



FIRST
UNITARIAN CHURCH
EST. 1866
Living Our Liberal Faith

Rev. Dr. William Sinkford, Senior Minister
Rev. Thomas Disrud, Associate Minister
Rev. Kate Lore, Minister of Social Justice

March 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this in recognition of and recommendation for the ministerial work of Rev. Leisa Huyck.

In our work Leisa has been an exquisite minister in every way. She is thoroughly grounded in her own spiritual practice and the theology that calls her; she writes with great beauty and understands the practice of presentation; she is thoughtful and the most genuine person I have ever met.

We worked together, she as the intern minister, and I, a long-time religious education director. One of my joys is watching an intern minister enter at the beginning of the year and observing whether or not they grow in confidence. First Unitarian Church is not an easy church to do internship. We are very large and in many ways corporate, or at the very least, hierarchical. To take on the “mantel of minister” is not always easy. Leisa took us on with great joy, bringing a wonderful spirit to our table.

But the gift she brought to me was the spirit of collegiality. In terms of programs for children and youth, Leisa showed great enthusiasm, pouring over descriptions and visiting classes. The history at First Church has been to overlook the contribution that multi-generational worship can bring to a community. During our recent search process for a Senior Minister, the congregation was very clear that they wanted worship to include aspects to appeal to all ages, and this was largely due to Leisa’s influence. One of our other shortfalls is direct ministry to families with an eye to their well-being. Here, too, Leisa filled a much needed gap. Our families loved her!

I have often compared the final steps toward ordination to that of a couple planning a marriage. I have counseled couples, letting them know that before the marriage ritual they should already be “married” in heart and in soul. Leisa was a minister the moment she walked through our doors. She has carried herself as a minister and responded as a minister. Though, very flatteringly, she turned to me for advice, Leisa has truly been my colleague during her year with us. I have been very fortunate to work with her.

With many blessings for your search,

C Cartwright

Cathy Cartwright
Credentialed Religious Educator