

FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BR  **KL**YNN
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Transforming Lives

Kevin Jagoe

(Ministerial Intern August 2016-June 2018)



When I arrived at First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn almost two years ago, I did not know what would happen next. My husband and I had packed up our lives and drove from Minneapolis to New York following my dream to become a minister. We were staying with a friend, had no apartment, and were full of shiny enthusiasm to begin this chapter.

I began by preaching at our summer worship that Community Can Be Holy Now. A statement of faith that you all have proven true for me time and time again. Over the course of these two church years, you have helped teach me what it means to be a minister.

We have marched together for environmental justice in Washington DC. We have held vigils. We have raised money together. We have protested together. We have hung prayer flags and love locks. We have laughed together. We have meditated and studied UU history. We have had many, many meals together. And we have cried together.

You have invited me into your homes and your hearts. Shared your pastoral needs and your wedding days. We have said goodbye to loved ones together. We have explored race and how to change this beloved institution together.

I have learned what prayerful meditation is with you all and that Unitarian congregations can have Communion as well as Deacons.

I've become a humanist that prays here and a Unitarian Universalist minister thanks to your trust and support through this formation process.

The next chapter approaches, I am off to Candidate with BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Warrington, PA. I hope to be Called as their next Senior Minister on May 6.

I believe one of the most important lessons I have learned through this internship is to remain open to possibilities. I love a solid plan and a spreadsheet but the moments where real magic happens are in between the cracks of best-laid plans.

My final Sunday as your ministerial intern will be June 10th. Between now and then I hope we learn what it means to say a good goodbye to one another. Thank you all for all that you have shared, invited, created, and gifted to me as your minister-in-training.

All that I have experienced here is now part of the ministry I will bring to future congregations. Your openness as a teaching congregation is not only a gift to me but to all the seminarians who have been and will be part of this amazing community.

Know that the lessons learned here and the times you have ministered me into my own ministry are carried forward and will never be forgotten.

April 22, 2018