

It has been a privilege to serve on the Search Committee for the position of Associate Minister of the Southwest/Southeast Associations of the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. We were blessed to have many strong candidates apply for the position. We held a number of preliminary phone interviews, and finalized with two in-person interviews.

We sought to find a candidate who was theologically grounded in the United Church of Christ, felt called to serve in a position of leadership with ministers and congregations, and had experience working in a wide variety of settings within the United Church of Christ. As we concluded our in-person interviews and follow up references, we found we had two very strong candidates, even though the position could only be offered to one.

It is with great enthusiasm we wholeheartedly endorse the call to Rev. Rachel Bauman as Associate Conference Minister. Rev. Bauman brings a passion for clergy development, congregational support, a sense of calmness, and the ability to resolve conflict; all a perfect fit for the role.

In addition, Rev. Bauman has the same core values as the Conference through a commitment to care for the climate, and a growing witness for anti-racism. Rev. Bauman was impressive in her work in previous settings, and will bring compassionate and thoughtful leadership to our Associations and Conference. We give thanks for her willingness to accept this position. We offer blessings to Rev. Bauman, the Associations and Conference, as we covenant together.

With gratitude and joy,
Dale, George, Beth, David, Christine, Eldonna