



FirstU's Settled Minister Search Committee is thrilled ... both to announce the candidate we have unanimously chosen to be our next Settled Minister ... and to say we think he is going to be a terrific partner with us!



Our candidate is Rev. Eric H. Meter

While all of our “final four” applicants were very good in different ways, it is clear to us that Rev. Eric is the best fit with the ministerial competencies and personal qualities that our congregational survey and focus groups told us were important. We kept these in mind in our interviews and reference checks, growing more and more impressed with Rev. Eric as these unfolded.

By the end, we knew we had genuinely enjoyed getting to know Rev. Eric, and we also understood why his current and former congregations all wish he could have stayed with them as their minister. His breadth and depth of experience, his way of being with others, and his commitment to shared ministry and social justice, make him a very special minister. To top it off, it is obvious to us that Rev. Eric and his wife Ann are genuinely excited to move to Ottawa,

already have some familiarity with Canada, and are eager to learn the subtleties of our culture.

Now it is up to you to get to know Rev. Eric as best you can in these Covid times. You can begin by reading the short biography below, and then using the links to listen to some of his sermons.

However, that is just a start. A more detailed description of Rev. Eric's past Minister roles can be found in the 'Rev. Eric Meter Bio' on the [Member page](#) of the FirstU website. Next Friday the eUU will give you more information on Rev. Eric, as well as how to join the Sunday April 18 Fireside Chat as an observer (7:30pm), and the schedule of meetings planned between April 19 – May 2 during Candidating week.

A few additional notes:

- The [Minister Search webpage](#) has recently been updated and provides some helpful background on the settled minister search process.
- If you are interested in accessing the information about Rev. Eric stored on the Member page, but you are either not a member or you don't know the access code, please send an email to the [Search Team](#) and we will forward you the information.

With eager anticipation,

Your Settled Minister Search Committee

Amy Bérubé, Mary Ella Keblusek, Jane Lindsay, Mike Lloyd, Jodi McIntosh, Phil Nagy, and Lena Talback.

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.

Rev. Eric has extensive ministerial experience:

Racine, Wisconsin (2020 – present)

~ Interim Minister ~ 275 adults, 40 children/youth

Columbus, Ohio (2008 – 2020)

~ Associate Minister ~ 550 adults, 200 children/youth

Rochester, New York (2007 – 2008)

~ Interim Minister ~ 170 adults, 30 children/youth

Livermore, California (1997 – 2007)

~ Settled Minister ~ 125 adults, 50 children/youth

See the [Member page](#) of the website for more details about Rev. Eric's roles and accomplishments in these ministries.

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 contract 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 podiatric medicine residency in Cleveland, Ohio and 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.



Suggested Sermon Links

Dec 13, 2020: [Finding Stillness](#)

Mar 13, 2021: [The Road Ahead](#)

(Guest Minister at First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto)

April 4, 2021: [Practicing Resurrection](#)