance family caregiver. After my father's death I moved my mother and youngest brother (who has autism) to Lexington, KY to be near extended family. As my mother does not drive, I travel there regularly to offer additional care and support.

From time to time my family will join me here. Pam and I have been together for 30 years. She is also a UCC pastor, so will be here on occasion. The "kids" are now adults with kids of their own. Kevin and his wife, daughter (12) and son (9) are in West Lafayette, Indiana. Amy and her husband and 2 daughters (13 and 12) live in Colorado Springs. Pam's mother is also in Indiana, near Fort Wayne, so with all family living long distance, vacations and holidays do involve a fair amount of planning, coordination and travel.

Music, reading, and exploring restaurants take much of my free time. As well as deep conversations to make new friends – which I hope to engage each of you.

The challenge and opportunities before us are unending, but the possibilities for joy in the service and love of God's people are boundless.

God's blessings and God's peace.

*Pastor Dale*