

## **Sample MFC Interview Questions**

### **Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression/Multiculturalism**

You would like your congregation to be more active in AR/AR/MC work. When you raise this for discussion, the Board President objects that the congregation has done the work necessary to become a Welcoming Congregation and doesn't need to do more. How do you respond to this as a minister?

Tell us how you experience yourself as a person of privilege and how this will impact your ministry. Tell us how you experience yourself as a person who has been oppressed and how this will impact your ministry.

You are a minister of a church, and a longtime member comes to you and says she is beginning a gender transition, and would like the church to support her. What would you do?

### **Church History**

What is the Christian scriptural foundation for the formation of the church? In answering, please try to reference parts of the Christian scripture.

What is the origin of our liturgy?

### **Unitarian Universalist History**

Imagine you are writing a homily on each of the following topics for a youth service. Tell me the main idea you will communicate and how you will make it relevant to youth today.

- (a) The Dedham Decision
- (b) Cambridge Platform
- (c) Black Empowerment Controversy
- (d) Iowa Sisterhood
- (e) James Freeman Clark
- (f) Margaret Fuller

Identify three historical figures from Unitarian/Universalist history that have influenced your call to ministry and tell us how they have done so.

What are two transformative moments in our history pre-19th century? Two from the 19th century? Two since the merger?

### **Unitarian Universalist Polity**

Identify a document that serves as the foundation for congregational polity. How did this document come to be?

What is the role of moderator on the UUA Board?

How does a member get his/her congregation to take a position on an issue of importance?

### **Religious Education**

Two teenagers in the youth group are discovered enjoying sexual relations during an overnight. The youth group leader comes to you in tears. What would you do?

What is the purpose of multigenerational worship? What elements should be included in a multigenerational service?

What are the spiritual needs of 5 year olds? Is there an RE curriculum that might address this?

### **Sexual Health**

What should a minister do if they become romantically attracted to a member of their congregation?

Name three things that should be in a Safe Congregations Policy.

Name three sexuality issues that an adult in a long-term relationship might bring to a minister for counseling.

### **Theology**

Tell us three different theological perspectives on God. Name a theologian who has articulated each of the three theological perspectives you just described.

William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson and John Dietrich walk into a bar. The bartender says, "Maybe you all could help me. My daughter has decided that there is no God." How would each of these theologians respond?

Name a liberation theologian and discuss his or her ideas. How has this influenced you?

### **World Religions**

What is the good news of:

- (a) Hinduism
- (b) Islam
- (c) Judaism
- (d) Christianity
- (e) Buddhism
- (f) Unitarian Universalism

In Islam, when is war justified?

Name an important holiday from each of the following religions and explain how or why a UU might celebrate it appropriately:

- (a) Judaism
- (b) Christianity
- (c) Islam
- (d) Buddhism
- (e) Hinduism
- (f) Paganism
- (g) Unitarian Universalism

### **Miscellaneous**

Regarding the counsel that you received following your RSCC interview, the subcommittee asked you to continue your discernment between parish and community ministries and to deepen your commitment by attending district and denominational events. What have you done in response?

The issue of self-care is raised in several areas in your packet. What steps are you taking to address this area of growth?

Your first RSCC interview led to your candidacy being postponed. What did you feel about this decision? How did you prepare for your return RSCC experience? What happened during this interview? Where you surprised at their decision? Tell us more.

How did having a sibling with developmental disabilities impact your calling to become a minister? Can you give an example? What if you had a congregant who said something offensive about developmentally disabled people and you felt really angry? What would you say in response?

Your CPE supervisor wrote: "He has a strong need for harmony and he will need to learn to be more assertive." Will you please share with us one recent conflict in your ministry that went well, and one that did not go well? How were these situations effected by your ability to be assertive?

Tell us a time when you repressed emotion? Can you tell us a time when your expression of anger didn't work out in your ministry? Please tell us a time when you were aware of being a people pleaser? Do you identify as a minister or a minister/social worker?

From your career assessment, there is a recommendation that you take coursework on managing conflict. In looking at your packet, it's not clear if you did. Did you follow up with their suggestion and if so, how?

There is a recommendation in your RSCC letter that you take care of your mental health

and be more serious about self care. What have you done in response?

You have served as a Director of Religious Education. Would you talk about the internal shift between being a DRE and a minister? What is your philosophy of religious education?

Your RSCC letter expressed concern that your ministerial call was not always clearly distinct from your own personal agenda. What did you think of that comment? What have you done to clarify your call? Your packet indicates that you were very successful in your prior profession. How did you make sense of your disappointing first interview with the RSCC?

How has growing up as a Unitarian Universalist informed your call to serve our ministry?

How has growing up Jewish influenced your ministry?

Tell us about your transition from serving as a mental health counselor to becoming a minister. How do you know you are ministering to us right now?

Regarding the career assessment recommendation that you engage in therapy, what do you feel you've accomplished in this therapeutic work? What work remains to be done?

The RSCC letter included this phrase. "Become more comfortable telling others about your life story from a deeper emotional place." What did that comment mean to you? What happened in the interview that prompted them to say that?