

Minister's Report

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Emerald Coast

October 28, 2018

The Reverend Doak M Mansfield, D. Min.

I joined your ministry August 1, 2018. The position is half-time: responsibility for 26 Sunday services, ongoing administrative leadership, community outreach, and pastoral care corresponding with part-time structure.

My priorities during these last three months have been meaningful Sunday Services, learning and engaging with congregational leadership, pastoral care, and community outreach.

I'm gratified with our beginning. I fully appreciated that UUFEC in the last few years has been challenged and tested. I do not choose to dwell in nor attempt to fix that past. These last several years UUFEC leadership has worked hard dealing with best practices to move forward from those troubles. I commend them and thank everyone for their good will and grace. Expressions of generosity and compassion will make possible a good and vital future for us. My imagination, creativity, and hope are directed towards our today and our healthy, meaningful, and vital tomorrow.

I so look forward to our congregation-wide and leadership experience with UUA Field Staff early in 2019. I see this as a self-study adventure and envisioning opportunity. The Minister-Congregation relationship is critical to the operation and effectiveness of a shared UU ministry. Our time considering that on a Friday evening gathering and Saturday conversations with trained UUA staff will serve us to grow in our regard and cooperation.

But know that at the foundation to this is trust. I encourage yours and hope to prove my character and sense of vocation and personhood as time progresses. I hope to be worthy of your trust and confidence.

These ideas are focusing my hopes for our future:

Broaden and enhance our place and people as an 'Oasis'. This entails meaningful and engaging weekly Sunday services. Intentional welcoming of seekers and celebrants: honoring intellectual and spiritual freedom. Stress broad appreciation for varied spiritual approaches: the walking wounded spiritually abused, relocating UUs, and the open non-religious seeker.

We are the thoughtful, compassionate, inclusive, non-dogmatic, religious choice on the Emerald Coast. With that responsibility comes a wonderful opportunity. I encourage all to be open and excited about new faces that come our way.

Recognize and plan programming for the 'military gypsies' individuals and families. Embrace the opportunity to be family; Brothers, Sister, Aunt, Uncles, Grandparents, to young families who tend to be transient.

Be creative in social, social justice, and learning opportunities.

Honor the pioneers who have tenure with UUFEC. Support their continued involvement and relationships.

Be pro-active on developing facilities/building handicap accessibility, interior painting and refreshing, and work on healthy tree and landscaping initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I solicit your continued good will and support as we move forward in our shared ministry. Everyone's commitment to our principles and values expressed in community for the service of ourselves and community matters.

We and the world need our love, caring, and hope. Especially in these mean times. Your creativity, time, treasure and talent make possible who and what we are.

Let us together as UUFEC love, work, and matter.

The Reverend Doak M. Mansfield