

## **Douglas UCC Listening: Who Is God Calling to Minister With Us??**

Sunday, 1/28/24: 25 attendees

Monday, 1/29/24: 3 attendees

- What are the essential qualities of the pastor we are looking for?

- Progressive Message that is part of who they are
- Simple, easy to understand teachings and homily
- Younger person with lots of energy
- Sense of Humor
- Approachable, empathetic, flexible, good listener. Not a controller
- Have life experiences that you can draw from
- A teacher, not a preacher
- Teachings/messages that are applicable to daily life

- Not too intellectual; from the heart
- Innovative/Creative
- God as a verb, not a noun
- God as an action, energy
- Walk the talk every day, not just on Sunday
- Involved in church programs and the community
- Interfaith works
- Lives in the community
- An advocate for humanity
- Has good understanding of mystic

- Our social and theological progressivism is central to our identity. In what ways might our new pastor evidence this??

- Non-literal interpretation of the Bible
- Good understanding of metaphysics
- Spirituality
- Interfaith actions
- Through social justice events
- Through use of all media types

- Similarly, we are Open and Affirming. How might our new pastor demonstrate his/her support for this?

- Should truly believe and support Open & Affirming
- Open & Affirming is a big part of the church's mission
- LGBTQ+ advocacy, hospitality
- No asterisks, i.e., acceptance with conditions

- Should be celebrated, not condemned
- Show how it is a natural thing, a normal part of life
- LGBTQ+ persons are not wounded or sinful
- Show how LGBTQ+ persons can live a happy, joyous, and free life

- We are an active church. How important is it that our new pastor take the lead in things we are involved in within the community?

- Participate in church programs and activities, but not lead
- Congregation driven, not pastor driven
- Let others lead that have the experience/knowledge
- Be bold and courageous!

- Be a part in creating new ideas for community outreach
- Create an online presence for yourself and the church
- Knowledge of what is happening in the community

- What is important in a homily?

- Inspirational
- From the heart, not the intellect
- Teaching and learning, not preaching
- Not too long
- Not scripted or regimented
- Should be anchored in the lectionary, but not bound by it
- Free to question; not having all the answers

- Should have a common theme that is tied with the music
- Incorporate other spiritual teachings and traditions
- Teach about the Christ living in all of us, not as Jesus' last name
- The mystical Cosmic Christ
- Jesus shows us the way, but not the only way

- What are the “must haves” in our next pastor?

- A smile and a sense of humor
- Genuine and compassionate
- A ‘people’ person
- Vulnerable
- Curious and open minded
- Flexible
- Have a great online presence: rizz!  
(charisma)
- Must be a passion, not a job
- Must know his/her calling

- Who is our constituency?

- People who share our values
- We are for those who seek
- Our online followers and contributors
- We are not bound by our walls!