

Our minister is leaving ...

Now what?

What will this mean for the life of our church and what will we do?

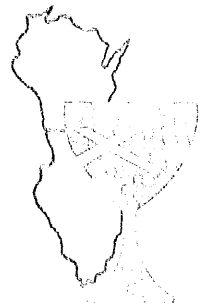
First, we pray.

And, we turn to scripture – Ephesians 4:1-6 (The Message)

In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run! — on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each

other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.



What are the lessons in this scripture for us today? What might God be saying to us? In light of that, what are we called to do?

Recommendations for the path ahead – our goal is to continue as a healthy, vital congregation –

1. Form an interim search committee and secure the services of an intentional interim minister.
2. When the interim minister arrives, form a Transition Team to lead the congregation in preparing for the next chapter in our life together as church. Some things to focus on –
 - a. Heritage: reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed.
 - b. Leadership: reviewing the membership needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership.
 - c. Mission: defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction – our vision.
 - d. Connections: discovering the relationships a congregation builds outside of itself.
 - e. Future: developing congregational and pastoral profiles – helping the search committee get started.
3. In this in-between time, we can answer these questions – our next pastor wants to know –
 - a. Who are we?
 - b. Who are our neighbors?
 - c. What is God calling us to do?
4. We're getting ready for what's next – getting healthier, getting clearer, knowing the gifts and skills we want in our next minister – a good match means a great ministry
5. We are not alone on this journey – God is with us – let's keep praying. Resources from the Regional church are abundant. Let's ask for partnership.

What questions do you have?

How long does it take to do the work listed about in #2?

When do we form a search committee? How long is the search process?