



FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY

It is with great pleasure that I write this recommendation for the Rev. Roger Bertschausen. Roger has served as the Interim Minister for our congregation for the past year and it has been an immense joy to work with him in this capacity. Roger joined us for our third year of interim ministry and came to us at a unique time in the life of this congregation. Not only was this a third year of interim after the retirement of a 30-year minister, but also a year of global pandemic.

Roger quickly became a stabilizing force for our congregation and our staff team. He was able to build strong relationships in a purely virtual setting which highlights one of the greatest strengths he brings to ministry, his intentionality around and deep belief in co-creating communities of partnership and shared leadership. This was evident in his work especially with our staff and also with our Board of Trustees. Roger listened deeply, brought curiosity and wonder, and with a great deal of openness, helped our congregation discern the future of our ministry.

Roger's knowledge of church systems and policy governance was crucial in our success over the past year. He reminded us that governance is a framework for covenant, for the promises we make, and is a tool to help us understand and work toward the impact we would like to make in this world. Roger was able to consistently and gently, through his words and by his own example, call us back to the people and the community we hope to be.

Roger brings many strengths to this ministry. He faces difficult issues head on, is direct and honest, and works through challenging situations with a great deal of compassion and integrity. He is calm and funny, extremely self-aware and lets you know, in every encounter, how deeply he values the insights and the ideas of others.

I will be forever grateful for the gift of this time, serving in shared ministry with the Rev. Roger Bertschausen. My own ministry is stronger, and I know that I, and the First Unitarian Society of Madison, will forever benefit from the guidance, the wisdom, and the deep commitment he brought to us.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kelly J. Crocker
Minister of Congregational Life