



Grace and peace to you, Florida Conference UCC!

I'm so pleased to be journeying with you in ministry for a season. Many thanks to the Conference Board of Directors for their invitation to serve the Florida Conference, and to the Conference staff for their efforts to make my onboarding flow as smoothly as possible. As a Bridge Conference Minister, my role with you is both broad and specific at once: I am here to support the ministries of the Florida Conference as you continue through the remainder of your transition toward calling a new settled Conference Minister.

Depending on your relationship to the ministries of the Conference, you may have experienced your transition time between settled Conference Ministers as one big change, or a series of multiple shifts, or barely noticeable at all... There are a variety of ways that we connect with each other and with our shared work. All of these ways are valid, and the diversity of our connections and experiences is both a strength and a challenge in ministry. My hope is that we can work together to make sure that the ministry gets done well, honoring what has gone before, while also remaining open to God's call for our future.

It's going to take me a little time to get my feet under me here. My main goal for my first few weeks is just to meet the staff, the Board, the committees, and listen to their stories and needs. I will need your help to learn how your culture and your practices have been shaped, and what your common vocabulary and unspoken expectations mean for our ministry together. Some of you have already reached out to say hello, and I'm so grateful for that welcome! I'm sure I'll connect with many more of you in the coming weeks and months, both on Zoom and in person.

For now, please know that I am coming to you with fresh eyes and a curious spirit, and I hope that my gifts and experience working in multiple Conferences for more than a decade can be of service in the Florida Conference while we are together. The particular calling and service of judicatory ministry is where my "great gladness meets the world's great need," and I look forward to partnering with you in your ministries for this moment.

Peace,
Rev. Mary

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