<u>Hiring Team Update</u> October 2026

Since our last update we are happy to welcome Donna Caldwell, Board Clerk, to the Hiring Team taskforce. We also continue to consult with Karen Ellsworth, Treasurer, and Lisa Richter, Personnel Chair, on an as needed basis. We continue to have solid support from the UUA throughout this process from Christine Purcell, Congregational Transitions Director and Art Nava, Regional Director of Congregational Life, providing ongoing guidance.
The Hiring Team continues to meet monthly, working through the UUA search process gaining valuable experience - reviewing ministerial records, interviewing candidates, conducting reference checks.
We recently spent time reviewing and updating our congregational application so that it reflects where UUCSC is today, including our new 501(c)(3) status. Additionally, we are working with the Worship Committee to help connect UU ordained ministers with UUCSC to provide guest sermons during this period.

You may remember we entered the search after the UUA's Primetime search season had concluded and the Open Search period was already well underway.
The 26/27 Primetime contract ministry search gets underway this winter and we are ready.
The searching congregations profile publication period runs from December 2026 through mid February 2027. Ministerial applicant materials begin to be released in January and the review, reference, research, and interview process continues through March. At the end of March search teams submit their rankings, the UUA confirms matches and offers can be made.

We are energized about this next chapter, excited and eager to enter the Primetime search season with the work we have already done behind us, and looking forward to moving into this new chapter together.

Respectfully submitted
Kelsey Ellis Briggs, Barbara Pagh, Danielle Bilecki, Donna Caldwell & Amber Kelley Collins