

Christopher W. Lamb October 2020 MFC First-Year Minister Emissary Report

When I logged in to join the MFC as a First-Year Minister Emissary, I encountered a screen of smiling faces and warm words of welcome. As we lifted up our grief and precious memories of some dear colleagues, leaders, and friends who had recently died, it became abundantly clear how much members of the MFC hold the colleagues and leaders of our faith in love and care. Time and time again, this quality of care was affirmed by the candidates my panel interviewed.

It was truly a pleasure to meet with each candidate, to converse with colleagues during the process of deliberation, and to affirm the ministry of those whom I met. Remember, as one preparing to see the MFC, that the members of your panel put in a lot of time and effort into this process, and that it is a labor of love. Know that the panel does not expect you to show up perfectly formed, with all the answers and all the experience. Know that they do not expect you to deliver a flawless sermon or to demonstrate complete non-anxiety in the midst of such a big moment. Put your authentic, ministerial self into your packet and bring that self to the interview.

A few more words of counsel:

- Find a way to deliver your sermon that helps calm your nerves and lets your ministerial presence shine. For some folks, this may be singing, for others, perhaps it's sharing a particular reading or story that you take pleasure or comfort in. There are many creative ways to do this!
- Your panel will appreciate taking a moment to pause and collect your thoughts before answering a question.
- Arrive at your answer as succinctly as possible while doing it justice. Two to three minutes to answer a question is a good target.
- Rehearse the answer to your first question thoroughly (if you choose to have one) and ensure your answer is not a review of your packet, but rather an augmentation or addition to your packet.

May you feel the care and support of the MFC as you share your moment with them. I know these dedicated volunteers and UUA staff are ready to celebrate you and the gifts you bring to our faith!