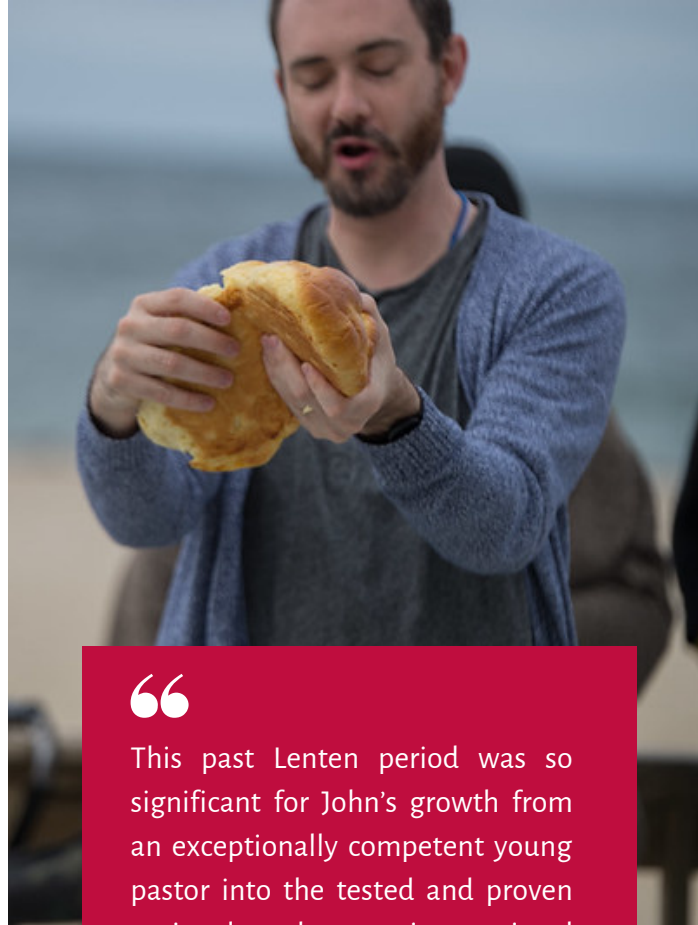


The Senior Minister Search Committee reviewed 50 profiles, interviewed 13 candidates via Zoom, watched dozens of sermons, read pastoral letters, spent hundreds of hours in prayer and discernment, and finally extended in-person invites to meet with four people, three of whom accepted. This year-long Spirit-led process led to the following recommendation.

Committee Recommendation

The fourteen members of the Search Committee recognize that neither John Edgerton nor Old South is perfect. We are confident, however, in the process that produced our candidate and unified in our belief that God is ready to use us and John's collaborative leadership to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly into the next chapter of our life together in this church and in this city. We recommend and encourage that the congregation vote to call John Marlow Edgerton to serve as our 21st Senior Minister.



“

This past Lenten period was so significant for John's growth from an exceptionally competent young pastor into the tested and proven national and even international leader he has become. If I had been writing this reference a year ago, I would have stated that "Rev. John Edgerton is one of the most promising young leaders in our church." Today, I must write that "Rev. John Edgerton is a prominent leader in our church."

-Susan Thistlethwaite,
Author and former President of the
Chicago Theological Seminary

Reverend John M. Edgerton

Candidate for the
21st Senior Minister of
Old South Church in Boston



About Rev. Edgerton

Rev. John Edgerton is well-known to Old South Church in Boston, having served as our Associate Minister from 2012-2019. Since then, John went on to serve as the Senior Minister for First United Church of Oak Park, Illinois. John is a graduate of St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and of the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Much of John's focus in ministry has been on the way Christians live their faith outside the walls of the church. John has a history of leadership in the national UCC, supporting churches to take prophetic action against racism and for LGBTQ inclusion. John loves all things food-related and spends much of his free time planning menus and cooking for his wife, Heather, and their daughter, Veronica.



In 2017, Rev. Edgerton was arrested at the nation's Capitol in a non-violent act of resistance to a repeal of the Affordable Care Act.



Search Committee Framework for Evaluation

FAITH

Worship & Preaching | Faith & Spirituality

- Inspiring/Engaging (services and writing)
- Thoughtful articulation of personal faith (brings Bible to life)
- Progressive view of faith in action
- Loving God, following Jesus Christ, & being guided by the Holy Spirit; living a life of discipleship

LEADERSHIP

Developing Talent | Management & Operations

- Builds teams that encourage diverse views and deliver effective outcomes
- Good steward of resources (record of sound fiscal management)
- Collaborative leader/Excellent mentor
- Committed to continuous learning/growth
- Ability to delegate/say no/draw boundaries
- Ability to guide others to make hard decisions with grace, wisdom and empathy

CHAMPIONING SOCIAL JUSTICE

Anti-racism | Climate Justice | Interfaith Leadership

- Demonstrated public leadership on social issues
- Evidence of mobilizing congregation & community members to action
- Thoughtful articulation of social justice advocacy as a manifestation of Christian faith
- Examples of interfaith leadership

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Engaging, Growing & Diversifying Community

- Success in growing/retaining membership
- Examples of post COVID success engaging members
- Creativity in leveraging technology
- Success in diversifying congregations
- Examples of building congregants' spiritual discipleship or leadership
- Track record of engaging children and youth in the church