



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

16 Ford Avenue, Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

www.uuso.org email: uuso@uuso.org

Creating beloved community...

Freely seeking the light...

Reaching for a better world...

To whom it may concern,

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta has had the pleasure of hiring Reverend Kimberley Debus as our Sabbatical minister during the period of August 4, 2018 through December 2, 2018.

During this time period, UUSO was in the midst of developing a congregational covenant of right relations to be voted upon during Rev. Kimberley's tenure. She has been highly instrumental in not only helping the board's covenant subcommittee to craft the final document but also in providing the needed guidance about the true nature and meaning of a covenantal practice among our members and friends. Rev. Kimberley wisely raised the concern that this could end up being a document that once voted upon and approved by the congregation, might potentially not be lived into fully. To help us avoid this result, she frequently made the point through a variety of creative media that active engagement and heartfelt respect and kindness for each other needed to be kept front and center, not only now but continuing beyond her four month tenure with us. This gentle but clear and direct coaching put us on a much firmer and more spiritually grounded path as we voted to approve our new Covenant.

Additionally, you may know that Rev. Kimberley's ministry is one that uses the arts as a tool for reaching the deeper recesses of the minds and hearts of those who benefit from her ministry. For example, she has a beautiful singing voice and actually joined in our choir while also leading worship. She used impactful visual, physical, and even edible aids to express the themes of her sermons. If you are lucky enough to receive her services as we have been, you will enjoy Rev. Kimberley's many creative gifts and talents. You will also find out that while she does not shy away from directly working to transform conflicts, bring up hard topics, or ensure a safe space to express pain and despair when needed, Rev. Kimberley has a gentle respectful approach to achieving positive change that allows for people to grow into transformation rather than be dragged into it.

She also cares....really cares... about the people for whom she is charged with being the container for their spiritual wellbeing. Many blessings to you and Rev. Kimberley from our Oneonta New York UU congregation! We hope that you will have the opportunity to journey together as we have this past summer and fall.

I certainly would be open to being contacted regarding any further information you might seek concerning Rev. Kimberley's ministry with us.

With gratitude for our shared covenantal faith,

Karen Palmer greenspeech3278@gmail.com 607-267-4793

President, Board of Trustees

Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta