

New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ



July 9, 2018

Dear Friends:

It is a joy and honor to introduce to you the Conference Minister Search Committee's candidate to be the next settled Conference Minister for the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ: the Reverend Gordon M. Rankin.

The Search Committee began its work in December 2017 setting a plan in place to reach this point of making this recommendation. With input from the Board of Directors, the characteristics, qualities, and experience needed in our next Conference Minister were determined. We looked for a person with a pastoral heart, a visionary and a skilled administrator with a prophetic voice, able to connect to youth, valuing faith formation for all, and possessing a love and passion for the church, in general, and United Church of Christ, in particular.

After a review of the profiles submitted, four candidates were interviewed via video conference. From there the committee discerned that two candidates would be interviewed again via video conference, and then the two candidates were interviewed in person, spending time with the Search Committee. On June 24, 2018, after prayerful consideration and discussion, the Committee, by unanimous consent, chose to recommend Gordon to be our next Conference Minister.

The Committee felt led by the Holy Spirit to recommend Gordon, believing him to be a person called to Conference ministry with a skill set that will allow him to step right into this position. He has served as the Conference Minister for the South Dakota Conference and currently serves as the Transitional Associate Conference Minister for the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences. He was instrumental in the planning and execution of the three Conferences sharing one staff. Gordon's sense of covenant, his passion for bringing out the gifts of others, and his sense of humor will all be assets to him and to us here in New Hampshire. He comes highly recommended from folks in local, conference, and national settings of the church.

The Committee was most moved by Gordon's work and passion in the South Dakota Conference bringing together members in the Lakota tribe and others in the Conference. After years of little or no dialogue among those in the same Conference, he opened communication connecting people. He was very active in the justice issue of solidarity with the Standing Rock tribe. As one of his clergy references stated, "His leadership in this area solidified relationships of trust between our Lakota UCC brother and sisters and the South Dakota Conference. This is a huge deal for us clergy working toward better relationships with our Lakota brothers and sisters." As a Committee we know that

Gordon will meet people and churches “where they are” and facilitate communication and connection here in New Hampshire.

Based on his experience, character, passion, and leadership ability, we wholeheartedly recommend the Reverend Gordon M. Rankin as our candidate to be the settled Conference Minister for the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ. We know that as you meet him and get to know him, you will have the same excitement that we do about his potential for ministry among us and our future together.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal A. Cass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Neal A. Cass

On behalf of the Conference Minister Search Committee

Rev. KellyAnn Donahue, Rev. Paulo França, Rev. Heidi Heath, Rev. Eric Jackson, Rev. Stacey Kullgren,
Rev. Ken McGarry, Evelyn Robbennolt-Jones, Laura Sevigny, Glenn Vodra