

Frequently Asked Questions about the Senior Minister Transition

This FAQ addresses common questions about the upcoming transition of our Senior Minister, Dr. Edward, to keep our community informed and engaged.

Selection Process & Timeline

Who hires the new Senior Minister?

According to CSLSR bylaws, the Board of Trustees is responsible for hiring. The process includes:

- Forming a Search Committee in 2026.
- Advertising the position through CSL Home Office channels.
- Reviewing applications and recorded talks.
- Inviting finalists to Santa Rosa for a Sunday message and workshop.
- Gathering congregational feedback via Google Forms.
- Making a final decision informed by committee recommendations and community input.

When will the new Senior Minister be selected?

Dr. Edward's contract concludes December 31, 2027. The Board intends to extend an offer by then, with the new minister beginning in early 2028.

Will members of the Center have input?

Yes. Members have already helped identify the qualities desired in our next minister. During the candidate phase, the congregation will provide structured feedback through Google Forms.

Will the congregation vote on the minister?

No. The bylaws assign the final decision to the Board, but community input is an important part of the process.

Can I serve on the Search Committee?

Members in good standing with a strong history of participation may apply to serve. If you are interested, contact the Board President.

Are outside candidates considered?

Yes. Any CSL-licensed minister in good standing may apply, and the position will be advertised movement-wide.

Is there a probationary period?

While not official, the Board may begin with a one-year contract that includes review and support for integration.

Dr. Edward's Departure & Future Involvement

Why is Dr. Edward retiring?

After more than 30 years of service, he is joyfully transitioning into retirement.

Will he stay involved?

Possibly. Dr. Edward is open to teaching or supporting if invited by the new minister. His role will depend on the new minister's preferences.

Can we ask him to stay longer?

Dr. Edward has made this decision with intention. The best way to honor him is by supporting the transition wholeheartedly.

Impact on the Center

Will the Center close or change direction?

No. CSLSR is strong, vibrant, and financially stable. Our mission remains unchanged, though each minister brings fresh ideas. The new minister will take time to learn our culture before making major changes.

What if we don't find a suitable candidate?

The timeline allows for a careful process. Interim leadership can be arranged if needed.

How long does it take for a new minister to integrate?

Typically one to three years.

What if I don't like the new minister?

Transitions take patience. We encourage everyone to remain open and supportive as relationships develop.

Is CSLSR financially stable?

Yes. The Center has prudent reserves and is in a strong position.

How is ministerial salary determined?

Compensation considers the Center's financial health, market research, stewardship recommendations, and ministerial experience.

Other Questions

Can a minister be released if it's not a good fit?

Yes. The Board will establish a contract and review process to ensure mutual alignment.

Can we prioritize diversity in hiring?

The search is open to all qualified candidates, and the Board is committed to fairness in the hiring process.

Will we see candidates' past talks?

Yes. Finalists' resumes, photos, and recorded messages will be shared with the community.

Staying Informed

Updates will be provided at annual Membership Meetings, with recordings posted on the website for those who cannot attend.