

January 9, 2021

Dear New Covenant United Church of Christ Family,

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) requests and encourages full participation of the congregation in the next phase of the pastoral search process.

We unanimously recommend for the Call to the position of full-time pastor of New Covenant United Church of Christ one candidate, Rev. Rachell Sat-chell Robinson, believing fully that she is suited and qualified for ministry with us. Attached is the Pastoral Search Committee's Recommendation and Final Report.

In addition to the above-mentioned report, the PSC has scheduled a ZOOM Meet and Greet of the candidate and family on Saturday, January 23, 2021 beginning at 6:00 pm. Please review the materials prior to this event. This is the time for the congregation to converse directly with the candidate. On Sunday, January 24, 2021 the candidate will deliver the preached word at the morning worship service. After the worship service on January 24, 2021, our Annual Congregation Meeting is scheduled. There the official recommendation will be presented to the congregation for an affirmative vote.

During this phase of the process, we again ask for your fervent prayers for the candidate as well as the search committee, that we may all be receptive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, we acknowledge that it is God who calls the Pastor and merely uses us as willing servants to accomplish this task.

If you have any questions about the candidate or the process, please call any member of the search committee.

In Christ,

Theresa Harris-Tigg

Deacon Dr. Theresa Harris-Tigg, Chair
Pastoral Search Committee

**New Covenant United Church of Christ
459 Clinton Street
Buffalo, NY 14204**

**THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION AND FINAL REPORT**

**“ . . . So, Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the
pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the
body of Christ may be built up . . . ” Ephesians 4:11-12**

Saturday, January 9, 2021

To the Church Council and Members of New Covenant United Church of Christ:

In accordance with the Bylaws & Constitution of the New Covenant United Church of Christ, Article XV, Section 2, It Shall be the responsibility of the Pulpit Committee appointed by the Church Council and the membership to seek a candidate for a vacancy in the office of the Pastor. The Pulpit Committee, known as the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) for this explicit responsibility, has worked prayerfully and diligently over the last 10 months and presents our recommendation for the position of full-time Pastor and this our Final Report to the congregation.

Candidate Recommendation

The Pastoral Search Committee unanimously recommends to the congregation, the Reverend Rachelle Sat'chell Robinson of Buffalo, New York, to become the 5th Pastor of New Covenant United Church of Christ.

Candidate's Personal Information

Rev. Robinson is married to Mr. Kevin D. Robinson, ESQ. She has five children and five grandchildren. She is a bi-vocational Pastor who works diligently in Ministry and in public service.

Rev. Robinson has an amiable personality; she loves people and has outstanding interpersonal and communication skills. Her favorite book of the bible is Luke. She explains that Luke was one of the most intelligent and articulate authors but most of all his writings addressed/reflected/and shed light on Jesus' love for the marginal people in society (the poor, broken, prisoners and women).

In her infancy in her Christian journey, "God Kept Me" by Richard Smallwood was her favorite song. Her wedding song was "I Give Myself Away" by William McDowell. Her daily reflection songs are: "Give Me You" by Shana Wilson and "You Know My Name" by Tasha Cobbs Leonard. These two ladies are her favorite singers currently in her journey.

Rev. Robinson is a worshipper. She loves God and is unapologetic about it. She has grown to prefer music that sings about who God is, how great He is versus music about her. For example, she moved from "God Kept Me" to now listening to "Give Me You." She still loves the song "God Kept Me" in moments, but now she draws closer to songs about who He is and not who she is because He made us all.

Candidate's Qualifications, Skills, and Abilities

Rev. Robinson has prepared herself for preaching and pastoring by receiving professional training at leading educational, medical, and religious institutions in our state. She was licensed in ministry in 2007 by Bishop T. Anthony Bronner, PhD. In 2011, she was duly ordained by Bishop T. Anthony Bronner, PhD, and Rev. Jonathan Staples. Academically, she received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree in 1995 at Medaille College, Buffalo, New York, and a Master of Divinity in 2011, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School of Rochester, New York. She has completed a Certificate in Pastoral Mental Health Counseling in 2010, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, completed 2 units of Clinical Pastoral Education in 2011, Sisters Hospital, Buffalo, New York, and a certificate in Nonprofit Governance Education in 2017, Charity Strong.

Rev. Robinson has 10 years' experience as an Associate Pastor at First Shiloh Baptist Church, Buffalo, New York. She is the Founder/CEO of Deep Wells Ministries, Buffalo, New York. She has 4 years' experience as Chaplain at Mercy Hospital in South Buffalo, New York. Rev. Robinson has 20+ years' experience and currently works for New York State of Child and Family Services as Management Specialist, WNY EAP (Employee Assistance Program) Coordinator, High Performance Leadership Trainer, and currently as a Child Welfare Specialist.

At First Shiloh Baptist Church, Rev. Robinson's responsibilities include providing leadership for the pedagogical components of Women, Men, Senior, and Youth Ministries, pastoral counseling, prepare and organize pedagogical information and workshops for the congregation on topics that impact them and the community such as addiction, self-esteem and young people, bereavement, and HIV/AIDS, providing leadership and organization of remembrance services and special prayer services. Rev. Robinson's leadership experiences are cross-generational; she enjoys the youth and cares deeply for seniors. She has lead various youth programs

Rev. Robinson is an excellent preacher and teacher who is spirit-filled and lives by God's Word. Her messages are inspiring, clear, accessible, relevant, and biblical. She places high priority on being intentional about her walk led by God and guided by the Holy Spirit on every decision she makes. She is a visionary leader who bridges the divide that often exist between the church and the community. She is a capable collaborative leader with extensive experience in team management, strategic planning, and resolving conflict.

The Pastoral Search Committee truly believes that we have affirmed God's choice by selecting Rev. Rachell Sat'Chell Robinson as our recommendation to be the next Under Shepherd of New Covenant United Church of Christ. We are confident that she has the preaching, teaching, pastoral, and administrative skills needed to effectively lead New Covenant United Church of Christ. We ask that the congregation accept our final report, recommendation, and vote to call Rev. Rachell Sat'Chell Robinson to the position of full-time Pastor.

THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE PROCESS

In a special called congregational meeting, on Sunday, March 15, 2020, the church's Pulpit Committee, responsibility of the Diaconate Ministry, through prayer and conversation called nine members of the congregation to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC). The members are: Rosemary Soffin, President of the congregation; Arno Wilkerson, Chair of Trustee Ministry; Teresa Mangrum, Usher Ministry; Ebony Bullock, Chair of Youth Ministry; Joe Spencer, Trustee Ministry; Richard Shelton, Sr. Choir and Food Pantry Ministry; Joyce Harling, Women's Fellowship Ministry; Megan Rakeepile, Praise Dance Ministry; and Theresa Harris-Tigg, PhD, Chair of Diaconate Ministry. We believe the committee members ensure that the PSC has broad representation of the congregation (age, gender, and ministries).

At its first meeting, the PSC Chair, Deacon Theresa Harris-Tigg, PhD, proposed the following officers' slate to the Pastoral Search Committee. Teresa Mangrum, Vice-Chair, Rosemary Soffin, Prayer Coordinator, Ebony Bullock, Secretary, Joyce Harling, Timekeeper, Megan Rakeepile, Team Building, Joe Spencer, Courier, Richard Shelton, Order & Beauty, and Arno Wilkerson, Financial Recorder. The PSC members unanimously accepted their roles.

The Pastoral Search Committee was charged to seek candidates for the position of full-time Pastor. A congregational survey was designed by the PSC and distributed. A pastoral vacancy posting was created and widely distributed to seminaries, Facebook, the Challenger, and the Criterion. The church's website was updated and included the posting and other pertinent information. The deadline to receive application materials was July 17, 2020. A total of six (6) resumes and application materials were received.

The PSC followed a process based on research and consultation with the United Church of Christ WNY Conference which included: The formation and distribution of the Pastoral Vacancy Announcement; review of resumes, written essays, viewing sermons on YouTube and audio CD's, face-to-face and ZOOM interviews, candidate's reference checks, inviting final candidates to preach and teach Sunday School before the New Covenant United Church of Christ congregation, and the recommendation of one candidate to be presented for vote to the congregation.

The PSC met bi-weekly to review applications, listen/watch videos/audio tapes, and evaluate applications. Applicants were evaluated by the level of education, pastoral training and ministerial experience, teaching, and preaching ability. By November 2020, the Pastoral Search Committee narrowed the applicants down to two. A second set of face-to-face interviews were conducted for the remaining applicants. They then preached and taught, on scheduled Sundays, at New Covenant United Church of Christ.

After extensive and considerable discussion and prayers, the PSC voted the Rev. Rachelle Sat'Chell Robinson as its final candidate. After a background and credit checks were received and reviewed, a PSC vote resulted in a unanimous decision to recommend that the congregation of New Covenant United Church of Christ call the Rev. Rachell Sat'Chell Robinson as its 5th Pastor.

The Pastoral Search Committee wishes to gratefully acknowledge and thank the following persons for their support during our selection process: Rev. David Gaewski, United Church of Christ Conference Minister, Rev. Gary Ferner, WNY Conference of United Church of Christ, Rev. Dennis Lee, Pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church and Conference President, Suzy Shallowhorn, Pilgrim St. Luke, United Church of Christ, Deacon Jeffrey Thompson, Second Temple Baptist Church, and Janice Ferguson, First Shiloh Baptist Church. In addition, two books were resourced: The Pastoral Search Committee Handbook by William Vanderbloemen and The Pastoral Search Journey: A Guide to Finding Your Next Pastor by John Vonhof.

We also would like to extend a special thank you to our supply ministers: Rev. John Bell, Evangelistic Temple, Rev. Arthur Davis, United Church of Christ, Rev. Renita Shadwick, Elim Christian Fellowship Church, and Rev. Rashon Wallace-Jones, Friendship Baptist Church.

To our New Covenant United Church of Christ Family and Jacquelyn Ross Brown, Sr. Pastor Emeritus, we especially want to thank you for your individual and collective continued prayers. Making prayers for the Pastoral Search Committee as part of our worship service gave us strength and much encouragement.

"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." ...

James 5:16 NIV

Yours in Christ,

Theresa A. Harris-Tigg, PhD

The Pastoral Search Committee

Deacon Dr. Theresa A. Harris-Tigg, Chair

Teresa Mangrum, Vice Chair

Deacon Rosemary Soffin, President, Prayer Coordinator

Joyce Harling, Timekeeper

Richard Shelton, Order & Beauty

Megan Rakeepile, Team Builder,

Trustee Arno Wilkerson, Financial Recorder

Trustee Joe Spencer, Courier

Ebony E. Bullock, Secretary



Reverend Rachelle Sat'chell Robinson is married to Mr. Kevin D. Robinson ESQ. She has two children and upon marriage she inherited three bonus children. She has five grandchildren, one who upon birth returned to heaven.

Rev. Robinson earned her Undergraduate Degree from Medaille College and her Master's in Divinity from Colgate Rochester Divinity School. She was licensed in ministry in 2007, by Bishop T. Anthony Bronner PhD and in 2011 was dually ordained by Bishop Bronner and Rev. Jonathan Staples. She completed 2 units of Clinical Pastoral Education and has a Certificate in Pastoral Mental Health Counseling.

Rev. Robinson is the founder of Deep Wells Ministries. Deep Wells Ministries partners with Churches in the Community to erase the line that has been drawn between Church and the Community. We partner with organizations, working together to bridge the gap between Religion and Community organizations by assisting in developing a Spiritual component in their organization that can be useful in the holistic service to our community.

Rev. Robinson is a Preacher, Published Author, Motivational Speaker, Spiritual Counselor, Community Volunteer and Entrepreneur. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the United Way Board and a Board of Director on the Say Yes Buffalo Board.

Rev. Robinson is an Associate Pastor at First Shiloh Baptist Church. She is a former Spiritual Support Group leader for the Family Justice Center and assisted the Family Justice Center in formulating a Spiritual component to their services. She is the former Chair of the Religious Task Force for “Say Yes Buffalo” and assisted with the development of Summer Camps and Breaking Barriers - Boys to Men of Color. She is a former Protestant Chaplain for Catholic Health.

Rev. Robinson is a bi-vocational Pastor; she not only works diligently in Ministry. She has been employed by New York State Office of Children and Family Services for over 20 years. She is also the COO and a Co- Owner of a Child Care Center.

At the end of each day she settles in the arms of GOD, knowing that she is: Unconditionally Loved, Undeniably Blessed, and Unequivocally Redeemed by Grace.