

April 5, 2009

Dear Friends,

Let me first say thank you and express how honored I am to be able to write this letter to you. When the Second Minister Search Committee called to ask if I would be the candidate for this position, there was only one way for me to answer, "Absolutely!"

Like many others in our denomination, I have admired the life and contributions of this congregation for many years. In the past few months, my experience with the search committee confirmed something that I already suspected: this church does what it says! You live your values. This is one of many reasons why I am so excited about the opportunity to join you in your community of faith and service.



My wife, Kate, and I are both native Texans, and I grew up just outside of Dallas in Grand Prairie. Because of this, I am especially aware of how important it is to have a liberal religious community in this area that is visible and spiritually alive. I have experienced your church as a place of renewal for those weary in spirit and as a beacon to the community, providing direction and meaning in a world of need.

I am excited to meet you at this time in the life of your congregation, knowing it is one of transition. At the same time, you are honoring the many wonderful years of ministry with Rev. Laurel Hallman, supporting her run for UUA President, and celebrating Rev. Daniel Kanter's call as Senior Minister. All this alongside strategic plans, a capital campaign, and visions for new buildings!

In learning more and more about your history, I am aware that the First Unitarian Church of Dallas has always been an exciting place to be, and I believe that this is true now more than ever. I am honored that your search committee has invited me to be the candidate for the position of Second Minister in this dynamic congregation.

I look forward to candidating week later this month, when I have the opportunity to meet many of you in person, answer your questions, and listen to your experiences of this church and your hopes for its future. Thank you again. I am grateful to all who have made this search process possible and to all of you who have contributed to this vibrant spiritual community.

In faith,

*Aaron*