

Rev. Linda Olson Peebles

Hello, I am Reverend Linda Olson Peebles, and I'm the interim lead minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Charlottesville, Virginia. Our music director there is Scott DeVoe. And when he became the director a few years ago, he was encouraged to become credentialed as a UU professional. Now he's a Professor of Music at UVA. But he still finds a credentialing program really helpful to him, as he moved into his role as a UU congregational professional. He got his credential in 2018. And he and the congregation still speak about the benefits they see. Credentialing gave him skills as a leader to really take charge of shaping in musical ministry, and it strengthened his connections to the denomination, to our theology, to the politics, to the emphasis on anti racism and multiculturalism. And he learned how to work as a team member with the Minister and the religious educator and the lay worship leader weavers shaping worship. He also mentioned how valuable the strong peer relationships were developing during the credentialing program to help him meet master musicians of the denomination and be able to attend General Assembly and the annual summer music program. I would recommend that if you're an interim minister, and your music director has not yet become credentialed, encourage this for the health and the strength of the congregation you're serving.

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