

On August 28th, the Union Congregational Church of Isle au Haut called the Rev. Allen C. Myers to be its permanent minister by unanimous vote of the trustees, ratified by the members of the congregation attending the annual meeting of the Church. He has accepted the call with deep gratitude and with a heart open to what might lie ahead for the community, the Island, and the Church.

Rev. Myers has had a wide-ranging career. He grew up on the Maine coast, where his father pioneered a mail-order clambake business beginning in 1949. He studied geology at Princeton (writing his undergraduate thesis on the shell heaps of Damariscotta) and earned his Ph.D. in marine geology from the University of Rhode Island. As a research scientist he published papers on bottom-dwelling animals, while continuing his interest in aquaculture. He has taught at all levels from preschool through college, and directed a preschool as well as an alternative high school. He worked as a special needs teacher and counselor for both children and adults. Deeply involved in the raising of his own children, he also ran a training program for childcare workers. He worked for some years as chaplain in the hospice program of Hancock County Home Care.

Allen grew up in a Congregational church, was for many years active in the Society of Friends (Quaker), then earned his Master of Divinity degree from Bangor Theological Seminary in 2004. He was ordained in the United Church of Christ (UCC) in 2007. He became Pastor of the West Brooksville Congregational Church while his wife, the Rev. Alice Hildebrand, served as Pastor of the Deer Isle-Sunset Congregational Church. She now works as the Women's and Children's Chaplain on the staff at Maine Medical Center in Portland.

Rev. Myers is a sailor—he once sailed across the Atlantic Ocean—and his first visit to Isle au Haut was by cruising boat in 1957. His skill as a restorer of pump organs brought him back to repair the church's 70-year-old organ in 2013. He returned to catalog all the organs he could find on the Island—14 so far—to add to the inventory that he has compiled as Secretary of the Reed Organ Society. For the past three summers he has also conducted Sunday services as a guest minister.

All of these experiences have enlarged the wide range of Rev. Myers's abilities that may find application in the challenges of pastoral ministry on Isle au Haut. Allen looks forward to deepening his understanding of and pastoral connection to the Island community through visits during the winter ahead, and to leading the worship services in Isle au Haut's 1857 church building in summer.

Rev. Allen C. Myers can be reached at acmyers65@yahoo.com or (207) 776 2656.