



# Minister's Column

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Interim Assistant Minister  
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Dear Friends,

I have just returned from my Candidating Week in Seattle. I learned a lot about myself and the congregation which was considering me as its candidate for its second settled minister in its 54 year history. The big learning was my readiness to serve congregation with whom I fell in love with on paper but had yet to meet.

My Candidating Week concluded without a call but with a deeper appreciation of the qualities necessary to serve with a congregation of the size, culture, maturity and locale such are the one I met in Seattle. Foremost in my mind was the necessity of upholding the highest standards and traditions of Unitarian Universalist ministry while being true and authentic to myself and my own self-care. My duty and responsibility—taken with the utmost seriousness—is and continues to be to ably uphold our ministry.

It is my belief that my 10 days in Seattle have been salutary and beneficial to the congregation. There were numerous conversations with different constituencies, many of whom were eager to have a voice and a seat at the decision-making table, and an eager interest in broadening the opportunities for inclusion at all levels of the congregation. My presence allowed these conversations to happen and perhaps good and propitious things will result. If there is a Pantheon for “Un-called” Ministers in Seattle I hope my photo is included and holds a place of honor on the memory wall.

As for what is next, I am in consideration for interim ministries on the East and West coasts. I am confident good things will happen.

In service and loving kindness,

Rev. Carlos