

## **The Search Committee would like to present The Reverend Dr Robyn Gray**



For the past year and a half our pastoral search committee has met weekly (sometimes more often) to try and find the person who can successfully lead our church after Cheryl's departure. We received several applications, and after months of interviews, discussions, more interviews, and even more discussions, we are proud to say that we believe to have found that person.

Pastor Robyn Gray is a calm, yet passionate minister, driven by the idea of leading a Christian life that is radically welcoming. She showed an eagerness to support our desires to help the needy, to get involved in our community, and to reach out to those who might not know of our wonderful church. In her previous positions as an interim minister, she brought many new members to her congregations by living out these values both behind the pulpit and out in the community. We are honored that she wants to continue her call to ministry with The First Congregational Church of Washington. You can read more about Pastor Robyn Gray in her bio below. Here are some things that others have said about her:

*“Her energy and positive attitude guides churches forward with hope and an excitement about what's coming next. She is committed both to the church she is serving and the community around her.”*

*“Robyn is compassionate. She is a good listener and she cares about each person she encounters. Robyn's faith is lived out in her actions. You can tell she is a Christian in the way that she loves everyone, in the way that she reaches out to the marginalized,*

*and by her call to ministry that you can see in her convictions and service to and with the church.”*

*“Robyn is a creative and dynamic individual in her preaching, teaching, and sharing. She is one who encourages others. Always seeking to journey with others and to be present and available to and for others on the journey. She is confident of who she is and whose she is and therefore is able to relate in an authentic and genuine way with others.”*

Last, but certainly not least, we want to thank you, this church, for all of the prayers, support, patience, and trust that you have given this search committee over the past year and a half. This process has been a long and difficult one, but it has also been incredibly rewarding and fulfilling and we cannot emphasize our gratitude enough.

Please note that we are still trying to determine our candidating Sunday. As soon as we have set a date, we will do everything in our power to make sure every member of the church is aware.

**With love and appreciation from your Search Committee,  
Dimitri, Emelie, Dave, Scott, Cara, Judie, John T, and John L**

*The Rev. Robyn Gray, Ph.D., is very excited to be candidating at First Congregational Church of Washington. Pastor Robyn grew up in the far south suburbs of Chicago, attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study Electrical Engineering. After graduation she moved to Fort Worth, TX to work for a defense contractor in Avionics, and about five years later started graduate studies in Experimental Psychology at Oklahoma State University. Upon graduation she returned to the Chicago area, living there for 20 years and working as a data management professional, and now resides in Grand Rapids MI, with her spouse, the Rev. Tijuana Gray, whom she met on a seminary interfaith study tour to Israel/Palestine.*

*In her final year of M.Div studies at Chicago Theological Seminary, Pastor Robyn served as Associate Pastor in a multi-cultural church plant on the Northwest side of Chicago. After graduation she served as part-time bivocational Pastor at First Congregational Church of Berwyn (near Chicago). In Grand Rapids, Robyn served as Transitional Interim Pastor at St John’s UCC. Before seminary she was an active member at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park, IL for over a decade. Outside of ministry, her passion is choral singing, highlights of which include performing the National Anthem for baseball games at both Chicago ballparks, and impromptus for First Lady Roslynn Carter in Vienna, Austria, and Pope John Paul II at St Peter's Square in Rome, Italy. She also enjoys fitness, reading, travel, performing arts, and most of all having lively conversations over a beverage.*