

BRAZOS ASSOCIATION NEWS

There are two opportunities for fellowship and growth in the Brazos Association next month.

On Saturday, April 12th, the women of St. John's UCC Burton are hosting a women's retreat for the entire Brazos Association. All Association women are welcome. The theme is "Seasons of Our Lives." Publicity and registration forms are going out to the churches very soon: look for yours at your church when you read this. As a veteran of many church women's retreats, I can say with assurance these are wonderful events for fellowship and spiritual nurture. I hope many of our Association women can make it.

Two weeks later, on Sunday, April 27th, we will hold our Spring Association meeting at the Congregational Church of Austin UCC. The meeting will start at 3 pm and end with dinner. We look forward to the Ecclesiastical Council of Tamara Franks, who is completing her seminary studies at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis and is a member of Friends Congregational UCC in College Station. At their January meeting, the Church and Ministry Committee reviewed Tamara's ordination paper that members had previously read, examined her, and voted to recommend her to the Association for ordination. At the Association meeting, we will have a chance to hear from Tamara after having her ordination paper available beforehand for reading, ask her questions, and vote on whether to approve her for ordination to Christian ministry in the United Church of Christ pending call. In other words, a positive vote at the Ecclesiastical Council will approve Tamara for ordination that can happen when she has received a call. This process of approving candidates for ministry is a central and sacred responsibility of our Association, and we need a broad representation from our churches to carry it out in the wisest and most considered way possible. We will also conduct other Association business, including voting on board members, on officers, and on a brief proposed amendment that is being sent to the churches (to allow the Treasurer to be appointed for more terms than other officers in order to allow for continuity in bank accounts, in handling funds, and in keeping records). The Congregational Church is planning a program that shares their ministry and music. Keep an eye out for the publicity to learn more. We hope you will join us in Austin on the 27th.

Blessings in Christ,

Rev. Liz Nash, Associate Conference Minister, Brazos Association