

Ministry Matters



Connecting with the Ministerial Search Committee

By Frank Corsoro, MSC role: Congregational Communications

How did I get here? Hmm..... Let me think. Born and raised in Dunkirk, New York (southwest of Buffalo – some of you may know where that is!) Hometown kid who stayed, got married, raised (helped anyway) four children. Played sports, worked hard, active in my community (president of the Babe Ruth baseball league, secretary of AFSCME union), loved my hometown. Relatively devout Catholic (been a godfather seven times!)

Moved away from home late in life to work for Arlington County, and found the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington in 2006 (as my wife, Linda Lutes, likes to say, “the Universe was looking out for you!”).

Finding UUCA changed my life. I made three consecutive service trips to New Orleans post-Katrina. I facilitated Covenant Groups – including my favorite the “Beginning Connectors”. Did a two-year stint on the Board, was honored to be asked to serve as a Worship Associate, and love to host exotic parties with my wife for our friends from church!

Now I find myself a member of the UUCA Ministerial Search Committee (hereafter referred as the “MSC”). And I have been assigned the role of communicating with the congregation. Oh my! Let me say that this is not something I take lightly. I consider this to be a sacred trust. And my fellow members of the MSC are every bit as committed and dedicated to this trust as am I. Because it truly is a covenant of the highest order with you – every single member, friend, inquiring friend, newcomer, and the multitude of other people touched by our community. We are in covenant with all – even if they do not know us at all.

We introduced the members of the MSC to the congregation about a month ago or so. You may remember the names and the smiling faces from the photograph that accompanied that article. Just as a reminder here we are again – chairperson Kelly Kohl, Betsy Rosenblatt Rosso, Bee Moradi, Sarah Yue, Sally Determan, Allen Keiswetter, and Frank Corsoro.

You will get to know much more about us in the months ahead as each of us will have a chance to tell you about ourselves. Every other week one of us will post to the Connections Newsletter with some of our personal story - and we will also at the same time report out on what the roles are that each of us has enthusiastically assumed as our part of the MSC team. Why are we doing this? Well, we think you should know about us as your search team, and because we will need get to know you as a member or friend of this congregation. It is an integral part of our work – and for us to find the absolute best, most

committed, and vibrant new Senior Minister that we can find. And that you and this congregation – UUCA – deserve. Sacred Trust? You better believe it?

How about I roll out to start our conversations with a timeline for the search for our new Senior Minister. You have a right to know. And perhaps you will see just how committed the MSC really is. This is not an easy process. This is not sprint – it is a marathon. It is not for the weak of heart. But we are all in this together – and together we will cross the finish and begin a new chapter in the history of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington!

Here is the timeline:

Ministerial Search Timeline

Fall – Ministerial Search Committee Activities

- Retreat, September MSC meeting
- Background: strategic plan, finances
- Planning for Appreciative Inquiry/Cottage meetings
- Communications: Launch column in Connections
- Outright to specific groups

January 2019

- Begin staff and lay interviews
- Rev. Sarah Lammert in pulpit (Director, Department of Ministries, UUA)

February 2019

- Feb 10 – Rev. Kate Walker in pulpit (advisor to UUCA MSC)
- Feb 23-24 –Beyond Categorical Thinking; Keith Kron in the pulpit (Director UUA Transitions Office)

March – April 2019

- March 3 Kick off of Annual Giving Campaign
- March 10 – Rev Terasa sermon on Appreciative Inquiry
- Appreciative Inquiry/Cottage meetings with Congregation

May 2019

- Appreciative Inquiry/Cottage meetings with Congregation continues
- Survey of Congregation

June 2019

- Report at Annual meeting (A/I and preliminary for survey)

Summer 2019

- Analysis of Survey
- Preparations for Fall

Fall 2019

- Congregational Record Completed mid-late Nov 2019

January 2020 - Discernment/Mutual Selection (all tasks confidential to MSC)

- Receiving the Initial List of applicants Jan 2
- Initial References and Websites Jan 2-15 2020
- Video/Phone Interviews of Top Applicants mid-late Jan 2020
- Pre-candidate Selection Mid Jan-early Feb 2020 (3-4 people)

February – March 2020 (all tasks confidential to MSC)

- Pre-candidate Visits (to meet MSC, neutral pulpit Sunday morning)
- Developed References
- List to Transitions Office preferred candidates

April 2020 (all tasks confidential to MSC)

- Offer to Minister
- Contract Negotiations
- Background Checks
- Announcing the Candidate

April-May 2020: Entering into a New Ministry

- Candidating Week April 26-May 3 2020
- Congregation submits Notice of Call
- New Minister Called!

Spring-Summer 2020

- Preparation for the August Start May-July 2020
- Arrival August 1, 2020 Welcome team!

September 2020

- Starting Together with New Senior Minister!!!

