

Dear colleague,

It is an honor to write this letter both as an endorsement of this wonderful community and as an encouragement to you. I hope you will consider including UUTC in your search because, for the right person, this congregation has everything a minister could want. I say that with no exaggeration.

I have only been here a few months, so what I write must be taken with that in mind, but in my 11 years of ministry I can very easily say this is the best run, best administered, most willing congregation I have worked with. This includes the church I planted!

The board is led by conscientious and balanced people who are invested in a long-term future and are deeply communicative. We are in the process of re-arranging how the different teams work here ... and while there has been some grumbling because "that is not how it was done before" ... the willingness to try a new way of being together is high. The staff is also very committed to creating a shared vision for the community. This is all I have ever asked for and I deeply appreciate the willingness of this congregation.

I would particularly like to stress that my spiritual voice has been welcomed and appreciated. That is, I have a relationship with God and I do not have to hide that here. Many people openly welcome it. And those that do not identify theologically as led by God are open to my sermons and other writing. I regularly receive compliments and sophisticated reflections from the atheists. If you are someone who is engaged in a spiritual search, not only is that accepted here I believe it is desired. The congregation is both hungry for and receptive to someone with skills in worship arts. They want to go deep. If this is the type of minister you are, you will find a warm welcome here.

There has not been a history of being very visible in the larger community in an intentional way (not uncommon for UUs as you know), but there is a desire to become more visible and I don't believe this is rhetoric. With the right person, UUTC will become a very visible institution in this county.

The physical environment is outstanding. At least once a week, when preparing for the sermon, I grab my camp chair, drive 20 minutes to a trailhead, hike in a little ways to one of the lesser-known waterfalls and read. There is good kayaking (which is important to me) and lots of mountain and road biking.

Lastly, the congregational record is spot on. This is a passionate, empathetic, kind group of people. Without any hesitation I give this community my strongest endorsement. I really hope you are fortunate enough to work and live here.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Peace,  
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