

To Prospective Candidates for Settled Ministry at Community Unitarian Church:

As CUC's only affiliated Community Minister, I wish to welcome you.

I joined CUC as a Seminarian, and was ordained by the Congregation in 2003.

The Congregation's vote to ordain and covenant with me as CM was the first such occurrence in the Congregation's history. Since then, the Congregation has been supportive of my work in medical and mental health settings as a clinical social worker.

The covenant that supports my relationship with the Congregation allows flexibility for me to interact with, and as a representative of, the Congregation in ways that best utilize my talents. I am considered a staff member at CUC, and my contributions to Congregational life have been well received. Though I don't preach often, my presence in the pulpit has been encouraged. I also lead adult RE classes and am currently on the team teaching OWL to 7-9 grades.

CUC has a long history of supporting social justice issues and helping the underprivileged. The long-running "In the Spirit of Truth" group and its members have engaged in efforts to support anti-racist education and activism. The congregation observes Kwanzaa and "Juneteenth" each year, and is supportive of the MLK Center in White Plains. CUC is proud of its designation as a Welcoming Congregation, following a process of a year and a half undertaken during the most recent settled ministry, in which I was honored to have a leadership role. In addition, CUC has supported activism by its ministerial staff and congregants to achieve marriage equality and rights for the LGBT community in NY and nationally.

CUC's efforts to alleviate suffering in the community included a number of annual holiday projects to provide gifts and toiletries to poor families, the homeless and children of incarcerated persons. The Congregation has also lent its space occasionally to shelter homeless in conjunction with other community programs.

The Congregation also has a well established "Caring and Sharing" circle that supports members who need assistance due to illness or loss. This lay ministry is an important supplement to professional pastoral care provided by the settled minister.

In my experience, the Congregation is a caring, energetic, evolved, experienced and talented group who appreciate strong preaching skills and who, in my opinion, would benefit from a settled minister who wishes to be a prophetic voice in social justice issues.

I look forward to meeting you.

Collegially yours,

The Rev. Deb Morra, LCSW