



First Unitarian
A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Albuquerque, Edgewood, Socorro, and Carlsbad

Rev. Christine Robinson, Senior Minister
Rev. Angela Herrera, Minister

November 23, 2016

It's official; after almost 30 years as our minister, Christine is retiring next August to pursue other adventures. Under her leadership, First Unitarian has grown in many directions and become one of the largest UU congregations in the country. We look forward to celebrating her many contributions and wishing her well in retirement over the next ten months.

So the time has come to find a Senior Minister to replace Christine. The Board has anticipated this transition and is prepared to implement a thorough, fair and open process in selecting the new minister. In accordance with our bylaws, a Senior Minister must be recommended by a Search Committee elected by the congregation. The Leadership Succession Committee will accept applications for this Search Committee from November 27th until December 7th. A description of the Committee's duties and an application form for Search Committee members can be found on the church website at uuabq.org. The election of the Search Committee will take place at the church Annual Meeting on January 29, 2017.

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) guidelines for ministerial transitions specify that congregations consider any internal ministerial candidate before conducting a national search. Because Angela Herrera has expressed interest in being our next Senior Minister, she will be the first candidate considered.

The Search committee will begin their work by:

- Identifying the qualities, interests, and traits we want in our next Senior Minister based on a determination of strengths, weaknesses and desired future directions of the church
- Creating opportunities for congregational input to the process and a document which will be shared with Angela.

Angela, in turn, will present the Search Committee with a record outlining her skills, credentials, and desired direction for the ministry.

If the Search Committee and Angela determine there is a match, the committee will, after a week of events giving Angela an opportunity for dialogue and sharing with the congregation, present Angela's name for a vote at a special Congregational Meeting in early May. Members will be encouraged to participate throughout the process.

If at any time during this process either the church or Angela decides that she is not to be the next Senior Minister, an Interim Minister will be hired for one or two years while a national search is undertaken.

Detailed information about the process of selecting our next senior minister will be available at four Town Hall meetings:

- November 27th at 11:00am (Memorial Hall) and 12:30pm (Sanctuary)
- December 4th at 11:00am (Memorial Hall) and 12:30pm (Sanctuary)

Additional information can be found on the church website at uuabq.org/ministertransition

Best regards,

Larry Alei
President of the Congregation

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

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