

minister, written a book on youth ministry, and has long standing life experience with children, including raising three of his own and coaching youth sports for many years. The Committee is impressed with his ideas for recruiting and working with Faith Formation volunteers.

Regarding Dr. Pahl's qualifications for Minister of Community Engagement: his passion for and wide experience with community involvement will allow him to hit the ground running. His gifts will complement Pastor Bridget's and help bring Union's ministry to a new level.

Although the primary responsibilities of the Minister of FF/CE are education and outreach, they also include leading worship about once a month. While not an ordained pastor, he has substantial experience with leading worship and preaching. The Committee has experienced his worship and preaching styles and is impressed by them.

Raised Lutheran, Jon's theology is progressive. Common Ministry plans to recommend Jon be licensed by the N.E. Association UCC which will empower him to celebrate the sacraments. He is currently a member of Christ Congregational UCC in Clintonville. Pastor Bridget and he have discussed the logistics of fulfilling his Union duties via a combination of being present in the church and working from home, and we are satisfied that the hour's drive from Green Bay will not be a hindrance.

We hope that you will agree with us that Dr. Pahl would be an excellent addition to our church staff. Please read further to learn of his specific qualifications and the congregation's next steps as we discern the future of our wonderful church.

Sincerely,

The Search Committee

Ben VerGiesen (chair), Liz Gregg, Todd Kane, Barbara McClure-Lukens, Deb Rose, McKenna Stueck, and Julie Harder

The Common Ministry of
Union Congregational United Church of Christ hereby calls a
Special Congregational Meeting
on March 18, 2018 in the sanctuary
immediately following worship for the purpose of recommending
Dr. Jon Pahl, Ph.D.,
to the position of
Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement

Union Congregational United Church of Christ
February 15, 2018



The Search Committee
invites you to meet
our proposed candidate,
Jon Pahl, Ph.D.,
at an open house
in the English Room
on Saturday,
March 17, 2018
from 2 to 4 p.m.

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with great excitement that we, Union's Search Committee for the Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement, recommend Jon Pahl, Ph.D. for this position.

Dr. Pahl is overwhelmingly qualified to step into this role. He has been a professor of church history for many years, has published widely, and has extensive experience with community outreach. His interests are, in this order: teaching, organizing, preaching, and administration (such as coordinating volunteers). When pressed to explain why he is interested in a position for which he is so clearly overqualified, he explained that he sees this position as an opportunity to integrate these interests, and bring them to bear "in a real context," as he puts it. He is excited that our newly configured position will empower him and us to a 21st century model of ministry.

Regarding Dr. Pahl's qualifications for Minister of Faith Formation: Besides Jon's many years of teaching at the college and seminary level, he has been a youth

(continued on back page)

Dr. Jon Pahl



Biography

Dr. Pahl received his BA from Valparaiso University, MTS from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School. In addition to his scholarly work, Jon has been responsible for three successful start-ups for which he wrote the business plans, secured funding, and managed implementation. "JP," as he is known by many of his students, has spoken with audiences from Accra, Ghana to Anaheim, California, including at Cambridge, Oxford, Princeton, Stanford, Yale, and many other colleges and universities, and in churches and backyards and garages all over the U.S. Since 2000, Jon has been on the faculty of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP), which is a seminary of the Evangelical Church in America (ELCA). In the past year, he has transitioned to a part-time position, which has allowed him to teach LTSP students via the internet or via occasional short trips to campus. Because of this, Jon has returned to make his home in Wisconsin, where he grew up. He currently lives in Clintonville with his wife, Lisa where he is a member of Christ Congregational UCC. His family ties to the area include his parents, a son, and a young grandson in the Appleton area. Jon is also a musician and likes sitting in on the saxophone with various bands and gospel choirs.

- Author
- Award-winning teacher
- Business planner
- Community organizer
- Historian
- Public speaker
- Researcher

Teaching Experience/Employment

- 2000-current — Professor,**
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP)
- 2007-2010 — Visiting Professor,**
Princeton University Department of Religion
- 2004-2006, 2010-2014 — Visiting Adjunct Professor,**
Temple University Department of Religion
- 1988-2000 — Instructor-Associate Professor,**
Valparaiso University Department of Theology

Community Engagement/Business Development

- 2010-2015 — Architect, Director of MAPL**
(Master of Arts in Public Leadership) degree program. Innovative curricular partnership between business, social work, and LTSP to prepare spiritually-engaged leaders for social ministry organizations, partnering LTSP with over 20 different community agencies.
- 2012-2016 — Chair, Board of Directors, Feast of Justice**
(Hunger Ministry, NE Philadelphia). \$3 million annual budget.
- 2001-2005 — Business Plan and Development Plan**
for *The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth/Society for the History of Childhood and Youth* (start-up journal now published by Johns Hopkins University Press)
- 1996-2000 — Youth Minister,**
First Christian Church, Valparaiso, IN
- 1995-2000 — Founder and Faculty Director,**
Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter, Valparaiso, IN
- 1993-1996 — Preaching Deacon,**
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Medaryville, IN