

TT Q & A

Q: Is there an official description of the TT?

A: Here's a description of a Transition Team from the Interim Ministry Network:

“The Transition Team is one of the key components of the Intentional Interim Ministry process. It is important to have a specific group that has no other agenda than to assist the Interim Minister and the congregation as they seek to use the time between settled ministers effectively.”

Q: Is the Transition Team the same as the Search Committee?

A: No. The TT is not the Search Committee. Its work supports the search process, but the main role isn't to help with finding a new settled pastor.

Pastor Amy will work with the TT; The UCC's Vermont Conference staff will work closely with the Search Committee.

Q: What is the purpose of the TT?

A: The TT's main job is to help the congregation in and through the transitional time, between settled pastors, and to use the time productively.

The TT encourages the congregation to keep positive momentum. It helps the congregation appreciate its many gifts. It recognizes all the big transitions at Bethany since — and even before — the Pandemic. It helps the congregation attend to the challenges, the blessings, and the potential that always come with transitions.

The TT's focus is the future and the long-term vitality of the congregation.

The TT works with the congregation to address things that need to be adjusted prior to the arrival of a new pastor.

This includes the needs of both the staff and the congregation for spaces within the church building that are functional, secure, attractive, and welcoming to carry out the ministries and mission of the church.

Guiding ideas include: How can we create a solid, positive foundation for a healthful relationship between the incoming minister and the congregation? What do we need to do to set ourselves up for success in our next season of ministry? The TT helps identify those things and finds a strategy to address them.

Q: What will the TT do that will involve the whole church?

A: The TT may organize events to bring us together, to a) discuss our past, present, and/or potential in fun and interesting ways or b) to just have fun and enjoy each other's company.

Q: How does all this help the Search process?

A: Discussions about the congregations' gifts, challenges, and emerging vision for the future will help the Search Committee find the best choice for the next pastor. We want our next pastor to work alongside us toward where God is calling us. We want a good fit, not just what we "want" in a pastor, but who do we need at this time?

Q: Will the Council and congregation be involved? Will we know what's going on?

A: The TT is eager to collaborate and communicate with the congregation and the Council, with total transparency.