

10-30-13

To Prospective Developmental Ministers,

My name is Reverend Darcy Roake and I work as a Donor Relations Specialist in Stewardship and Development at the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). As a member of the Stewardship & Development team a large part of my job is traveling to Unitarian Universalist Congregations across the country and meeting with UU Congregants to foster stewardship and assist congregations in their growth process. In my time at the UUA it has been my very great pleasure to connect with many of the dedicated members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango (UUFDF). From the very beginning the UUFDF community has engaged me in conversations about everything from new ways to reach out to young people, to passionate discussions about our shared UU faith, to engagement with the arts and education, to what it means to be responsible stewards. I was delighted to hear that UUFDF has done the hard and important work of building a devoted community that is ready to take the next step in the church growth process and hire a full-time developmental UU Minister.

Should you have the opportunity to take the UUFDF ministry position you would find an active, devoted congregation that would support your ministry with time, talent and treasure. As is common with many fellowships that have been traditionally lay-led, the successful transition to ministry-led may take some time and a collaborative spirit but given the congregants that I have met so far I can assure you that this transition will be done in good-faith with care and love. The UUFDF congregants that I have met are passionate, fascinating and caring individuals who are deeply engaged with the work of our UU faith – from a wonderful couple who has hosted UU retreats (and UU ministers on a local and national levels) for many years, to seasoned lay-leaders and religious educators who educate and support our tradition's young people with compassion and care to individuals who have financially supported the renovation of the beautiful UU fellowship of Durango sanctuary.

But don't simply take my word for it- go visit this charming town on the border of Colorado and New Mexico. Preach in their lovely sanctuary, meet the congregation and envision what it might be like to help lead a dedicated group of UU's in their continuing work towards realizing our shared vision of justice, equity, and true fellowship. I look forward to meeting the future minister of the UU Fellowship of Durango- they will have a wonderful community to which they will minister. Best of luck in your discernment process and should you have any questions or concerns I am always available.

All my best,

Reverend Darcy Roake

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