

## In the Interim – June 7, 2017

Your Acting DRE Search Committee Singu Srinivas, Jeanne Hathaway, Walter Wickersham and me, selected nearly Lifelong UU, Elizabeth Foster, to be our Acting DRE. Last Sunday the UUSWH Standing Committee unanimously confirmed this choice.

All of us who have met Elizabeth find her approachable, warm, and enthusiastic. She is a collaborative problem solver who works with others to find the best way forward. Elizabeth loves children and has experience as a Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Church in Philadelphia. That congregation was very sorry to see her leave.

Elizabeth will be with us for our Flower Communion on June 18th and everyone will have a chance to meet her in person then.

I'm delighted to pass along this letter from Elizabeth to the congregation:

*Dear UU Society of Wellesley Community,*

*I am Elizabeth Foster, your new Acting Director of Religious Education. I am honored be joining the staff at Unitarian Universalists of Wellesley this July. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all.*

*I grew up in Evanston, Illinois, and was active in the youth group at the Unitarian Church of Evanston (my uncle and aunt are both Unitarian ministers). I moved to Philadelphia to attend Bryn Mawr College, and wound up working for a number of nonprofit organizations there, including a stint in AmeriCorps in Camden, New Jersey. I also became deeply involved with the RE program at First Unitarian Church in Center City, first as a volunteer, and then as the Religious Education Coordinator. This past spring, I relocated to Boston with my husband Sam and my small, affectionate tortoiseshell cat, whose name is Jade (and who may be coaxed into attending the Blessing of the Animals next year).*

*When interviewing for the ADRE position here at Wellesley, I was really impressed by the committee's description of how dedicated their volunteers were, and how they pitched in for everything from Sunday classes to the recent successful carnival. Though the RE program at Wellesley is small, it is clearly vibrant and engaging, and I was very pleased to hear that youth of all ages continue to be involved. I am excited to see how the program can grow from here, and what new things we can try together.*

*I look forward to developing relationships with each family in the congregation, as well as any newcomers who come through our doors. My goal is to create a safe space at church where children, youth, and their families are challenged to learn more about themselves and their values, as well as about other religions and how we as UUs can do good in the world. Over the next few months, I will be working with the RE committee and Rev. Terry to get up to speed on RE at UUSWH, and to co-create the programming you will see when we welcome you back in the fall. I can't wait to get started.*

*Warmly,  
Elizabeth*

I am looking forward to working with Elizabeth and know you will give her a warm UUSWH welcome.

Please also take a moment to thank the members of the ADRE Search Committee, Singu, Jeanne and Walter for their hard work and great choice.

See you in church,

Reverend Terry Sweetser