

Policy on Endorsing Community Ministers  
Approved by the Board of Trustees October 18, 2011

## Introduction

Within the Unitarian Universalist Association, there are three different ministerial tracks: Parish Ministry, Ministry of Religious Education, and Community Ministry. Community Ministers are persons qualified to do ministries of counseling, chaplaincy, social justice, education in religious studies, or other ministries as the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee may recognize.

A covenant between a Unitarian Universalist congregation and a Unitarian Universalist Community Minister seeks to promote shared purposes in a wider ministry beyond the congregation. The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota enters into covenants with Community Ministers as one means of accomplishing the church's mission. We hope community ministers enter this covenant understanding that their ministries flourish best when undertaken in relationship to a congregational community of support and accountability. This document describes a general policy under which a community minister might formally affiliate with our congregation.

## General Policy

- I. For the Board to endorse someone as a community minister, he or she must be:
  - a. In ministerial fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).
  - b. Ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister.
  - c. A member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota in good standing for one year.
  - d. Invited to be endorsed by the parish minister and the Board of Trustees.
- II. The church will not pay or employ an endorsed Community Minister on any permanent basis.
- III. The Community Minister will not receive compensation or repayment for professional expenses from the church for work as a community minister.
- IV. A Community Minister will not do rites of passage such as weddings or memorial services for members of the church, without the approval of the parish minister.
- V. The rules of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Florida District of the Unitarian Universalist Association regarding an endorsed Community Minister participating as a ministerial delegate at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly and District meetings will apply.

VI. The church will identify the Community Minister as endorsed by the church on all annual reports to the UUA and other regional bodies. The church will regularly include his or her name and relationship as endorsed Community Minister in the orders of service, in the newsletter, and in the church annual report. The church will invite Community Ministers to participate in formal gatherings of the church's ministers such as ordinations and installations. The Community Minister will annually provide a report of his or her work and the church will include this in its annual report.

VII. The endorsed Community Minister will meet with the parish minister at least once a year to review their relationship. They will explore how they might better advance the mission of the church. The Community and Parish Minister will conduct their relationship with each other in accord with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Code of Professional Conduct. Their roles are to advance the church's mission and to support each other's ministries.

VIII. The Parish Minister will be responsible for the ongoing coordination of the relationship with endorsed Community Ministers.