

Jeff, thanks for your call today filling me in on the news that Metropolitan's former minister has changed his mind about his faith.

This may be a confusing time for many, and yet it may also be a time for members of the congregation to deepen their own faith explorations.

The United Church *Song of Faith* begins by saying:

*God is Holy Mystery,
beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.*

And after about three hundred lines of poetic and profound theological thought, it ends with the words:

*Grateful for God's loving action,
Creating and seeking relationship,
in awe and trust,
we witness to Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love.*

We are a church deeply rooted in our faith in God and our commitment to building our lives on the life of Jesus Christ. We are not, though, a church of easy answers.

Our appetite for thinking about our faith was demonstrated before the last General Council, when congregations across the country studied our historic and contemporary faith statements and voted to name all of them as faithful expressions of our beliefs as a Church. It was the first time that so many congregations in the United Church have participated in a "Level 3 Remit" and I was touched to hear from so many about how they had welcomed this opportunity to grapple with their faith.

Even as we seek to deepen our understanding, we realize that faith goes beyond understanding. Perhaps that is why so many of us find comfort and guidance in A New Creed, (although no longer "new") which reminds us that,

*In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.*

My best to you and all at Metropolitan in this time of thoughtful opportunity.

Nora Sanders
General Secretary, General Council
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