

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains
468 Rosedale Avenue · White Plains, NY 10605
914-946-1660 · cucwp.org



April 28, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I write in support of Rev. Kimberley Debus' work as an interim minister and guest speaker. From October 2019 through March 2020, Rev. Kimberley served as Sabbatical Minister at Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation in White Plains, NY, where I have worked as Music Director since 1990. Her superlative organization, sensitivity to the needs of staff, and insightful guidance of the congregation created at once a nurturing spiritual environment for our community.

Rev. Kimberley showed impressive planning, in providing the staff with detailed information about upcoming services more than a month in advance. Her thorough notes not only addressed the mechanics of presenting services, but also sought to illuminate the emotional and spiritual content of worship. In her dealings with us on staff, Rev. Kimberley was consistently respectful and supportive, eagerly eliciting candid feedback, and created a safe environment for mutual growth. I was been especially touched by her determination not only to maintain the status quo at CUUC in the absence of our settled minister, but to leave the institution better off for her service.

As a church musician for 30 years, I feel compelled as well to add a few words about Rev. Kimberley's musical expertise. Her fine singing voice, profound knowledge of UU hymnody, and appreciation of music as a spiritual practice, have enriched worship in deeply personal ways. I am especially appreciative of her willingness to join the CUUC Choir on occasion and to collaborate with me on several musically demanding selections as a vocal artist. Her ministry has extended far beyond the pulpit.

The time period encompassed by Rev. Kimberley's ministry included the transition to the world of pandemic, social distancing, and remote worship. Her leadership and organizational skills ensured that our community never experienced an absence of worship or a loss of caring. Working closely with fellow staff members and congregants, Rev. Kimberley quickly coordinated online Sunday morning services, which conserved many of the facets of in-person worship. Not only did she continue to offer inspiring, comforting homilies, but she saw to it that hymn singing, instrumental music-making, moments of reflection and concern, and congregational participation remained vital components of our services.

When we welcomed back our Senior Minister Rev. Meredith Garmon at the beginning of April, we were able to offer him a blueprint for navigating services in turbulent times as well as a community fortified by the strong collaborative spirit and mutual supportiveness engendered by Rev. Kimberley's ministry.

In fellowship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Kent', followed by a large, stylized flourish or scribble.

Adam Kent, Director of Music Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains