

Dear members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent,

Hello! My name is Kristina, and I'm really looking forward to meeting you!

But first, I want to tell you how sorry I was to hear of the grief, shock, and sorrow you experienced upon losing your beloved minister, so suddenly and unexpectedly, last winter. Learning of Rev. Steven's death, I grieved with you, along with many of our colleagues.

Last Saturday, I was grateful to attend (virtually) the soulful and deeply moving memorial service that you held to honor Rev. Steven's beautiful life and his legacy in Kent. It was a gift to learn more about him, his ministry, and his people, the people of UUCK.

And with the understanding that all of this is bittersweet and layered and complex-- I want to share with you how honored I am to say yes to the opportunity to serve your congregation in the coming year.

I have been aware of your congregation for a while now, through my connection with Central East Region Summer Institute. You REALLY represent AT CERSI every summer!

Of course, I knew of your reputation for fruitful ministry shared among ordained and lay ministers, staff, and congregational leaders.

Of course, I knew of a strong legacy of music and spiritual joy unfolding through the arts.

Of course, I knew that you were all about multigenerational fun and transformation!

But after spending time with your search committee, I'm even more excited about serving as your minister, and coming to know the Kent community through direct experience.

The future is unknown, but it tingles with possibility, energy, and hope. I'm excited to discover what new dance steps we can do together. I will strive to understand and respect the complexity of your beautiful and bittersweet past...while savoring and appreciating the present...and the ways that we can make meaning together as the future unfolds.

As mentioned, there will be opportunities for "meet & greets" later this summer, and I'm very much looking forward to them. But for now, let me simply say...I am thrilled and honored and grateful for this opportunity to serve you. May your summer be filled with joy, stars, laughter, and good company. I look forward to seeing you in Kent very soon.

With gratitude, hope, and anticipation!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rev. Kristina M. Church". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rev. Kristina M. Church