



The Overarching Goal of this expanded transition proposal, called “Evolve 2017,” is to help TriCon move into the future with increased strength and renewed purpose.

The period of transition between ministers in a congregation is a rare opportunity to look at itself afresh, and see what God sees: TriCon’s gifts and growing edges, sustained by God’s grace. Evolve 2017 will help TriCon gain clarity upon its God-given purpose, so that it can find the right pastoral leader and live into this future together. This plan seeks wide input and insight from the congregation, facilitating conversations about what matters most, because listening and talking to each other knits a church together in unity.

Spring 2017

RE:claim TriCon History and Ministry

Goal: To honor and celebrate the proud story of TriCon’s history and ministry in such a way that we become more aware of the past and how it has shaped the present, and to build upon this firm foundation as we reach for an even better future.

Activities:

1. **Sunday, May 7, 5-7 PM** “Telling the TriCon Story.” Old-fashioned pot-luck dinner, skit, constructing a timeline of the last fifty years identifying the highpoints and formative moments.
2. **Sunday, May 21, 5-7 PM** “The Way We Were: Together in Ministry.” Pizza/Salad and Guided Table Conversations on TriCon’s ministry during the last twenty-five years.

Spring/Summer 2017

RE:flect Spiritual Discernment in Community.

Goal: To develop the congregation’s capacity for spiritual connection and discerning God’s guidance – to feel more anchored in faith – as we prepare to answer the question: What is God calling TriCon to become and to do?

EVOLVE 2017

Activities:

1. A handful of TriCon members have written about their spiritual practices, and the Christian Education committee has compiled these into a **booklet**, under the theme “Rest, Reflect, Renew.” It is hoped that the membership will enjoy and benefit from this summer gift as it tries out different prayer practices and prepares together for more focused discernment in the fall.
2. **Summer Reflection Socials** - Informal intergenerational gatherings at the church over dessert to share how the summer is going and reflect upon spiritual insights that may be surfacing among fellow congregants.

Thursday, July 20, 7PM and Thursday, August 10, 7 PM

Transition Procedural Tasks During this Season: The Transition Team will continue conducting congregational interviews and working on the Congregational Profile (it can be found on the TriCon website under the “parishioners” tab). Various church committees are also being enlisted to fill out relevant sections of the document.

Fall 2017

RE:discover

Who we are now

Who our neighbors are and their needs

Who God is calling us to become and calling us to do.

Goal: To gather information and educate ourselves on the first two questions, looking for the overlaps and intersections between TriCon’s top gifts and the community’s deepest needs in order to identify God’s particular call for TriCon’s ministry and mission (the third question) for the foreseeable future.

The Tentative Plan of Activities:

1. September - Who we are now -
 - + “Identify Our Spiritual Gifts” as individuals and as a congregation through a spiritual gift survey and small group conversations.
 - + Hear from the Transition Team’s findings and receive information from the Transition Team’s work on the Congregational Profile.
 - + Compile and celebrate TriCon’s spiritual gifts in a Sunday worship service on **Sunday, September 24.**
2. October - Who our neighbors are and their needs -
 - + Learn more about our community through the MissionInsite data base service and from members already engaged in mission locally, plus those ministries that TriCon helps financially at home and abroad.

EVOLVE 2017

Transition Procedural Tasks During this Season: The congregation will elect a Search Committee to work alongside the Transition Team as it finalizes the Congregational Profile. The Search Committee is nominated by the Diaconate to the congregation for approval, giving opportunity for nominations from the floor. This congregational meeting is currently on the church calendar for **Sunday, October 22** after morning worship. The Congregational Profile includes questions that require articulation of TriCon's vision/vocation/mission, along with compatible pastoral leadership qualities. We hope to send the Congregational Profile to Rev. Wendy Vander Hart, Associate Conference Minister, for her required review and validation by the end of the year.

October Activities (continued)

+ Hear from the Transition Team's findings and receive pertinent information from the Transition Team's work on the Congregational Profile.

+ During an Evolve Event on **Sunday, October 29** look for the connections between TriCon's gifts and these discovered needs in order to encourage individual service and to perceive the general direction of God's call to the congregation for the foreseeable future.

3. November - Who God is calling us to become and calling us to do -
 - + Through steps of corporate worship, prayer, and intentional conversation, and possibly with the assistance of a discernment circle of a few TriCon members, we will listen deeply to God and to each other to arrive at an articulation of God's call to TriCon for the next era of ministry. We would hope to develop a succinct, compelling statement of vision/vocation **by December 3** that would then serve to guide the search for pastoral leadership and subsequent decisions about staffing, programming, and other priorities.

Winter 2018

RE:imagine

Our Future and Pastoral Leadership.

Goal: To come to a decision about pastoral leadership that matches the call of God for TriCon for this coming era of its ministry and mission.

Transition Procedural Tasks During this Season:

1. The Congregational Profile will be widely disseminated for comment and approval by the Church Council.
2. The Transition Team formally passes "the baton" to the Search Committee once the Congregational Profile is approved. The Search Committee works closely with Rev. Wendy Vander Hart as advisor.

EVOLVE 2017

3. The Search Committee will share TriCon's Congregational Profile with Rev. Bob Brown, who will determine if he still feels God's call to candidate for the position of Senior Minister of TriCon.
4. If so, the Search Committee will review and compare Rev. Bob Brown's *ministerial* profile to that of the congregation and discern over an as yet undesignated period of time whether to recommend Rev. Bob Brown as the candidate-of-choice for the position of Senior Minister.
5. If thus recommended, Rev. Brown's name will be presented to the congregation for its prayerful discernment and vote.
6. Should the congregation vote *for* Rev. Brown as Senior Minister by sufficient margin, he would begin to serve in this role. Should the congregation *not* vote in favor of Rev. Brown in this role, or by sufficient margin, the Search Committee, in close consultation with Rev. Wendy Vander Hart, would start a new search using the same Congregational Profile.