

# Board News



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## Special Congregational Meeting for Calling the Minister

Following the second service on Sunday, May 7, there was a Congregational Meeting to extend a call to Reverend Luke Stevens-Royer as our settled Minister. The meeting was attended by 151 members of the congregation.

The vote totals for the motion are below.

In favor: 151

Opposed: 0

We are delighted that Reverend Luke has been overwhelmingly called to serve the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester, Minnesota.

Jerry Katzmann, Board President

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## Dear members and friends at the First UU Church,

It is with great joy and deep gratitude that I accept your call to be the next Settled Minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester!

What a week we had together! From the beauty of Sunday services, to deep conversation around every aspect of church life, this week was a beautiful glimpse of the strong history and the vibrant future of this church. We had no shortage of hope, of stories, of laughter, of committed people who love this church - no shortage of support and hospitality extended to me and my family from welcome gatherings to welcome cards from the children and youth - and no shortage of what every good church has: enough potluck treats to last a lifetime!

I am thrilled to begin this journey of ministry with you. I am honored to serve with an excellent and dedicated staff. Jenna and I are overjoyed to find and make a home for our girls, Louisa (3) and Clara (1), in Rochester (the Maypole is already a big hit in our home!).

I share these words from a formative minister in the line of leaders I now, in humility, join - Rev. Eliza Tupper Wilkes: *"Life has in it a re-creating force...Our destinies are in our own hands...What thou lovest thou becomest."*

It is clear you love this church, and you love justice, pluralism, inclusion, beauty, courage, and joy. It is in the clasp of hands - past, present and future - that our common destiny takes shape, in a constant journey of *becoming*. It was a gift to hear the stories and hopes of your hearts, and this is, as the Board President reminded me this morning, *only the beginning*. I am filled with hope for what we can create together.

In faith and gratitude,  
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer

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