

April 14, 2018

Dear Church Family in the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ,

Conference staff and leadership, Pastors, local church members, mission partners and friends of the Illinois Conference, I bring greetings from the Illinois Conference Council.

The Illinois Conference is in transition as it seems to always be. Most of you are aware that Conference Minister, The Rev. Dr. Jorge Morales gave notice of his intent to retire from the Illinois Conference as of May 31 this year. Subsequently, we learned that he had accumulated vacation from this year and last that would allow him to utilize the entire month of May as vacation. So as dictated by our bylaws, a small team of leaders were charged to find someone to fill the vacancy by May 1, while calling a new settled Conference Minister would take much more time. Conference Council is considering next steps which will likely involve calling a longer-term Intentional Interim Conference Minister before a national search for a New Conference Minister.

I am very pleased to tell you that today, the Conference Council and the Rev. Charlotte Burch have entered into a covenant naming Rev. Burch as Acting Conference Minister on a short-term basis. It is anticipated that Rev. Burch will be with us for 3 to 6 months while leadership faces the next steps in the process of replacing a Conference Minister. Char will come onboard and be based in the Westchester office, beginning Tuesday, May 1. As we prepare for our Annual Celebration in early June, you can imagine the number of meetings already on her calendar, but she is as excited to be here as we are to have her. Please welcome Rev. Char Burch as an important member of our Church and Conference family.

May God's Peace be with us all,

Mike Linder
Conference President