



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

A Place to Connect, Grow and Serve

October 11, 2018 - Connections - Ministry Matters

Introducing Our New Ministerial Assistant/Candidate for Ministry

From Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley, Interim Senior Minister

The Assistant Minister Search Committee and I are excited to tell you that we have unanimously decided to offer our Assistant position to **Walter Clark**. Walter is a recent graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School and has done internships at the Richmond congregation as well as Newport News. He comes highly recommended by all who worked with him.

He still has some requirements to fulfill before he receives preliminary fellowship, so he is not yet ordained. Therefore we'll be calling him a Ministerial Assistant, or Candidate for Ministry. He will be in our pulpit for the first time on October 28. I want to share what the Search Committee said about him:

Diane Ullius: "I'm impressed with Walter because he seems to me a good example of a straight male who is steady, articulate, and authentic. I think he'll be a good balance for **Rev. Terasa** and a thoughtful presence in our congregation."

Kristin Keller: "Walter has solid experience in the area of social justice and expressed strong interest in supporting and growing our social justice programs. He demonstrates a sound knowledge of what it means to be an ally and how to put that intention into action, which would greatly bolster our social justice initiatives."

Irv Lachow: "Walter brings both passion and humor to the table. His collaborative approach, combined with his knowledge and commitment to social justice and pastoral care will serve UUCA well."

Lila Herndon Vizard: "Walter was extremely thoughtful and articulate about his passion for both social justice and pastoral care. He has significant experience with RE and building youth engagement both in and out of a congregation. His energy really shone through when he talked about his love for worship — designing it, preaching, creating a holistic, comprehensive experience through worship services. His references spoke of his dedication and growth in his faith throughout his time at Richmond UU. I couldn't be more enthusiastic about how well Walter will fit here and the support he will bring to UUCA."

Wendy Jessup: "During Walter's interview with us, my first reaction was: WOW! Here is a man who is thoughtful and warm, passionate about social justice, loves designing worship, has a sense of humor, and is committed to pastoral care for congregants from families with new babies, youth through elders — everything we need during this transition period. In following up with one of his references, it was clear that Walter's calm and thoughtful presence and sense of humor were instrumental in diffusing a difficult situation involving an irate congregant that could have been divisive for the congregation."

My own impression is that he will be a very collaborative partner with both me and the rest of the staff and bring a refreshing down-to-earthness that will be healthy for the congregation right now. He is the opposite of egotistical and I trust him to be a good team player. He is a very effective preacher and I am very comfortable with him leading worship. His passion for racial and economic justice are inspiring.

I'm very grateful to the Search Committee who took this responsibility very seriously and worked well together to get to a unanimous decision.

– Rev. Terasa
Tcooley@uucava.org