



First Congregational Church of Santa Barbara + United Church of Christ
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CHURCH LIFE

OCTOBER 2025



WHAT'S GOING ON? LOTS OF EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING! TRANSITION COMMITTEE UPDATE 1

Dear Friends of FCCSB and Way Collective,

We are grateful to share that the Transition Committee—made up of representatives from both First Congregational Church Santa Barbara and Way Collective—has met for the first time. Our work together has begun with energy, openness, and a deep sense of hope for what lies ahead.

At this initial meeting, we focused on two important areas: the **naming of our new collaborative** and the first draft of potential **bylaws and governance structures**. Both of these conversations reflect our shared desire to honor the rich histories of our communities while also creating space for fresh expressions of faith, contemplation, and justice in Santa Barbara.

We know how important it is that the whole community stays connected and informed during this process. With that in mind, we will be sharing regular updates as our work continues to unfold. If you have any questions or comments during this

process, please reach out to your committee members or myself—we welcome your voice and input.

Today, we are excited to share with you the results of the **naming process** that emerged from our discussions.

New Collaborative Naming Proposal

ONE: A Christian Collaborative of Santa Barbara is the joining of two historic congregations — First Congregational Church SB (United Church of Christ) and First Christian Church SB (Disciples of Christ). Together we are creating **One Christian Community Gatherings**, with classic and current expressions on Sunday mornings, and **Way Collective**, a contemplative dinner-and-dialogue on Wednesday evenings, along with regular meditation offerings. In this shared life, we honor our “First” history by learning to prioritize oneness — with God, with one another, with other faith traditions, and with our city. We exist to carry forward the communal wisdom of contemplation and the work of justice, shaping a Christianity rooted in ancient spiritual practices and renewing for generations to come.

Organizational Name:

ONE: A Christian Collaborative of Santa Barbara

Informal “Shortened” Names:

“One Colab” (priority) or “One SB”

Gatherings:

- One Christian Community (Classic Sunday)
- One Christian Community (Current Sunday)
- Way Collective (Contemplative Mid-week)

- Monthly Mindfulness (Meditation Offerings)

Building:

- Historic First Congregational Church Santa Barbara or
- One Colab Commons (priority) or One SB Commons

Websites: (all point to same shared page, or dedicated page on same host site):

www.onecolab.org, www.onesb.org,
www.oneccsb.org, www.waycollective.org

Tim's New Title:

Curating Minister — This title comes from the ancient word *cura*, meaning "care of souls." To curate is to tend, arrange, and make space for what is sacred. As a combination of both his current titles of Core Curator and Bridge Minister, the Curating Minister will work to hold together the pastoral and the contemplative, guiding our community in vision, worship, justice, and shared life with intention and care.

Timeline

- **September–October:** Governance & Structure, Identity & Mission (drafting proposals)
 - **October–November:** Finance & Administration, Property & Facilities (initial integration plans)
 - **November–December:** Worship & Programs, Communication & Rituals (community engagement and celebration planning)
 - **December:** Finalize transition roadmap and prepare for January 1, 2026 launch
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Please know that these are our proposed recommendations. Nothing in this process is final until we have a congregational vote (hopefully in late December) to adopt the proposals that will come out of our work this Fall. This is just the beginning, and there is much more to come. We are

committed to a process that is transparent, participatory, and guided by love. Thank you for walking with us in this journey of becoming something new together.

With gratitude and anticipation,

The FCCSB & Way Collective Transition Committee

Robin Rickershauser

Peter Brown

Nancy Chase (absent)

Lori Corry

Ethan Elisara

Pat Lockwood

Tim Burnette

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Oct 4 Sarah Marin
 Oct 6 Pascal Salomon
 Oct 11 Sue Lael Katnic
 Oct 21 Mary Howe-Grant
 Oct 26 Gloria Janka
 Oct 27 Stephanie Patterson-Menk

2025 Officers and Committees

Church Officers

Moderator	Martha Peyton ^{MB}
Vice Moderator	Johanna Preiswerk ^{MB}
Recording Clerk	Peter Brown ^{MB}
Treasurer	Salome Crowley ^{MB}
Asst. Treasurer	Mary Howe-Grant
Financial Co-Secretaries	Lynn Stewart & Sue Lael Katnic
Membership Clerk	Karen Steward
Systems Administrator	Steve Butner
Historian	Karen Steward

At-Large Mission Board Members

Karen Steward ^{MB}	Gail Gillies ^{MB}
Sally Thacher ^{MB}	Sharon Kayser ^{MB}

Conference Delegates

Adult	Karen Steward
Adult	Martha Peyton

Standing Committees

Finance and Facilities

3-7 members
 Lynn Stewart*
 Peter Preiswerk
 Salome Crowley*
 Bud Kayser
 Peter Ford

Pastoral Relations

3-7 members
 Peter Brown
 Nancy Chase
 Kay Utterback

Personnel

3-7 members
 Johanna Preiswerk*
 Peter Ford

Nominating Committee

Myrna Tuttle	Robin Rickershauser
Sally Thacher	