

## Welcome from Rev. Debra Haffner, Endorsed Community Minister

November 2104

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased that you are considering the position of senior minister at The Unitarian Church in Westport.

I have been a member of TUCW since 1989. In 2003, the congregation ordained me and then endorsed me as its community minister. I have served TUCW for the past 11 years and feel grateful to call it my congregational home.

TUCW is a vibrant and loving community. Although there have been contentious times and issues, I think we live well into our affirmation, "Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law." You will find the congregation actively engaged in a wide number of diverse activities, our music program stellar, our religious education program thriving, our social justice program diverse, and a hunger to be nourished spiritually and emotionally. We are, I believe, ready for a new senior minister who will inspire us, lead us, and love us.

Although I have a full time ministry outside of TUCW – the Religious Institute – I provide a variety of services to the congregation as its community minister. I have worked closely with our senior minister and other staff, particularly around sexuality and pastoral care. I provide 2 to 4 sermons a year as invited, participate in homecoming and holiday services, and am available for pastoral care visits and emergencies with congregants. I chair our Safe Congregations committee, generally meet with the OWL parents and the youth group each year, periodically offer an adult education program, and consult with the staff as requested. I have also been a resource to the Rainbow Task Force, represented TUCW at community events and rallies, and am available as a ministerial colleague to the senior minister. I have a written covenant with the church and the senior minister that will be shared with our final candidates.

I look forward to developing a strong collegial relationship with our next senior minister, and am available to you during candidating week.

With warmest wishes for your search.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Haffner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail.

Rev. Debra W. Haffner  
President, Religious Institute  
TUCW Endorsed Community Minister