



From the Ministerial Search Committee:

The search for a new settled minister is a profound undertaking in the life of our congregation.

On May 31 last year, you appointed us as your Ministerial Search Committee. The Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Settlement Handbook guided us. We thank the hundreds of you who participated in the congregational responsibilities of that process. You shared your hopes and dreams for FUS with each other and with us. We listened and carried your values with us throughout the search and discernment process.

Our work together has brought us to this exciting moment: we now present to you Rev. Kelly Weisman Asprooth-Jackson, our candidate for the position of co-Senior Minister at First Unitarian Society of Madison.

Throughout the past week, you had opportunities to learn about Rev. Kelly AJ in various ways.

After 8 hours of conversation, multiple reference checks and many worship services, we've concluded that he is an excellent fit for our congregation.

We were drawn to his leadership style, which involves:

- Leading from the front - there is no aspect of ministry that he feels above or separate from;
- A commitment to sharing ministerial work equitably;
- A detailed attention to process, as well as the wellbeing of those involved in the process;
- Being adaptive and skilled with creative imagining;
- Listening deeply and compassionately; and
- Communicating directly, with clear vision.

Rev. Kelly AJ shared with us his hopes for a ministry with FUS that:

- ▶ Is truly shared, defined by 'power with' more than 'power over,' taking seriously the democratic ideals of our tradition;
- ▶ Holds social justice at the center, rather than the periphery;
- ▶ Is committed to anti-racism and counter-oppressive practice; dismantling white supremacy and hetero-patriarchy; and challenging us to grow deeper into the ethical imperative of our faith.
- ▶ Serves the larger Unitarian Universalism movement and forwards our unique calling as a faith without dogma, that is inclusive of a wide variety of theological orientations much needed in these times.
- ▶ Acts as a steward to work that is larger than himself, and that belongs to us, the congregation.



In Rev. Kelly AJ, we observe a strong sense of mission along with deep interest in the ideas and feelings of others. His services reflect deep thinking on topics of religion, social justice and spirituality.

Primary among the reasons he feels called to serve FUS is the desire and excitement to partner with Rev. Kelly Crocker in co-creating this new, equitable co-ministry model.

He is eager to accompany us as we:

- Grow into the bold, beautiful, and radical faith we profess to be;
- Expand our internal work of confronting and uprooting white supremacy within ourselves;
- Increase our public witness, particularly in areas where who we are in our bones meets with the painful needs of our time; and
- Strengthen our unflinching commitment to truth in the face of relativism and the dismissal of inconvenient facts; a deep faith in democracy amidst rising autocracy; and a radical love and wonder that transcends the divisions of faith and tribalism.

Therefore, your Ministerial Search Committee whole-heartedly and unanimously recommends calling the Reverend Kelly Weisman Asprooth-Jackson as our co-Senior Minister.