



Senior Minister Search Committee Update

Aloha and greetings from the Senior Minister Search Committee. The committee has been hard at work since our last missive preparing for the Senior Minister Call. This has included:

**Consulting with HCUCC
Updating the Church's Profile
Discerning Our Current Needs
Arranging for Advertising**

**Conducting a Congregational Survey
Studying Other Church's Best Practices
Writing a Job Description & Call Letter
Preparing for Candidate Screening**

Along our journey we became aware of the *Great Resignation* that is sweeping across our country during COVID, and how this is affecting Christian churches. Many Ministers are experiencing "burnout" at unprecedented rates, and many are either retiring early or resigning their Callings and opting to leave ministry all together. As a result, we've learned that a number of large UCC churches are also seeking Senior Ministers simultaneously. As one would expect, applicants commonly apply to dozens of churches. HCUCC has counselled us not to be surprised if the applicant pool is smaller than expected.

The realities of this wave of change facing society, and our Church in particular, prompted us to try and find a better way to differentiate ourselves during COVID other than simply preparing an updated Church Profile. We were inspired to produce a documentary movie about Central Union Church's people as a way of explaining who we are and what is unique about our Congregation in the middle of the Pacific – all in the context of *Love Never Faileth*. The Committee has been blessed with an outpouring of volunteerism from the Congregation with this effort. More than three dozen of our Members and Staff have stepped up and helped the Committee as Ambassadors. This link <https://youtu.be/kXWNUddnjIE> will take you to a glimpse into this work. By this Summer, we expect to be interviewing candidates. By this Fall, we expect to be able to make a recommendation to Council. Before Christmas, we expect to have Called CUC's Senior Minister.

If you have any questions, please email the SMSC at CUC-SMSC@outlook.com.

We're in His grip!

Don Clifford, Chair
Senior Minister Search Committee