

# MINISTERIAL SEARCH TEAM

## News from the Ministerial Search Team

### *The UUA Settlement Handbook*

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*It takes intentionality to help a community move toward a 90% majority vote to call a minister whom the congregation hopes will stay for a number of years. The search process requires the congregation to engage in the emotional process of change and to move toward a new future together.*

— The UUA Settlement Handbook

If you happened to read last month's update from the Ministerial Search Team (MST) you will have seen the team's covenant. Our fifth pledge to one another and to you, the congregation, is "to honor and abide by the wisdom of The Settlement Handbook." Unless you are yourself a UU minister or extremely well versed in the workings of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), the central organization for the Unitarian Universalist religious movement in the United States, you may have wondered: What is it? Who wrote it? Why do we need it?

The Settlement Handbook ([www.uua.org/files/pdf/s/settlement\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.uua.org/files/pdf/s/settlement_handbook.pdf)) is an exhaustive guide detailing every aspect of the ministerial search process for both congregations and ministers. It was developed by the UUA Transitions Office, regional staff, search committee retreat leaders, compensation consultants, and Beyond Categorical Thinking trainers, and was recently updated in February 2021. It is a manual with clear steps, a timeline, and the collective wisdom of the many congregations and ministers who have participated in this complicated and often anxiety-producing endeavor. We are grateful for the thoughtful work, honest assessments, and many, many hours that have gone into this essential resource.

The wisdom of the handbook is reflected in the quote above. We are forging a new direction together. It is vital that your voice is heard. Please register to participate in one of the many "Listening Sessions" we will be holding in September and October.

More information about the search process and up to date communications from the Ministerial Search Team are available online at [www.unityunitarian.org/ministerial-transition.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/ministerial-transition.html).

## Listening Sessions

### *with the Ministerial Search Team*

The Ministerial Search Team is holding a series of Listening Sessions to gather responses to important questions regarding the search for our next settled minister. Each session will be one and a half hours long, with participants dividing into small groups in order that everyone's voice is heard. This is a chance to have a conversation with others in our community about our future.



### Listening Sessions via Zoom (online)

- Tuesday, September 21 • 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 22 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, September 26 • 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 29 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

### Listening Session in the Sanctuary (in person)

- Wednesday October 6 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

### Register for a Listening Session

[www.unityunitarian.org/listening-sessions.html](http://www.unityunitarian.org/listening-sessions.html)

### Contact the Ministerial Search Team

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