

July 10, 2014 Highlight article

Shared Ministry - When our Senior Pastor Retires - Shared Ministry Committee Update

The June Highlight and Blasts had two very important articles - John Rodgers' announcement, Today and Tomorrow, and Lisa Sidor's article, Future Leadership. Lisa Sidor details the Shared Ministry Model common among healthy churches, with its many benefits.

Go to <http://goo.gl/qQiINl> to see the articles.

The Shared Ministry Committee held a small group meeting for congregation members June 15, 2014 following the 9:30am service. John and Susan Rodgers reflected on their retirement announcement and Council President John Speck explained the shared ministry model followed with Q & A. These are some of questions and answers discussed:

Q: Who will be in charge for how long?

A: Once a new Senior Minister is selected, there will be a transitional period of shared leadership, with the Senior Minister and Senior Minister Elect spending 3-6 months working together.

Q: What about the costs?

A: There are financial considerations of supporting two ministers during the transition period. Mike Klopmeier reported this has been detailed and anticipated.

Q: Has shared ministry been done at other churches?

A: The Shared Ministry model has been used in lively, healthy churches and is a more contemporary approach for succession in the Senior Pastor role with less time in transition and more stability for the future.

The Shared Ministry Committee met with UCC Conference Representative, Jonathan Knight, concerning information helpful to the transitional process of shared ministry.

Each committee chair has been sent Shared Ministry information to share with their committee members. Blasts and Highlights will continue to feature updates and information on Shared Ministry.

We as a congregation have the task to decide if the Shared Ministry model is in our future. It is the Shared Ministry Committee's responsibility to educate, explain and clarify the Shared Ministry model. You may have some questions, concerns or comments. One opportunity to express your thoughts, concerns and questions is to submit them in the box marked "Shared Ministry" sitting in the Church Parlor. The Committee will review your comments and respond.

The Shared Ministry Committee will also provide another opportunity answer your questions. The Shared Ministry Committee invites you to attend a meeting on July 16, 2014 at 7:00pm in the Church Parlor (childcare will be provided). There will be a discussion and we will answer your questions on Shared Ministry. We want to be clear about what the Shared Ministry 'overlap' transition process will look like. We will have information for you and we will be prepared to discuss your questions. Below is a timeline of Shared Ministry/Senior Pastor transition dates.

* **July 16, 2014** - Information Session on Shared Ministry - 7:00pm in Church Parlor. Childcare provided.

* **September 14, 2014** - Following Church - Q & A on Shared Ministry

* **September 21, 2014** - Congregation Votes on Shared Ministry

Kathy Westman