



Conference Minister Search Update

The Search Committee for the new Conference Minister met via WebEx in late January. We have extended our original search process timeline to allow for more input from the conference.

The Profile Committee (Jane Anderson, Bill Clapp, Eric Ogi and Eric Kierkegaard) shared a draft of the Conference profile website and received input into how to make the website engaging and informative to prospective candidates—including video links and highlighting the “selling points” of the Wisconsin Conference. Some of the “selling points” included: a sense of covenant/connection, financial stability, Lay Academy, the outdoor ministry program, campus ministry and our Community of Practice program.

Steve Hirby, Conference Board Chair, and Michael Obenauer, Interim Conference Minister, joined the WebEx conversation. Steve shared the “Thoughts Toward a Vision Statement” which included specific areas of focus for the new Conference Minister – providing leadership, strengthening congregations, supporting pastoral vocation, building and tending alliances and managing finances.

Recognizing that the membership of the Wisconsin Conference is eager to be involved in providing feedback to the search process, Steve Hirby and Jane Anderson are going to develop a web-based survey that will share the recent visioning work of the Board of Directors and allow for input from the wider Conference. They are also planning some WebEx or conference call conversations to allow for updates and input. Michael will also be involved in facilitating these opportunities for communication.

The Search Committee hopes to have a representative give an update on the search process at each of the four Association Annual Meetings this spring.

Submitted by Julia Hollister, Search Committee vice-chair