

## **First and Center**

Pastor's Blog

September 4, 2019

This Sunday, September 8, we hope to have “all hands-on-deck” as we consider how we are going to be living into the mission priorities we chose last spring during the next program year. We need all voices, all constituencies of the congregation, all wonderful, Spirit-prodded ideas we can share. Because we have a critical mission from God and some very big changes coming to Center in the next 12 months. Here is the mission our congregation chose as priority for this next year:



**Center Church's core mission is to become a Center for spiritual, social, moral, and ethical connection and collaboration with people, programs, agencies, faith communities and neighbors of all kinds in greater Hartford, while developing a vibrant, creative, nurturing, diverse worship life.**

Someone said to me they wondered if we had delusions of grandeur. My response is that we had certainty of the work of the Holy Spirit and that we were not going to be moving in this direction alone. My response is that the future is unknown, but that this should provoke an excitement about possibility instead of a fear of change.

In addition to thinking about this, big staff changes are already underway. Our long-time bookkeeper Charlotte, is leaving very soon and Brenda has come on board. Logan, Warburton Director of Outreach, has announced his departure in mid-January. Nada (Faith Formation) has a contract that ends in May, and I will be leaving you sometime between September 2020 and January 2021. Whether we want it or not, change and opportunity is at hand!

We are also in serious conversations with a possible renter for over half of the Church House, an exciting development. More will be coming when there is something definite to tell. Our spaces will be changing as well as our personnel.

That's why we need your voices and ideas, energy and prayers, spirit and love to shepherd Center Church into the 2020's. Come on Sunday. Pay attention to emails and newsletters so that you do not miss important information. And pray for us daily, as I do, that we may be all that God has imagined!

~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,  
Transitional Minister