



The Interim Minister Search Task Force is delighted to introduce

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Our new Interim Minister, comes to us from 10 years as the pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson (Arizona), preceded by 5 years with First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio, and her internship with the UU congregation in Chapel Hill, NC. She told us, "Times of transitions are ripe with opportunity for growth and change. The congregations I have served have taught me well what our UU congregations need in order to thrive in the 21st century."

Ministerial experience:

Diane’s service in Tucson began in 2006. She helped the congregation to stabilize after several turnovers of their pulpit, to improve their organizational structure, to grow, and to revitalize their social justice work. In 2012 the church’s ministry “No More Deaths” was awarded the Wilton Peace Prize for their humanitarian efforts to end migrant suffering in the deserts of southern Arizona, and in 2010 the church received the Bennett Award for exemplary social justice work.

In contrast to the Tucson church of nearly 300 members, the Marietta congregation was only around 120, and was about to celebrate its 150th anniversary. They had been through several years of bitter controversy and conflict. In addition, Diane’s 5 years there included coping with major floods that left members’ homes flooded, nearly wiped out the business district, and left portions of the church building unusable. By the time she left, the congregation was healthy and stable and the building and grounds were in the best shape they had been in years.

Personal and family situation:

AJ, her husband for over 40 years, took early retirement from a 20-year career at the same time that Diane entered seminary. She says, "Since then he’s been a supportive minister’s spouse, finding work wherever we’ve been called. AJ currently works for the University of Arizona in the Parking and Transportation Department. In the past, he owned and operated a small furniture making business. As he’s beginning to think about retirement, he’s also developing a new woodworking business. We have two adult sons, a beautiful daughter-in-law, and two adorable cats."

Life experiences that prepared her for the ministry include:

<u>Experiences</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
Marriage for over 40 years	the ability to give and receive love, even through hard times.
Work in a bank	skills of administration and financial management.
Years as a stay-at-home mom	patience and first-hand experience of human development.
Community involvement	skills in volunteer recruitment and management, community building, fundraising.
Work in a large department store	personnel and supervisory skills.
Work in social services agencies	counseling skills and knowledge about social systems.

Closing Words (for now):

When asked to finish introducing herself in any way she would like to, Diane said:

“My greatest attributes are my warm and friendly nature, my open and compassionate heart, my sharp and curious intellect, and my unswerving commitment to peace and justice in the world. I possess an indomitable spirit and a gentle soul. These I offer in service as a minister to a Unitarian Universalist congregation.”