

April 9, 2009

**For Immediate Release**



The First Congregational Church of Stamford, Connecticut, the church that founded Stamford in 1641, has called the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson as its Senior Pastor. Dr. Jackson will begin her ministry at the church in mid-June, leading worship and preaching the sermon on Sunday, June 14. Dr. Jackson will be the 25th Senior Pastor, the first woman, and the first African-American to serve as Senior Pastor of this historic church.

A Search Committee elected by the congregation spent nearly two years on a process that culminated with an invitation to Dr. Jackson to preach on March 29, 2009. Immediately following that worship service, the congregation met and voted overwhelmingly to call Dr. Jackson as the new Senior Pastor.

Dr. Jackson was ordained by the United Church of Christ in 2001 and has been serving as Interim Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn since November 2006. Previous positions in ministry include Interim Coordinator of Worship at The Riverside Church, Associate Pastor, Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew (United Methodist), and Interim Seminary Pastor at Union Theological Seminary--all in New York City.

Prior to ordination, Dr. Jackson worked for many years in the business and non-profit sectors. Her degrees include a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from Oberlin College, Juris Doctor, University of Maryland School of Law, Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, and Ph.D. in Christian Social Ethics from Drew University. A gifted and prolific writer, she is the author of *The Gift to Listen, the Courage to Hear* (Augsburg Books, 2003).

The First Congregational Church is located on Walton Place where Bedford and Prospect Streets meet. Services are held September through June in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. and during July and August in the air-conditioned McGown Chapel.

All are welcome.

Blessings,

Annie Matthews  
Public Relations Chair  
First Congregational Church of Stamford, CT