## We are looking for a new pastor!

Our current pastor retired from full-time ministry several years ago and joined us as a transitional pastor in 2016. What a ride our nation, our community, and our church have been on for the past six years - the years of President Trump, the COVID pandemic, and then the murder of George Floyd.

Some people might wonder why we have kept a transitional pastor for so long. Here's why:

We are a progressive suburban congregation in a suburb with rapid demographic changes. Our nextdoor neighbor is a public elementary school with a 69% minority population, and a 56% low-income population. We have been actively involved with our school friends, providing extra volunteer help in many areas. We are especially sensitive to the atmosphere in which immigrants, people of color, and people from the LGBTQ+ community live and function. Pastor Gwin has used his prophetic voice repeatedly over the past six+ years to call out mistreatment and demonization of people in our country and community. He has called out injustices while encouraging us to keep our faith, hope and compassionate work going.

When COVID hit, we pivoted to Zoom worship for a time - a first for our congregation. With Pastor Gwin's leadership, we have maintained our worship services, met our annual budget, and have now returned to in-person worship plus zoom.

In early 2022, the church began the pastor search, forming a Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the formal search. We so appreciate Pastor Gwin's leadership during these turbulent past several years, years when he could have chosen to embrace a relaxed life of hiking, fishing, reading, and writing. We are confident he has prepared us well to embrace new leadership and the journey that lies ahead of us.

We welcome all applicants who might see themselves walking this journey with us.