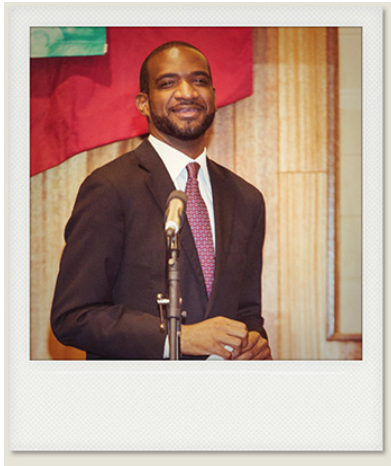


NEIGHBORHOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LAGUNA BEACH

April 17, 2017

To the Members and Friends of Neighborhood Congregational Church:

The Pastoral Search Team invites you to join together in welcoming our Transition Pastor candidate, Rev. Rodrick (Rod) Echols.



From all the applicants with whom we communicated and interviewed, we believe Rev. Rod is the best one to bring a fresh start to our church. His faith is strong. He listens and communicates well. He is a quality preacher and brings a passion for social justice. He also seeks to provide space for young people to gather and connect. Rev. Rod is a young, spirited pastor who speaks from the heart. The potential he has is exceptional, as you will experience when you meet him.

Rev. Rod is originally from Memphis, graduated from Brown University, and holds a Master of Divinity from Boston University. In his professional life, he has held development roles with several prominent institutions, including UC San Diego, Brown University, United Way, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. His specialties include pastoral care, leadership development, communication, fundraising, and counseling. Rod is an enthusiastic learner who regularly seeks additional wisdom to hone his skills and better manage his life.

Rev. Rod has served in various capacities in a number of churches, including Youth Pastor, Interim Minister, and currently Pastor of Congregational Development at another southern California UCC church.

A call agreement has been made and approved by the Trustees. We are calling Rev. Rod on a three-year Designated-Term basis, which means that his time can be extended past three years if he and the congregation wish their ministry together to go forward. In the call agreement, it states that his future with the church will be evaluated by the Pastoral/Congregational Relations Committee after he has been with us for two years. He will, of course, also be evaluating us as a congregation, encouraging us to work together under God's guidance in support of the church's

mission and ministry. Rev. Rod looks forward to helping our church through the transition period, using his experience working in a program called Appreciative Inquiry. The purpose of this program is to enable church members to work together toward unified agreed-upon goals and mission for our church going forward.

To help us all begin to get to know him, the Search Team has organized a series of events and we invite you to come and meet him. On Sunday, April 30, a Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the church service to hold an affirmation vote on calling Rev. Rod to NCC. He will begin work with us on Monday, May 15.

Schedule of Events

Meet and Greet

Sunday, April 23, 3:00-5:00 PM
Bridge Hall, NCC

Meet and Greet

Saturday, April 29, 4:00-6:00 PM
At the Church, NCC

Hear Rev. Rod Preach

Sunday, April 30, 10:00 AM
Sanctuary, NCC

Congregational Meeting for Members' Affirmation Vote

Sunday, April 30, 11:15 AM
Sanctuary, NCC

Congregational Potluck Brunch after the Affirmation Vote

Sunday April 30, 11:30 AM
Bridge Hall, NCC

Blessings,

Julie Phillips
Jen Hutchinson
Greg Rayes

Joannah Lewis
Peter Griffith
Rev. Thomas Kugler

Neighborhood Congregational Church Pastoral Search Team