



June 20, 2017

Dear TriCon Community,

As the Transition Team leads our Congregation through this time between settled senior ministers, we are working hard to gain clarity around what has shaped us to become who we are now, to identify the gifts with which we have been blessed and that are unique to our church community, and to discern the fundamental pillars we will need to put into place in order to live out God's mission for us. This thoughtful, intentional process of transitioning is being called *Evolve*. We have identified four seasons in this process. We are writing now to celebrate our first, completed season, to update you on our work as we enter a second season, and to outline the plans we have for the third season.

In the first season, we met with many individuals within our congregation, held various open group discussions, and invited our entire church community to two Sunday evening activities, one on May 7<sup>th</sup> and another on May 21<sup>st</sup>, to help us sow the seeds planted years ago by TriCon's ministry and nurtured throughout past decades by previous congregants. This first season is called *RE:claim*. By identifying and sharing formative moments within our church's history and by reclaiming the way our clergy and lay leaders have worked together in ministry over the last twenty-five years, we have learned more about what has shaped us to become who we are now. This clarity has been an important part of the transitioning process. Understanding who we are now will guide the question of who we want to be going forward and what we may or may not want to do differently in our relationship of ministering together. We heartily thank the many folks and groups who have taken part and supported each of the various activities in season one.

We are very excited now to enter season two, which will be referred to as *RE:flect*. You will soon be receiving a gift from the Christian Education committee. This booklet is called *Rest, Reflect, Renew* and contains accounts from fellow parishioners about spiritual practices that keep them centered, balanced, and open to God's direction. In sharing these pieces, we hope you will unite with us in the Holy Spirit to connect in prayer with God and each other wherever you happen to be this summer. To keep the momentum, the Transition Team will be hosting two Summer Reflection Socials on **July 20th and August 10th**. We hope you will join us for these fun, intergenerational evenings to share a delicious dessert, news of your summer, and how your awareness of God and God's will for TriCon is evolving.

Over these summer months, the Transition Team will continue its work by conducting additional interviews and focus groups among members of the congregation and by consolidating central themes found thus far, by asking various church committees to provide their input on relevant sections of the church profile, and by partnering with other committees to create a church-wide survey to identify some of TriCon's God-given gifts and to learn more about our "neighbors" in the greater Concord community and in the world.



When you return to church in September, we expect to be entering the third season of Evolve, referred to as *RE:discover*. We will begin this time together by exploring more fully the three questions we have been tasked to answer during this transition process: *Who are we now, Who is our neighbor and what are their needs, Who is God calling TriCon to be in this coming era of ministry?* During the morning worship service on **September 24** the Transition Team will report on the consolidated themes and findings on the first question, as well as on “Spiritual Gifts” that have emerged. A second fall event is planned for **October 29th** when we will report on what has been discovered about our neighbors and their needs and how these correspond to our gifts.

The Transition Team will complete the church profile – the document describing TriCon in detail – from September through early December. During this time period, the congregation will select a Search Committee to overlap with the Transition Team as we finalize a succinct and compelling vision statement that will serve to guide the search for pastoral leadership and which will prepare our congregation for deliberations and decisions to be made in 2018.

Your participation has been inspiring, and it makes all the difference! We hope you will continue to be involved, and if you have not yet, that you will engage in the Evolve process going forward.

With faith and appreciation,

Jane Turner Michael, Transition Team Chair

***Dates to put on your calendar:***

<b>July 20th (7PM)</b>	<b>Summer Reflections Social</b>
<b>August 10<sup>th</sup> (7PM)</b>	<b>Summer Reflections Social</b>
<b>September 24th - Morning Worship</b>	<b>Celebration of Who We Are Now and Spiritual Gifts</b>
<b>October 29th – Evolve Event</b>	<b>Learning About the Wider Community and its Needs</b>