



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF KENT**  
**ESTABLISHED 1866**

November 21, 2017

Dear Prospective Minister,

My name is Andrew Rome and I'm currently the Moderator of our Board of Trustees at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. I'm so pleased to be writing to you, potentially our future minister. It has been a privilege of mine to serve in church leadership during a transitional time, which has been a challenge but, I think, allows both me and our congregation to grow. I'm wholeheartedly excited for our next phase of transition, whatever that may bring.

I'd like to introduce our church to you and invite you to take a closer look. I love our community, our people, our values, the way I see us act with each other and in the world. I find it inspiring for myself, for my family, and hopefully for others.

I have to acknowledge we've had a tough year. The big story, simply put, is we terminated early the contract of our interim minister. What a difficult situation for everyone, which we're in despite everyone's concerted efforts, good intentions, mistakes, and flaws. When we're at our best, this is our greatest opportunity for growth and positive change. Beyond how we understood our interim minister, our experience motivates us to build stronger intentional relationships with each other, address inadequacies in our structures, and learn how to be better in the future. We don't always achieve our ideals, but in my experience, our church brings out the best in me and in the people I work with.

The fundamental strength of our church is in the good people who comprise it and in the culture that encourages us to be our best selves. During a transitional year in which principled people disagreed thoughtfully about any planned course of action, I have felt supported and loved by those people. I see our congregants as kind, loving people, who are absolutely committed and dedicated to our community, who contain all our usual human frailties and failings, who care deeply for others, and need care themselves.

The culture of our church has been shaped by our ministers and laity. I understand we have an especially high proportion of members involved in committee and leadership work – which reflects not just some highly skilled people, but also an effort to help each person find their meaningful work regardless of ability. This appreciation of each person's value is pervasive and has been cultivated by our excellent ministers and continued at every level of the church. We don't just bring out the best in ourselves for church, we also see the best in each other. Are we the right church for you? Are you the right minister for us? Rather, I hope for an opportunity to grow together in relationship, more than a perfect "fit". Our strengths and challenges may be opportunities for our congregation and for our next called minister both. Together, I see the potential for so much good, caring for each other and for our world.

In faith and love,

J. Andrew Rome, UUCK Moderator