



Susan Moseley Officially Welcomed as UUFR's First Minister

On June 3, Dr. Susan Moseley was welcomed to the congregation as the fellowship's first minister by Ruth Micklem, Board President, and Bob Weekley, chair of the minister search committee.

Bob cited the priorities and needs of the congregation in hiring a minister:

"For professional pastoral care for our members and friends, especially for the sick, the troubled, the dying, and those bereaved.

"To act in the larger community by helping to communicate to others our principles and values, and by helping us take our place among the other faith groups here.

"To participate in UUFR worship services and programs, leading us into a deeper understanding of our faith and our opportunities for service.

"To participate in regional and national Unitarian Universalist events, to share with us the depth of UU faith and activism.

"To be a consultant to the UUFR on church administration, helping us move forward wisely.

Bob added, "We believe we have rightfully chosen you, as a person of faith, experience, and principle, to lead us in all these areas.

President Ruth Micklem warmly welcomed Susan and led the congregation in a responsive reading of welcome.

Susan thanked the congregation and shared her approach to her new ministry: "Thank you for making a place for me in your fellowship and for inviting me to represent the UU community in the larger landscape of the Northern Neck. I have been asked to say a little more about myself and about my understanding of the relationship we will be working on together.

"Many of you already know a little about me and you will get to know me well as time goes on. You already know of my Presbyterian background and my vocation as an educator in the Presbyterian Church. Here's what I want to share with you today. I am not only comfortable with my move from Presbyterian to UU, I am eager for this new path. I am a wisdom seeker and a fellow sojourner on the spiritual path. I am in love with the deep mysteries and the deepest questions of life — Who are we and who are we becoming?

"I also love black coffee, good wine, and animals of all kinds. I love books, thunderstorms, and dark chocolate. I love one-on-one conversations and I love people who want to grow deep roots... down into the soil of friendship.

"I am here with you because I believe that you, too, are in love with life and the divine benevolence which guides the universe. I am here with you because I share the Unitarian Universalist Principles with you and truly believe that the pursuit of those principles can help heal and transform our world. And most of all, I am here with you because I want to be your pastor. I want to hold a safe space for you to explore your hopes, dreams, sorrows and joys. I am eager to get to know you and I want to share this journey with you."