

Rev. Hank Peirce
Interim Minister

Kiki Giatis
Director of Congregational Life
& Administration

Miriam Febres
Religious Educator & Office
Administrator



Chris Pitt
Parish Committee Chair

David Leggett
Treasurer

December 13, 2015

Dear Prospective Candidate:

The search for a new minister has the potential to be a pivotal point in the history of a faith community, and in the career of the chosen candidate. It is an exercise in looking to the future. We welcome you to join us in this exercise.

The Congregation of First Parish in Milton has entered this interim period from a decade-long settled ministry that almost all of us describe as successful and satisfying. We are in a position to build from a solid foundation. The question is what we will build.

We are a talented, competent, relatively advantaged congregation in search of definition and inspiration. We are mostly affluent, educated and intellectually open, but at the same time we tend to be insular, living almost next door to people who are far less advantaged, economically and educationally, but unsure as to how we should approach these inequalities. We initiate social action projects, but often fail to sustain them. We focus most of our time, energy and resources on our own needs, leaving little for others.

Who are we to serve, ourselves or our world? We live in a time that is faster-paced than any of us have experienced, in a community in which many seem to be able to have it all and do it all. But realistically not all is achievable. The challenge is to identify what's important and what's not so much, what is achievable and what is worth achieving, to prioritize, and learn to focus and follow-through. And we need to learn to adapt our traditional ways of doing things to new and ever more quickly-changing styles of life we and our community are living.

Most of us desire growth in the size of our congregation. We are mindful of our ongoing responsibilities to maintain our beautiful and historic campus, and this effort requires financial resources that more pledging units would help to provide. We have a substantial endowment, but are of many different minds as to how best to be good stewards of this gift from our forebears. Many of us come to church to be in the company of the good people we find here, and assume that having more such good people in our congregation would be a good thing. yet we are already straining the capacity of our facilities. We want to expand and refurbish our administrative space and parish hall, but we are hesitant to undertake a major capital campaign, given that we are unable or unwilling to fund our annual operating budget without substantial help from the endowment.

In many respects, we are at a cross-roads. We recognize that our challenges are similar to those facing most other UU congregations, but this is our intersection, and we must find our own ways from it. As a faith community, we expect our next minister to help inspire the deliberations we will undertake to decide our directions into the future. We look forward to welcoming a new minister who can support us in moving forward in these directions and in defining new ones, who will both nourish and challenge us, both spiritually and intellectually. So we welcome your interest in First Parish, and hope that the exercise will prove mutually beneficial.

Sincerely,

Chris Pitt, Chair
On behalf of the Parish Committee