



MAINE CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcoming Rev. Dr. Deborah Jenks
as Interim Associate Conference Minister, part-time

Greetings to All,

I am grateful to announce that the Rev. Dr. Deborah Jenks has agreed to serve as Interim Associate Conference Minister (part-time) beginning May 11, 2020, for a period of 12 -18 months. Deb will work 20-25 hours/week covering the core duties of the ACM position. She will focus primarily, but not exclusively, on our more northern and western churches and clergy. We will also seek an additional part-time Interim ACM, but with the uncertainties of the pandemic, we will wait a bit to determine the best job description for that role.

Rev. Jenks' position description includes:

- Provide staff support to churches in pastoral transitions as assigned.
- Review Profiles of Pastors and churches, and assist in locating excellent Pastors to serve in Maine.
- Tend to processing and distributing ministerial profiles that are sent to Maine.
- Provide staff support to the churches and clergy of Associations as assigned.
- Provide staff support to Committees on Ministry as assigned.
- Serve as a ministry of presence for Association meetings, Ecclesiastical Councils, Ordinations, and Installations as needed.
- Coordinate the clergy Boundary Awareness Training.
- Attend regular staff meetings
- In this Interim time, assist with the discernment, planning and implementation needed to support churches and pastors in this time of great change. Assist with discerning the appropriate job descriptions for ACM's and consultants going forward.

Many folks in the Maine Conference are acquainted with Deb, but here is some of her background. Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks is an Ordained Ministerial Partner (Disciples of Christ) with standing in the Sunrise Association of the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ. Deb has served in the Maine Conference UCC for 25+ years as a pastor in churches in Western Maine, Central, and Downeast Maine. Most recently Deb served as Sabbatical ACM for the Maine Conference and Interim Minister at First Congregational Church of Camden, UCC. Deb's Conference and Association

experience includes: serving as a member of the Advisory Board for the Academy of Church Life & Leadership and then as Chair of the Maine School of Ministry Advisory Committee; member of the Katahdin Association Committee on the Ministry and the Oxford Union Committee on the Ministry; Member-At-Large on the Community Life Commission, and Commission representative on the Conference Executive Committee. Deb has also worked as a Hospice Spiritual Advisor and Grief and Bereavement Coordinator in central and northern Maine.

Deb earned an M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary, New York City, a D.Min. from Bangor Theological Seminary, an M.S. in Pastoral Counseling from Husson University, and two units of Intentional Interim Ministry Training from the Interim Ministry Network.

We remain sad at Darren Morgan's transition away from the Maine Conference, and wish him all the best and Godspeed. It is a great blessing that Deb Jenks can return to the Conference staff for this Interim time. I hope you will reach out and welcome her back!

Joyfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Deborah J Blood
Conference Minister