



7 July 2020

Dear First Church Family,

We hope this letter finds you enjoying the warmth of summer, and that you have had the opportunity to join the First Church worship on Sunday mornings! As discussed, voted on at the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2020 a motion was made by Dick Roberts to have the council tasked with exploring the possibility of leaving the “United Church of Christ” (UCC). Pursuant to this task, and because the Search Team’s work is directly dependent on the results of this research, The Search Team has investigated this option.

There are three possible options: remaining a part of the “United Church of Christ” (UCC) no change, becoming an independent community church, or joining with another association. The search team researched many other national church organizations and determined that the “National Association of Congregational Christian Churches” (NACCC) organization was the best option to offer in a comparison to our current United Church of Christ (UCC) association.

Included in this mailing is a comparison chart between the United Church of Christ (UCC), National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC), & Independent. Through a review of this chart, you should be able to understand the main values, practices, and structure within both of these organizations. We would like to answer questions and concerns about this information prior to an All-Church meeting at which the future of First Church will be voted upon. Since the further search for a settled pastor is contingent upon this decision, we would like to answer questions in a timely fashion so that an educated vote can take place.

After reviewing the enclosed information, please send all questions to **The Search Team via Francine Palmer at fcpalmer@verizon.net by July 17th**. Additional questions may be answered during the meeting but in the interest of time and preparedness, we would appreciate knowing as many questions as possible prior to the meeting.

There will be an **All-Church meeting on July 30th, at 7:00 PM** during which the two votes will take place. The first vote will be whether to leave the United Church of Christ (UCC), the second will be to determine what organization, if any, we want to be part of.

According to the church bylaws, there needs to be a 2/3 majority vote for this type of decision. Therefore, your attendance is essential! Social distancing will be practiced, please make sure your mask/bandana is properly on. All face coverings must be put on over your nose and mouth, you need to make sure that the mask/bandana is under your chin and must be snugly against the sides of your face.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter,

Francine Palmer, Jay Hodge, Jim Lapham, Donna Pulselli, Pat Small, Julie Bosworth, Carla Cassens

First Church in Pembroke’s Search Committee

