



**Eastern Ohio &  
Western Reserve Associations**  
Ohio Conference

**Rev. Dr. Rita M. Root**  
Associations General Minister

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The Council of the Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations  
calls all authorized ministers and delegates to attend

a Special Associations Meeting  
Saturday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m.  
Bethany United Church of Christ

[1235 Broad Blvd](#) in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

for the purpose of presenting a candidate for election as the Associations General Minister.

You may register online for this meeting at

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eeth9yfb2ee6b&llr=k6ugxclab>.

NOTE THAT ALL CONGREGATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEND TWO (2) DELEGATES TO THE MEETING. CHURCHES WITH MORE THAN 400 MEMBERS MAY SEND ONE ADDITIONAL DELEGATE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL 400 MEMBERS OR FRACTION THEREOF. EACH AUTHORIZED MINISTER CAN CAST ONE VOTE. (The EOA Constitution was changed at our November 4 Associations Fall Meeting.)

The candidate recommended by our Associations Search Committee is Rev. Nayiri Karjian. Here is some information about her:

Nayiri is an Ordained Minister with full standing in the United Church of Christ. Ordained in December 1985, her current standing is held in the Connecticut Conference by the CT Fairfield East Association. Nayiri currently serves as Interim Lead Pastor at First Congregational UCC in Colorado Springs. She has been engaged in interim ministry for throughout most of her pastoral career although she served as the installed pastor of The Congregational Church of Easton from 2001 to 2008. Nayiri has engaged with the wider church as well as demonstrated a commitment to ecumenism and community outreach. Her passions include, but are not limited to: community building, strategic planning, spiritual direction, administration, visioning, and inspired worship. Her references speak to her ability to facilitate change and transformation with grace and build consensus in the most challenging circumstances.

Nayiri received the Master of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary. Earlier formal education, including a Bachelor degree in Christian Education and certificates of theology were completed in Syria and Lebanon.

In the Search Committee's conversations with Nayiri, as well as the essay and video she submitted upon our request, we have found her to be delightful, thoughtful, and engaging with a calm, inviting, and assured presence. The committee recommends her for the Associations General Minister believing that she possesses the necessary skills, temperament, energy and values to serve as our chief executive and spiritual leader as we continue to move forward in our mutual ministry.