



Vermont Conference United Church of Christ



July 10, 2017

To the members and friends of the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ:

I write to you to tell you that, in a summer that seems filled with transitions, I have one to announce as well. On Sunday July 9th I accepted the call as Pastor and Teacher of the Atkinson Congregational Church, UCC in Atkinson NH. My last work day with the Vermont Conference will be September 29th, and I will begin in Atkinson mid-October.

The excitement for my new call is tempered by a good deal of sadness about leaving the Conference that has been my home for the past 13 years. The trust the Conference placed in me, and the latitude to grow and modify my position for the good of the Conference and my personal betterment has been a significant gift for which I will be forever grateful. I could not have dreamed what it became, and I am very aware of the multitude of blessings I have received. And yet, it is time to move on to the next adventure God has planned for me. The call to a local church never left me, and the chance to 'do' full time ministry in a congregation feels like the right place to be.

I am indebted for your continuous support, for trusting me to guide you in a number of ministry areas, and your friendship and love. I wanted, more than any one thing, to build covenant and relationship between the local and wider church, and I thank you for your efforts to do the same. I leave knowing the Conference is in good hands, with a strong and capable Board of Directors and Staff. May the Spirit continue to move freely among you.

God's Blessings and Peace to you,

Jim

Rev. Jim Thomas
Associate Conference Minister for
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