



Dear Friends in Christ:

On Thanksgiving Sunday 2009, here at The Church by the Sea, the Reverend Robert William Asinger was our guest preacher speaking on the topic of "An Abundant Community." Following worship, at a special meeting of the Congregation, the members and associate members of our Congregation voted unanimously to call him as the third senior minister in the history of our church.

Rev. Asinger served for seven years as the senior pastor at the Phillips Congregational Church in Watertown, MA. He was then instrumental in consolidating that congregation with the Payson Park Congregation Church in Belmont, MA. Following that consolidation, he served as the interim minister at Union Church in Waban, MA. Earlier in his career, he was Director of Youth and Outreach at United Church of Christ in Norwell, MA. He was ordained by the United Church of Christ on June 28, 1998.

Rob, who is 45, has a BS in Biology from Davidson College; a Master's of Divinity from the Harvard Divinity School and is completing his thesis for a Doctor of Ministry degree on ministerial leadership at the Andover Newton Theological School with an expected graduation in 2011. At Andover Newton he was elected by the faculty into the Jonathon Edwards Honor Society for students who show intellectual strength, moral character and promise for leadership.

In his response to our search for a senior minister, his statement on ministry concluded with "the church at its best offers a message of hope, an example of love, a calling to share love with all people and provides the opportunity to do so. It is a place of discovery and nurture, inspiration and joy. It is a place where we can grow in faith and where the opportunity lives to be transformed, and to transform the world, with the gift of love."

Rob's wife, Barbara, is herself an ordained UCC minister who served as Director for Spiritual Life and Chaplain at Lasell College in Newton, MA. Earlier in her career, Barbara served as protestant chaplain at Tufts University, and operated two homeless shelters in the Boston area. Barbara is working on her Doctor of Ministry degree at John Wesley Seminary. They have two grown daughters: Kate, who is an arts teacher in the Washington D.C. area, and Colleen, who handles public relations for the Veterans' Association in the San Francisco area.

The Asingers arrived in Miami in January 2010. Pastor Rob preached his first sermon as our new senior minister on Sunday, January 10.

Praise be to God, who is still speaking and has brought Pastor Rob to us!