

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato
937 Charles Ave.
Mankato, MN 56001

March 2, 2023

Dear Friends,

While it feels like a bit of a shock, I understand Rev. Rita's decision and support her as she takes these next steps in her life. It's been a good run. For me, as Board President for nearly two years, the close professional relationship she and I developed made the job so much easier and, I hope, more valuable for our congregation. Yes, she will be missed, but her many contributions to our Fellowship will carry on well into the future. We are better for her being part of our community over these nearly five years, and we wish her well on her future journeys.

While you may have some feelings of grief or anxiety over Rita's departure, we are a congregation that finds a way. This is no time for anxiety or despair about what comes next. Remember, throughout our seventy-year history we have met and overcome countless challenges. We've seen part-time and interim ministers come and go. We took a chance, bought, and then later renovated our current building. And, most recently, we successfully adapted to the disruptions brought about by the pandemic. Throughout all these experiences, we have remained strong, resilient, and forward looking. It's who we are as a congregation.

Reverend Rita will be with us through the end of June, and she will work closely with the Board as we develop a transition plan. We will be aided in this effort with support from the UUA Transition Team and representatives of the Mid America region. I have already reached out to both these resources and begun steps toward obtaining an interim minister. The process we will follow is laid out in a UUA publication titled Transitional Ministry Handbook, which you can access here: https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/t/transitional_ministry_handbook.pdf.

As we work out details of the transition process, we will do our best to keep the congregation informed through emails, the Weekly Update, announcements & other forms of communication. Questions are sure to arise, so please feel free to ask. All inquiries are welcome.

Change can be difficult, but it can also be energizing. As we take these next steps into a different UUFM, one without Reverend Rita, I ask you to think about what our Fellowship should look like and what it should stand for as we move into our next phase.

Sincerely,

Robert Finley

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