

# Rev. Eric H. Meter

A third generation Unitarian Universalist, Rev. Eric currently serves as interim minister of the Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church in Racine, Wisconsin.

Prior to answering the call to ministry, Eric worked with both the Minnesota Literacy Council in St. Paul, MN and the Twin Cities' Southeast Asian refugee and immigrant communities. He is a graduate of Macalester College in St. Paul and Starr King School for the ministry in Berkeley, CA.



Rev. Eric has served UU congregations in Ohio, northern California and upstate New York. In 2003, he spent a sabbatical month in South Africa, a highlight of which was preaching at an African Methodist Episcopal church in Soweto. Eric has also made three pilgrimages to the Unitarian congregations of Transylvania, and currently serves on the UU Partner Church Council Board of Directors.

Rev. Eric is passionate about grief work, small group ministry, interfaith cooperation and the possibilities of religious community. In 2007, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Pacific Central District of the UUA.



After many years working in the field of organ donation in both family support and hospital development roles, Eric's wife, Ann De Leon, is now a Covid-19 contact tracer for the University of Wisconsin. She has two children from her first marriage, both now adults in their 30s. Ryan is about to complete her medical residency in podiatry in Cleveland, Ohio, while CJ works as an auto mechanic outside Raleigh, North Carolina.

Ann and Eric are also proud companions of two moderately well-behaved dogs. When they allow him to, Eric enjoys photography, hiking, travel, reading the novels of Louise Penny and John Scalzi, and listening to anything by Rhiannon Giddens.

## Highlights of his ministerial service include:

### **Racine, Wisconsin (2020 – present) ~ Interim Minister ~ 275 adults, 40 children/youth**

- Continued the interim work that began in 2018 when the former minister retired after a tenure of more than 43 years
- Helped draft policies including reopening church buildings following the Covid-19 pandemic shut down
- Advised the congregation's first Settled Minister Search Committee in over 45 years
- Participated in monthly Zoom conversations with interfaith leaders hosted by the city mayor
- Supported church staff and helped educate church leadership on current denominational guidelines and best practices
- Supported the congregation's religious education, worship and pastoral care teams



### **Columbus, Ohio (2008 – 2020) ~ Associate Minister ~ 550 adults, 200 children/youth**

- Transformed the existing grief group and later helped bring the Grief Recovery Method to the congregation (GRM classes were for both the larger community and church members)
- Led, with significant lay support, a pastoral team of 20+ members who reached out regularly to more than 60 church members and friends
- Helped lead quarterly Senior Gatherings in which an informal worship and presentation was followed by a luncheon (the congregation's little known if not best kept secret) for between 50 – 80 participants
- Served as part of two education committees under the local congregationally based community organizing group BREAD; one of those committees worked with the Columbus City Schools on dismantling the 'school to prison' pipeline; the other worked with the Police Department and community groups to lower gun violence in several areas throughout the city
- Led the congregation's Coming of Age class for 14-15 year old youth, helping them express who they are and/or wanted to be as people of faith
- Reshaped and co-led the congregation's Path to Membership classes
- Brought the UU Wellspring program to the congregation and led its first classes

- Oversaw the congregation's small group ministry programs, including one for Young Adults
- Led a Youth Pilgrimage to the congregation's partner church in Bölön, Transylvania
- Led a youth service project to New Orleans to help the continuing efforts to rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

**Rochester, New York (2007 - 2008) ~ Interim Minister ~ 170 adults, 30 children/youth**

- Helped plan a series of conversations among members in which congregants shared positive experiences of the church with one another, often for the first time
- Offered a class for adults on negotiating conflict titled *Learning Conversations*
- Re-crafted the congregation's practice of offering Joys and Sorrows during worship
- Actively participated in the Rochester Interfaith network, which included preaching at the group's annual Thanksgiving dinner (broadcast on local cable)
- Helped begin a local UU congregation cluster with three other area congregations

**Livermore California (1997 - 2007) ~ Settled Minister ~ 125 adults, 50 children/youth**

- Led a justice trip of 14 youth and 7 other adults to help rebuild a neighborhood in Plaquemines Parish outside New Orleans, LA after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- Led the congregation through its first Capital Campaign in which the sanctuary was thoroughly remodeled, and two new buildings were constructed for classroom and other meeting space
- Helped the congregation partner with other UUs by both co-hosting two Pacific Central District Assemblies and becoming part of an active cluster with four other UU congregations
- Served as the president of the Tri-Valley Interfaith Council from July 2001 to June 2003



- Helped lead annual Baccalaureate ceremonies for the city's graduating high school seniors
- Served as president of the Pacific Central UU Ministers Association from May of 2006 to April 2007
- Served as co-chair of an initiative among 17 San Francisco Bay Area UU congregations to better market UUism and, subsequently, welcome and integrate new members into our congregations