



Maine Conference

United Church of Christ

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A Just Peace, Open and Affirming Conference

To the Churches, Clergy and People of the Maine Conference,

On this wintry day, I write with difficult news from the Conference. Yesterday, I received and regretfully accepted the resignation of Rev. Darren Morgan as Associate Conference Minister. Rev. Morgan has provided dedicated and skilled service to the churches, clergy and people of the Maine Conference for 12 years. I am so profoundly grateful for the ways that his work has shaped and guided the ministries of our Conference. We will not be the same without him.

Darren's love for the Church has been steady and deep. So very many people have benefited from his wisdom and care. With his emphasis on Small Church Ministry, he has helped many churches find vitality in the midst of challenge. We cannot count the number of churches he has guided during transitions and times of trouble. For all of this and more, we give God praise and thanksgiving. We are better because of his time among us.

Yet, as Darren says in the attached letter, "for everything there is a season". In these changing and challenging times, we often find that our sense of Call shifts or that we need time to discern the next phase that God has in store. Our prayers are with Darren as he does this Holy work of seeking God's leading and guidance. May he find the next right ministry that will bring him joy and access his passions in ministry.

We will of course plan a great celebration of Darren's ministry and will announce that location, date and time as soon as possible. I know that people around the Conference will be in touch with him directly to express their appreciation and good wishes. In the coming days, we will create a plan for Bridge/Interim coverage so that our churches continue to receive the support and guidance that they need. We expect to have staff in place before Darren leaves so that there is a smooth transition. More on this as plans evolve.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at djblood@maineucc.org. I covet your prayers for our Conference and our Conference staff as we face another moment of transition. We place our trust in God to lead us and guide us. As in any transition, there is opportunity as well. May God help us see the path that God has set before us.

In Christ's Peace,

Rev. Deborah J. Blood
Conference Minister
The Maine Conference, UCC

February 5, 2020

Dear colleagues in ministry,

In Ecclesiastes we read, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” In this season of Epiphany, each of us is on a journey of faith and the following of God’s call.

I write to share news of my decision to resign as Associate Conference Minister, effective May 9, 2020. After twelve-years in this ministry, I am sensing that it is time to pursue other ministry opportunities. This decision has been extremely difficult to make, but it has been a long time in coming.

The past few years have taken its toll on my continued ability to serve effectively in this position, so it is time to pass the baton to another. I depart feeling proud of the work we have accomplished together over the years. I have learned much from you, and I pray that the work I have done has advanced the ministry of Jesus Christ in your settings.

I hold the Maine Conference near and dear to my heart, and although it is disappointing that my ministry is ending, I leave wishing you all the best.

You have my prayers, my affection, my love – may our parting be pleasing to the God we serve.

Darren