



Rev. Dr. Paula R. Gable, Interim Minister, UUTC

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Dear Colleague:

Nestled among pristine forests flowing with rushing waterfalls, Brevard is a hidden gem, and UUTC is a jewel in its own right. That is not to say that UUTC is without challenges, because I believe the nature of our ministry demands that we address the most pressing issues of the day. Fortunately, UUTC has significant health and strength that allow members to both turn inward to strengthen community and foster spiritual growth; as well as the flexibility to turn outward to serve the wider community. There is great interest in Social Action/Justice among numerous faithful members; and, I believe many would rise to nearly any challenge if led by a minister with interest and experience in doing such work.

When I arrived at UUTC, it soon became clear that members did not fully understand the nature of interim ministry. The congregation had only known one minister in its 15 year history, and he had just retired. With Rev. Ernie at the helm, UUTC grew steadily from a handful of charter members to over 150 members. (Ernie has been very faithful at practicing a ministry of absence following retirement.)

We have done much work to establish the internal structures required to transition to a program church with a minister as Head of Staff. Fortunately, Peg Hall, the President of the Board, as well as Susan Slocum, Secretary, and Dave Roberts, Treasurer, stepped up and quickly started to undertake the necessary (and significant) steps required to implement "Hotchkiss Style" Policy Governance, which was adopted shortly before my arrival. Although some work in this area remains, Dave will continue to serve as Treasurer; and Peg has been working closely with President-elect Gary Kendrick to ensure a smooth transition. Carol Moore is a retired attorney who previously served as Church Administrator, and is the presumptive President-Elect. In addition, outgoing Secretary Susan Slocum will return to serving on Membership, and her position will be filled by Kay Webb, a member of the Administration Committee that developed the governance manual and the wording for all policies. All are very capable lay leaders.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my one-year term at UUTC. However, my husband has not. He is a self-employed massage therapist and found that the local demographics, (primarily well-off retirees and the working poor,) would not support the type of sports massage that he practices. I would consider difficulty for a "trailing spouse" to find full employment to be the single greatest "challenge" for an Interim Minister in Brevard. (A notable exception would be employment in geriatric medicine, for the need is great.)

Brevard in general, and UUTC in particular, have much to offer a minister who enjoys the astounding beauty of the expansive state and national parks in our region. During the summer, the population swells to host The Brevard Music Center and cultural events abound. During the winter, snowbirds head south, and the town takes on a slower, sleepier feeling – which I found quite charming, and which my husband considered depressing. I share this to assure you that my primary reason for leaving UUTC after only one year was due to family needs, and not a conflict or disappointment with the congregation.

If you would enjoy serving in a small, somewhat rural retirement community in one of the most beautiful, mountainous parts of the country, I strongly recommend that you consider UUTC. Feel free to call or e-mail if you have questions or require additional information. Best wishes to you for a successful resolution to your own search.

In faith and fellowship,

Rev. Dr. Paula R. Gable
Interim Minister, UUTC