

Congregational Tasks during the Interim Period

Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it will spring forth. Will you not know it?

1 - Coming to terms with our history (month of May)

Isaiah 44:21 Remember your past, my people, for you are my witnesses. I have formed you, my beloveds, you will testify of me.

Uncovering, interpreting and understanding where we have been

Knowing and telling our story

Discerning how God has been present in the life of our church

Skills or interests: research into history of Douglas UCC and the community, arts and/or graphic design, organizing small groups, notetakers, timekeepers

2 - Discerning our purpose and identity (month of June)

1 Peter 2:9 You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's beloveds, that you may declare the works of the One who called you.

Naming who we are as the people of God

Coming to a sense of self

Accepting how we are like and unlike other congregations

Understanding our unique challenges and opportunities

Skills or interests: organizing small group gatherings, notetakers, timekeepers, hospitality

3 - Leadership change and development (month of July)

Acts 6:3 Choose those among you who are full of the spirit and wisdom.

Reviewing style and character of past leaders - lay and clergy

Examining who has the "power" to make decisions and why

Understanding the shifts and transitions of leadership and power

Identifying and supporting our gifts and strengths

Developing new leadership agendas

Skills or interests: knowledge of church Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies Docs or interest in exploring, interest in well-functioning infrastructure, becoming a learning organization

4 - Reaffirming denominational and community ties (month of August)

1 Cor 12:12 There is one body but many parts, Acts 15 Story of the Jerusalem Council

Review relationships with the UCC

Review relationships with local/regional communities

Review connections with the era in history

Promote a greater sense of 'connectedness' within the church

Skills or interests: knowledge of UCC or interest in knowing, knowledge of local communities, interest in making connections with other people and organizations

5 - Committing to new leadership and new ministry (month of September)

Romans 12:1 Offer yourselves as living witnesses, holy and pleasing to God. This is your worship.

Challenge existing assumptions about ministry

Name existing but unrealized expectations

Wrestle with limitations and opportunities

Develop a new vision for the future of our church

Skills or interests: small group organizer, notetakers, timekeepers, storytellers, visionary, creative, imaginative, innovative