



# Minister's Column

**Rev. Carlos R. Martinez**  
Interim Assistant Minister  
May 2017

## Minister's Farewell Newsletter Column

Dear Friends,

My year serving as your Interim Assistant Minister is coming to its conclusion. It has been a heartfelt and distinctive honor to be among you and to serve you. Many of you may not realize this is my first year serving as an ordained UU minister. You are my first congregation post-ordination. My hope is you feel I have served you well.

The most important lesson I learned from my interim minister training is to leave well. Leaving well means using these closing days as an opportunity to celebrate the time we have shared together, to speak to you, to hear of your good wishes for my future ministry, and to learn of your hopes and dreams for the future of this congregation. By all accounts, this is as much a sending forth as a leaving.

My going forth is filled with a complex of deep and riveting emotions. I had been entrusted to serve you at a challenging time in your long and storied history, and to support Rev. Joel's capable interim ministry. Playing a supporting role--while not in my usual repertoire--has been an opportunity to learn and grow in support of the greater objective of seeing this fabulous community restored back to health, and to once again realize its fullest potential to continue its good works to Greater Rochester and Unitarian Universalism at large.

I also carry with me the knowledge that I may be the only UU minister you will ever meet who identifies as a Mexican American. I hope I have acquitted myself well enough for you to one day make room for a minister from a traditionally marginalized community to lead this congregation.

I hasten to add that you have been my teachers. Among the lessons I will carry forward is the challenge of being vulnerable and letting you see me as I am, and to be known to you and in turn to see and know you. The measure of success in my ministry is the deep and abiding trust you have placed in me to lead you as I have been charged, and to serve you as best I could.

It is inevitable, after the course of one year in each other's company, that the bonds of affection intertwine. This is true for me as it might be for you. I am deeply moved by our abiding acquaintance, and the hope that we have fortified each other's faith in the power of our shared ministry.

To be present with you and to journey along the restorative path you have undertaken has been an honor to witness. No matter how long or short the length of time we have spent together, you will always be in my heart and in my memory as the first congregation I have been honored to serve as an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister.

In closing, I am looking forward to my next assignment, which will be to serve the similarly storied and proud Community Church of New York in Manhattan as its Interim Senior Minister.

In loving kindness,  
Rev Carlos