

From Our Board and Ministers

Monday, August 3, 2020

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Senior Minister

The Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, Minister of Religious Education and Congregational Life

August 3, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington--

We are writing today to announce new growth in our ministerial team that will help us move through the year ahead.

As you may recall, the budget we passed at the June Congregational Meeting included funds to assist our church in three critical areas: (1) providing additional ministerial services following the resignation of our associate minister, (2) assisting us in the complicated process of building community during this time of virtual ministry, and (3) engaging the congregation in the process of evaluating the ministerial needs of our church as we move forward in the years ahead.

As the Ministers and the Board discussed how to accomplish these goals, it became clear that our best approach would be to find an Interim Minister with the background and interest in working with our congregation in each of these critical areas. Rev. Macklin and the Board reached out to local and national UUA leaders for possible candidates and were introduced to Reverend Dave Clements.

Rev. Clements has a strong background in leadership and organizational development. His ministerial experience has focused on helping congregational transition. In his own words: "I believe that one of the gifts that an Interim Minister can give to a congregation is that of engagement.... My role as an Interim Minister is to assist the congregation in visioning what, where and how they want to be."

Rev. Clements received his Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School and has served as an Interim Minister for the Unitarian Church of Cape Town, South Africa, and most recently as Interim Minister for the Unitarian Church in Peoria, Illinois. Prior to his ministerial training and experience, Rev. Clements received an MA degree in business and the arts and has served in executive and fundraising positions with arts organizations.

The Ministers and the Board concur that Reverend Clements is an ideal candidate to help UUCB as we undertake our current journey of transition. It is with great excitement we announce that Reverend Dave Clements has accepted our invitation to serve as the Interim Minister Consultant, September 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. We look forward to introducing him to the congregation when he arrives.

Sincerely yours,

Stuart D. Yoak, President, Board of Directors

Abby Gitlitz, Vice President, Board of Directors

Message from Reverend Macklin -

I am both grateful and relieved that we will move forward in our ministry for this congregation with the Interim Minister Consultant, Reverend David Clements beginning in September. I find Reverend Dave's positivity, organizational skills and spiritual ease inspiring; I love the twinkle in his eyes.

In this year of Covid19, I remain grateful for the depth and breadth of the ministry offered by all of our ministers, staff and lay leaders through Small Groups, Social Justice, Pastoral Care, Religious Education, Worship and Music, Social Media as well as ongoing Connection and Communication. For me, the arrival of Interim Consultant Minister Reverend David Clements will allow this valued ministry to be enriched and remain sustainable in the year to come.

In gratitude, Mary Ann

Message from Reverend Leite -

I am thrilled to be welcoming Reverend Dave to the ministry team for this year of continued exploration of COVID-safe ways we can worship, learn, and transform our world together. After meeting with Reverend Dave, Reverend Macklin and I found we have an easy rapport and shared enthusiasm for the creative work of re-envisioning what our congregation's future ministry will be.

I am looking forward to this year of journeying with Reverend Dave and with each and all of you.

Many blessings, Emily

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana
2120 North Fee Lane, Bloomington, IN 47408
www.uubloomington.org