



Expression of Interest by

Candidate for President of the Congregation

Gregory North

1. Why are you interested in serving as President at First Unitarian Church?

- It has been a privilege to serve as your president as we have gone through this period of challenge and transformation. A year ago we were well underway with Rev. Shari's exciting first year – but we could not have expected to face a global pandemic. It has been inspiring to watch the way our remarkable staff, including our new Assistant Minister Rev. Margalie, pivoted to create a digital home for us. In that virtual space we have not only stayed together, but we have also grown closer. We have also seen this past year Rochester become a focal point for the Black Lives Matter protests. Our community continues to stand with those who protest systematic racism and brutality in policing. In so many ways we are meeting the challenge of this moment when the world clearly needs the perspective, the principles, and the participation of Unitarian Universalists. I look forward to the opportunities ahead, working with Rev Shari and our Board to continue to plan and build a future that fulfills our Ends.

2. What skills and strengths do you bring to this role?

- In addition to my experience leading church boards my professional career has been in strategy and process improvement, as a leader within companies and as the founder of a

consulting firm providing business transformation services. My expertise includes facilitating meetings, leading workshops and improving ways of working. I also recognize how very different the corporate world is from a voluntary organization like a church community, requiring different skills in listening, engaging and leading.

3. What thoughts do you have about cultivating leadership among other church members?

- This is an area where we have the opportunity both to expand our circle of leadership and better prepare our future leaders to serve the First UU community. I recently developed and led leadership development programs for the NYS Department of Labor and NY Arc chapters and look forward to partnering with our Nominating Committee to explore new approaches, fully leveraging resources of our denomination.

4. Describe your participation in this church (past and present) and other relevant community or work organizations.

- I currently serve as our congregational president. I served on the board of three churches and am on my third year here at First Unitarian. In my prior board tenures I served as president. Coincidentally both were during times of ministerial transition. Prior to joining our BOT I served as a Youth Advisor and enjoyed participating in First Light Players productions and classes. During my term on the BOT we worked with Rev. Joel to heal our community, improve our processes and take care of our building. I helped lead the Our Road Ahead program to discern our Vision, Mission and Ends, participated in our Annual Budget Drive and recently our COVID-19 task force.

5. Which service do you regularly attend?

- We attend the second service on Sunday and frequently attend Soul Assembly.