

Jim Kennedy

In a better world, we wouldn’t need a minister. We wouldn’t need food banks, or soldiers.

Until then, we have a need for a leader who laughs with us, gets angry with us, cries with us.

At FUSF, the search for a new minister gives the congregation an opportunity to find a leader who will accompany us as we move in a new direction. For decades we had the steadying, present influence of Carol Rosine. Now we search not for a replacement, but a person who shares our passion for creativity, our longing for justice, and our commitment to each other.

I have an academic background in psychology, with a Bachelor’s from Fairfield University and a Master’s in Human Relations from AIC.

Professionally, I’ve been a mental health worker for people with mental illness, a counselor for the homeless, a supervisor in call centers and a manager for global operations.

I came to the UU faith late in life, joining the Medford congregation eight years ago. It is a natural fit, as I see the role of any faith tradition to expand the boundaries of inclusion to reach to the edges of the universe. The Catholic faith was, for me, a little too limiting. I couldn’t be part of a group that wouldn’t allow women to speak openly from the pulpit. While in Medford, I coordinated the social hour with my wife, Rebecca, much like I do here in Franklin. I also was chairperson of the Board of Trustees during a similar transition for that congregation.

This experience and worldview gives me a certain perspective on life that I would bring to the search process for the new minister at FUSF. With an unyielding faith in humanity and an unbending critical eye on our individual successes and failures, I think I would contribute meaningfully and nurturingly to the decision to welcome a new leader to our congregation.

I ask for your vote to be part of the Search Committee.