

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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Dear Members and Friends of Trinity Church:

The Pastor Search Committee has exciting news! After much careful and prayerful consideration, we are pleased to unanimously present our nominee to be the next pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ: Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds. Pastor Dale accepted our invitation and the Council has agreed on the terms of her call. She will be present with us to lead worship on February 3, 2019. Immediately following worship, we will have a special congregational meeting to vote on the nomination to call Dale Susan as our pastor. The PSC is also planning social events on February 2 to provide an opportunity for members to meet Dale Susan and her partner, Pam, on an informal basis.

Details of our call to Pastor Dale have been finalized, pending approval of that call by the Congregation on February 3. Assuming the call is approved, she will be in place, ready to “hit the ground running,” on February 11.

A letter of introduction from Pastor Dale is enclosed. It provides great insight into her faith, beliefs, and personal background

Important as that background is, we also want to tell you, in our own words, what impressed us most about Dale Susan:

1. **Roger**
2. Dale Susan’s intuitive grasp of Trinity, both who we are now and what we seek to become, coupled with her enthusiasm for our vision, make her a perfect fit for Trinity. I fully expect her enthusiasm and energy to be contagious and am looking forward to the months and years to come! **Jen**
3. Pastor Dale displayed an immediate understanding of Trinity. In fact, she was so good at reading between the lines on our profile and annual report, I was convinced that she had a spy in Trinity working on her behalf. **Todd**
4. My first impression of Dale Susan was her enthusiasm for Trinity and our Vision Statement. This enthusiasm has not waivered and is grounded in spiritual depth, vision, and creativity. Combining these qualities with her experience and leadership gives me confidence that Dale Susan is the right pastor for us. She will shepherd us to grow in our mission to “Be the Church” in the coming years. **Carol**
5. When I first talked with Dale Susan I was extremely impressed with her insights from reading our profile, viewing the website and touring the Trinity property. She picked up on key words from our Vision Statement and it was clear that she studied who we are, who we want to be and connects with our message. She was someone I wanted to hear more about. When I met her in person, she was candid about seeing the challenges in front of us, and enthusiastically praised the path we are choosing. She wanted to get to know the children we believe are ready for confirmation, so she can understand how to form a program around their busy lives. She is outgoing, energetic and has an approachable demeanor that I believe will lead Trinity in being wholeheartedly welcoming to all; whether to just worship with us or those that also choose to join in our other endeavors. I am excited to welcome her to Trinity. **Kim**
6. The first time I first met Pastor Dale, it felt like she was already part of Trinity. She knew our Vision Statement and enthusiastically embraced it. From that beginning, she talked of “we” and “our”: how

we could work together to achieve **our** vision. That sense of oneness feels genuine and constant.

Scott

7. Rev. Dale Susan's energy and passion for our church was apparent from the moment she came to interview us. She was so enthusiastic about where TUCC wanted to go and how she could help us get there that I was ready to hire her on the spot. We talked to and met some really lovely people during our search, but Rev. Dale Susan jumped to the top of my list when we first met her and stayed there. I'm delighted that she's agreed to be our pastor. **Barbara**

As you can see, we are all very enthusiastic about Pastor Dale and the leadership, energy, and passion she will bring to Trinity. We are convinced that she is the person to lead us into the next chapter in the life of Trinity.

Our search process has been an amazing experience. Developing our church profile gave us an opportunity to talk with members of the congregation and learn their hopes and dreams for Trinity. After developing our profile and posting it on the UCC website, we received submissions from 20 candidates from 11 states. We had initial conversations with a majority of the people who responded. A common theme we heard from those candidates was an appreciation for the energy and enthusiasm conveyed by our members through our profile. Following those first interviews, we had in depth meetings with 3 candidates. Those meetings involved getting to know the candidates better, sharing in-depth information about Trinity, and introducing them to Deerfield and the surrounding communities. As part of those meetings, each candidate also led us in worship.

During the process, we had great support from a variety of sources. Vertie Powers and members of the Association, Conference, and UCC staff provided valuable input, tools, and guidance about the search process. While Kent Organ was not a formal part of our search process, he offered numerous helpful tips based on his experiences at other churches. As we were forming our Pastor Search Committee, members of recent Search Committees from two nearby congregations graciously offered perspective based on their experiences.

But the greatest support came from the members of our church family. Your thoughtful input guided our direction and helped paint the picture of what Trinity is and aspires to be. That picture became a powerful drawing card in attracting interested candidates. We are grateful for the thoughts, prayers, and patience you provided. Thank you!

At Trinity, the work is not done. Our time of transition will continue after the arrival of Dale Susan as our settled pastor. She will need our help and guidance as she gets established at Trinity and in our community. Working together, we will ensure that Trinity thrives.

With God's love,

The Pastor Search Committee

Roger, Jen, Todd, Carol, Kim, Scott, and Barbara