

## To Those Seeking Fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist Tradition:

Serving as the First-Year Ministerial Emissaries has been a wonderful opportunity to learn, evaluate our own ministry, and deepen our relationship with colleagues. We also had the opportunity to experience the MFC in a deeper way and to bring our reflections and observations back to you.

We were consistently impressed with the integrity, intentionality and care of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. The MFC takes seriously its role to offer Fellowship to candidates, as well as its commitment to engaging the work that the Commission on Institutional Change called it to, to widen the pathway to ministry. The ARAOMC lens through which the committee members engage with their work is evident in both the individual members' approach to their work and the structures and processes that they have put in place. We were offered an opportunity to engage with the Committee as they wrestle with this understanding and engage in opportunities to challenge themselves and learn. We have been challenged and have learned with them and are deeply grateful for the opportunity and the good work the MFC is doing.

We wish to share this learned guidance with you who are on this path:

- We suggest approaching the MFC interview as an opportunity to reflect on and share how you have grown and transformed during your journey through seminary and formation, in conversation with your colleagues. We hope you can celebrate all the hard work and learning that has brought you to this moment, knowing that your growth will continue after your interview no matter the outcome.
- We witnessed the MFC's ongoing evolution, including several things that have changed even since we saw them last year. As you're preparing for your interview, we recommend engaging recent information from the MFC itself, as the process and approach has changed and will keep changing!
- Cultivate your self-knowledge. Know who you are, where you come from, and why you are here. Know your packet.
- Be clear about your growing edges, and open to vulnerability and transparency during your interview. We know this is difficult. Naming who you are and what you need to and wish to learn is more important than saying all the 'right' things. The MFC is not looking for perfection, so much as self-awareness, authenticity and a commitment to growth. The committee makes clear that we are all life-long learners and ministerial formation is a career long process.
- Be clear about your theology. Incorporate your theology into your packet and be able to articulate it and apply it to various aspects of ministry.
- The MFC is now providing candidates with questions the day before their interview. We heard a lot of appreciation from candidates for this new practice. However, we encourage you to resist the urge to script out your answers to these questions beforehand as it can prevent you from showing up as your authentic self. Be prepared for follow-up and further conversation.

- Take a pause before answering the questions to gather your thoughts. This lets you be grounded, specific, and clear about what the MFC is asking of you.
- Have a plan to debrief with colleagues afterward, ideally with Fellowshipped colleagues who have gone through this process.
- Remember, the MFC is rooting for you! They want to experience you, as you are, and offer you the best possible counsel for your growth and ongoing formation. They are committed to our movement and to bringing forth liberatory ministries.

Blessings and love to you as you prepare for the MFC!

In faith,

Rev. Meg, Rev. Ali, rev. mandi