



Regional Minister Search Committee
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida

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Rev. John Mobley, Regional Minister, Alabama/Northwest Florida, Mentor, Consultant*

January 2, 2018

To: The Leadership Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida
From: The Regional Minister Search Committee
Re: Recommendation for Regional Minister

Greetings Friends in Ministry!

At the end of a long search process, we are pleased that to present to you a candidate for the position of Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida. However, before we make introductions, please receive this review of our process.

In the fall of 2016, shortly after the announcement of the resignation of Juan Rodriguez as Regional Minister, Moderator, Marta Harms, appointed our committee to begin the process of searching for a Regional Minister. We were immediately put in contact with the Rev. John Mobley, Regional Minister of Alabama/Northwest Florida, who became our mentor and consultant through each step of this process. To that end, no decisions were made by the Search Committee without first consulting Rev. Mobley for his wisdom and counsel. The committee, as well as the entire Regional Church in Florida, owes him a large debt of gratitude for his work on our behalf.

Since the committee's formation, we have met eight times, both in person and face to face. We worked with the region's churches to create a profile and position overview form. We then advertised the position locally through the regional E-glimpse and generally through the Disciples News Network. We received seven letters of interest from candidates in both Florida and other regions. In addition to receiving and reviewing candidate's Search and Call paperwork, they each answered a set of questions for reflection which were also considered. Rev. Mobley assisted the committee in securing the services of an outside auditor who used our criteria to "rank order" candidates based on the identified needs of our region. Using the auditor's input, along with our own wisdom, we winnowed our field of candidates.

During November and December, 2017 we interviewed three candidates; one from the Northern California/Nevada region, another from Alabama/Northwest Florida, and finally, one from the Florida region. Each of these candidates were articulate and brought innumerable gifts, skills and abilities which would be a benefit to our region. In the end, we prayerfully selected one; the Rev. Dr. Betsy Goehrig.

Dr. Goehrig is, of course, familiar to us all as she has served as our Interim Regional Minister for the last year. Despite this, it must be emphasized that she received no special treatment from the

committee. In fact, she was not considered in the original pool of applicants and only applied after the regional Leadership Council gave the committee permission to contact her. That invitation came as a result of members of the committee receiving unsolicited messages of support for her from lay persons and clergy around the region. We then spent much time in prayer and sought counsel from our Regional Minister mentor and consultant. He indicated that the calling of an interim to the permanent position is not without precedent. He, therefore, gave us his blessing to proceed.

In the end, while the other candidates were qualified, and offered the benefit of new energy and ideas, it was felt by the committee that Dr. Goehrig's experience in Florida gives her an advantage. Her prior work as an Associate Regional Minister in Florida and her substantial energies to build relationships, particularly with our Hispanic and Haitian congregations is impressive. Of course, her references are stellar and many around the region speak very highly of her work as an interim. She has tirelessly traveled from one end of the state to the other, she has been present in times of celebration and in mourning, and she has led us steadily through a difficult time of financial transition. For these, and a myriad of other reasons, we are excited about her continued call to serve as our Regional Minister.

Therefore, the Regional Minister Search Committee for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida recommends to the Leadership Council that the Rev. Dr. Betsy Goehrig receive a call to serve as our next Regional Minister.

Respectfully submitted,



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May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us, as you greet one another with a holy kiss.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-26