

“However, as it is written:  
What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard,  
and what no human mind has conceived--  
the things prepared for those who love God—  
these are the things God has revealed to us by the Spirit.  
(1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

September 10, 2018

Dear Friends,

A time we always knew would come is here. Dr. Bob Baggott and Dr. Casey Baggott have shared their intentions to retire from their many years of loving ministry among us. After long and inspirational careers serving congregations across the country the prospect of spending more time with precious children and grandchildren and exploring opportunities for new adventures ahead beckons them. With a number of important initiatives and decisions still waiting in the wings to take shape, the Baggotts will plan to be with us until early to mid-2020. A firm date will be decided as we move forward. This news is so very bittersweet. Nevertheless, let us be thrilled for the Baggotts’ new beginnings in this next stage of their lives and joyfully embrace with all our hearts the time we will still have with them here shepherding us in their inimitable ways!

And now we will be entering an exciting transition period. Conversations on this subject have been underway with leadership over the course of these last few months in tandem with the important work the congregation has been undertaking in the Vision 2020 process. With your help we have been identifying and confirming God’s purpose and vision for us as we move toward our next 100 years.

We are grateful for the considerable advance notice of this significant pastoral transition. There will now be ample time to plan for the future of Community Church with some guidance from Dr. Bob and Dr. Casey. The staff and Church Council were notified yesterday. I have also been in touch with the Florida Conference UCC for their support in the coming process. Your church leadership is in discussion now about the next steps as we prepare to search for and call the new ministers God already has waiting for us. As that unique plan is solidified further details will be communicated to you with regular updates to follow. Our goal will be to make this transition as seamless and as beautiful as possible.

You will have many questions now. Be assured that the way will become clear. We pledge to you that this will be a transparent, prayerful and thoughtful process as we move ahead. What a blessing to be a vibrant, healthy church filled with people who have a heart for God’s work. A whirlwind of planning, reflection, prayers, celebration and even some changes are on the horizon, but Community Church is absolutely poised for the extraordinary "things prepared for those who love God".

All shall be well,

Allison Matsik  
Moderator

