

ABOUT SOMESVILLE UNION MEETING HOUSE

Somesville Union Meeting House is located in the heart of Mount Desert, Maine in the small village of Somesville. We are surrounded by the treasured Acadia National Park and all its natural beauty. There are mountains, lakes, streams, hiking trails, and gorgeous ocean vistas to explore and enjoy.

Our island consists of the towns of Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Mount Desert and Tremont. Opportunities abound for involvement in the arts, libraries, theater, adult education and social issues. Although the population soars with seasonal visitors and residents, there remains a strong core of active year-round folks.

The Somesville Union Meeting House has a rich history dating back to 1792. In 1876 a covenant was signed for our present church to be built. Ours is a small but formidable group of faithful parishioners. In 1996 we declared ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, the first one in the State of Maine. In 2008 after a 2-year process we became a Just Peace church.

We are proud of the growth of our witness. Through our mission outreach we give to over 35 agencies and organizations, responding to community and world needs as they arise. We actively support the Maine Conference of the UCC. SUMH also supports the associated ministry of the Alcyon Center; located in Seal Cove, it is celebrating 10 years as a center for contemplative research.

As is true with many churches today, we face the challenges of an aging congregation, our numbers having waxed and waned over the years. However, our spirit and our love for one another and for our neighbors grows stronger each day. We are fully committed to the future of this very special place and this congregation.

To learn about our Just Peace and Open and Affirming initiatives, the Alcyon Center, and the history of the church, visit our website at <http://www.sumhucc.org>.

SEEKING

Somesville Union Meeting House is seeking an intentional interim pastor to accompany us on a faith journey. We seek a pastor who is grounded in spiritual practice, with wisdom and life experience, who is compassionate and accepting of all. A sense of humor is also a wonderful gift.

Pastoral duties include preparing and leading Sunday worship, offering services and sermons that are thought provoking with spiritual depth, while relating biblical teachings to modern situations. Pastoral care duties and visitation, in collaboration with lay people are also expected. We encourage attendance at monthly council meetings, but at committee meetings only on an as-needed basis. Also included is oversight of our administrative assistant and music director (currently the same person).

We hope our interim pastor will possess a good balance between an outer and an inner life, demonstrating good self care practices. Excellent communication skills and the ability to assist in healthy conflict resolution are also valued.

The retirement of our present pastor after 17 years, leaves us with a sense of loss and uncertainty. We

will look to our interim pastor for comfort, reassurance and stability as we find our way through this time of change.

We seek a pastor who is trained in all aspects of transitional ministry and who has strong leadership qualities. Guidance will be needed as the congregation and the new search committee work to complete a church profile, seek to call a settled pastor and look to the future with prayerful enthusiasm and imagination.