

The Search Committee for the
**First Congregational Church
of Ridgefield**

presents and unanimously
recommends

**Rev. Dr.
Charles Hambrick-Stowe**

to serve as
Senior Minister



Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe comes to Ridgefield as an experienced and energetic minister of the gospel.

He served for six years at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Westminster, Maryland and for 16 years as lead pastor of Church of the Apostles, a large multi-staff church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

In 2001 his career took him into theological education, first as director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and currently as Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean, and Professor of Christian History at Northern Seminary in Lombard, Illinois.

Reverend Hambrick-Stowe is excited to return to his calling as a pastor in the congregational setting.

As he says: *"I am most passionate about designing and leading faithful worship, preaching the Word of God, caring for God's people, teaching the Christian faith, helping believers grow in personal faith, encouraging fellowship, building a sense of membership in the global church, and guiding congregations toward a vital future as the Body of Christ in the world."*

Dr. Hambrick-Stowe has published numerous articles and books in the fields of church history, Christian faith, and American religious experience including: *The Practice of Piety: Puritan Devotional Disciplines in Seventeenth-Century New England* (University of North Carolina Press, 1982), *Charles G. Finney and the Spirit of American Evangelicalism* (Eerdmans, 1996) and *Holding on to the Faith: Confessional Traditions in American Christianity* (University Press of America, 2008).

He is a graduate of Hamilton College (A.B.), Pacific School of Religion (M.A., M.Div.), and Boston University (Ph.D.).

Charlie is married to Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe, who is an ordained minister and an attorney, currently practicing with a law firm in Oak Brook, Illinois.

The Hambrick-Stowes are parents of three young adult married children (two in Baltimore, one in Hartford) and new grandparents of Zachary.

Hobbies and special interests include running, camping, reading, and visiting with family.



Statement on Ministry

My ministry is biblically rooted and centered in the person and work of Jesus Christ. The rich ethnic and religious diversity of many of our American neighborhoods calls for us to reach across dividing lines with love as Jesus did, with respectful understanding, and with all that the gospel has to offer. It is the pastor's calling, through faithful leadership and by the work of the Holy Spirit, to empower the church to live and serve faithfully in today's increasingly conflicted world.

Reference Excerpts

"It was a great journey that members of our family and I had taken with him. We experienced him not only as a pastor but also as counselor, confidante, teacher, encourager and brother In Christ. I experienced first hand his presence in making my father come alive just by presence during a four-year illness in the nursing home. I will be eternally grateful for that time."

"Experiencing weekly Bible studies was a highlight in my life. He encouraged a group of all different ages to explore, question, learn, support and share their journeys."

"I believe his major strength to be preaching the Gospel with a passionate, sincere and compelling deliverance of Biblical scripture. Another strength is his small group development, from the church operating committees to Bible study to evangelism within and beyond the church."

On Tuesday, August 26th, the First Congregational Church search committee recommended Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe as the candidate for the position of Senior Minister. During the worship services on Sunday, **September 14**, he will preach his candidating sermon, "Let the Children Come." At a special congregational meeting after the services, the congregation will vote to call Dr. Hambrick-Stowe as the church's Senior Minister.

**The First
Congregational
Church of Ridgefield**
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