



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito

December 23, 2016

Dear Congregation:

The UUSFD Search Committee is delighted to announce that we have invited our own Rev. Meghan Conrad Cefalu to be our candidate for settled ministry. We are confident, based on our understanding of the congregation and our knowledge of Rev. Meghan, that there is an excellent match between what the majority of our members want in a minister and the qualities we find in her. We hope that you will agree that we have an exciting opportunity to build on the love and connection already developing here to grow together in community and service.

The congregation's highest priority is a minister who offers meaningful worship services that are theologically and intellectually stimulating and reflect the diversity of spiritual beliefs and practices of our members. This is an area in which Rev. Meghan excels, as we have experienced during her interim ministry, and as evidenced in her past experience in other UU congregations. Our Fellowship wants a minister who is warm, compassionate, and skilled at pastoral care. Rev. Meghan demonstrates these qualities in her every interaction on campus and off. In these, and many other areas we explored, we found a good match between our needs and Rev. Meghan's attributes, outlook, and experience.

As many of you know, there is a UUA rule that a minister may not accept a call as settled minister in a congregation where he/she has worked in the previous 3 years. We have been assured by the UUA that, as an autonomous congregation, we may call whomever we wish. We do not anticipate any adverse impact on UUFSD's relationship to the UUA if we call Rev. Meghan. However, Rev. Meghan requested a waiver of this rule from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) and was denied. She is still in conversation with the UUA about her situation and plans to meet with the MFC executive committee in March if she accepts a call from UUFSD to appeal their decision. The Search Committee and the Board have committed to work with her to support her appeal. She is prepared to move forward, regardless of any possible consequences for her ministerial standing, and is enthusiastic about the opportunity to accept our call.

The next step is Candidating Week, scheduled for January 15-22, 2017. Rev. Meghan will deliver sermons on both Sundays. In between, she will be available to meet with any and all groups and individuals, to listen to your dreams and concerns, and to give everyone a chance to get to know her better. The Search Committee will coordinate the schedule for that week (more information to be provided soon). On January 22, after the service, we will conduct a special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of conducting a vote on whether to call Rev. Meghan. According to our by-laws, we need 40% of our voting members present to constitute a quorum for the purpose of calling a minister, and we need at least an 80% positive vote.

Consider this letter to be NOTICE OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on JANUARY 22, after a SINGLE SERVICE at 10:00 a.m.

Your Search Committee has worked hard and we take our responsibilities seriously. Please feel free to contact the Search Committee (search@uufsd.org) or Rev. Meghan (revmeghan@uufsd.org) after Jan. 3 when she returns from a brief vacation if you have any questions. We are excited about the prospect of having Rev. Meghan with us for many years to come. We hope you agree.

Sincerely,

Lisa Shaffer, Jill Ballard, Chris Butler, Nagdeep Giri, Nancy Harmon, Don Jones, Ed Ulm
The Ministerial Search Committee