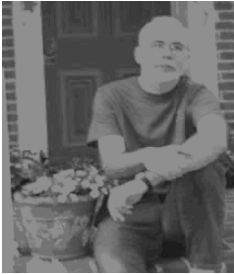


Settled Ministry Bulletin

The Ministerial Search Committee is excited to present



Bryant Bossler Brown as our candidate for minister of Thomas Paine UU Fellowship. Bryant received a Master of Divinity degree from Moravian Seminary in June 2008 and currently is serving as Parish Ministerial Intern at the UU Church of Annapolis,

Maryland. He also attended the Starr King School for Ministry. He was cleared for ministry by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in Boston in December 2008.

Bryant wants to serve a congregation that is hoping and planning to grow—that is what attracted him to TPUUF! Knowing that growth might involve change and risk, Bryant plans to be respectful of the feelings of all our members as well as being mindful of the congregation's financial and physical realities. As a longtime UU himself (over 35 years), Bryant plans to be visible in our community and the world beyond as a courageous witness to Unitarian Universalist values, with a special emphasis on the critical difference those values can make in one's life. He believes that if more people knew about Unitarian Universalist fellowships and congregations, more people would become UU's.

Bryant's theology is based on "a belief that none of us can wrap a human mind around what is truly transcendent; that each of us may have some partial idea of that which is beyond our own time-space-matter experience, and that we can learn from each other and from insights from the past."

Bryant's highest priorities in ministry are worship, social action, religious education, and community building. He hopes to be part of a church that is welcoming and accepting, and that actively reaches out to help people find this faith by using all the means it can imagine.

Thirty-five years ago, Bryant's wife, Maggie, first told him that he would make a good Unitarian Universalist minister. In his life, Bryant has sought a variety of work and educational experiences to test out Maggie's prediction. These experiences include radio news director, Rhode Island state government; school district computer coordinator, New Hampshire; civilian

computer specialist, US Army, based both in the states and in Germany; founder of the UU Fellowship in Frankfurt, Germany; computer teacher at an aluminum smelter operation in Nigeria; chaplaincies at both a regional trauma hospital and a behavioral health facility; and his current position of Parish Ministerial Intern at UU Church of Annapolis. The members of the Search Committee feel strongly that Bryant's many experiences will serve him well as minister.

The Path to TPUUF

By Bryant B. Brown

It is not far from a little brick house near Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to the Thomas Paine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's inviting building. I have not taken the most direct route. My UU path has been long – 35 years and lots of miles – with many a twist.

I have been a very active member of six UU congregations in Vermont, Rhode Island, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Germany, and I've held the UU banner high at "nondenominational" gatherings in Nigeria. This inclusive faith of ours was a great benefit, too, when I was a chaplain at a regional trauma hospital in Bethlehem and at a behavioral health center in Sellersville.

The path to ministry goes through Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, and includes credits also from our UU Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. The experience among the Moravians gave me many opportunities to explain, "What is a Unitarian Universalist?"

My first master's degree is in Educational Technology from Lehigh University. My undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware is in Geology. As I say, the path is not the most direct.

The route through Germany was provided by civilian work for the Department of Defense: that was ten years long. Nigeria was one year working for a subcontractor in the building of an aluminum smelter. That was all computer stuff. I have an assortment of other résumé entries, including radio news director, audio-visual coordinator for a public school district,

newspaper reporter, and educational technologies administrator for Pennsylvania's largest vocational-technical high school.

Most recently I have been the intern and Summer Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, Maryland. The involvement there is with a large (by UU standards), dynamic congregation and rounds out my experience in UU congregations of various sizes. From all of this experience I find the smaller, wanting-to-grow communities to be the most personally attractive and those I believe hold the most promise for our denomination.

My wife, Maggie, and I make our way to the Washington, DC, area where our son, Glen, and his wife, April are, as of very recently, homeowners.

Mine has been the scenic, adventure-filled route to Thomas Paine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, giving me many stories to share and a solid belief in the value of our UU faith.

Why TPUUF?

By Bryant B. Brown

If I had to pick a single word for what attracts me to Thomas Paine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, it would be "growth." Some churches are enthused about growth; some are more, shall we say, ambiguous. TPUUF clearly lists growth – its own and the UU movement's – among its primary goals. I find that exciting and important.

Unitarian Universalism is important to individuals. In every congregation I have been associated with, in New UU classes I have led, at most gatherings of Unitarian Universalists, I hear people telling of how they have come to be UUs. Theirs are stories of joy; of finding, after searching, what had been missing in their spiritual path; of finding the people share their values and value their thoughts and experience; of being able to be honest about what they believe.

In my work as a chaplain, with other ministers, and as a student at a Christian seminary, I have learned that our faith has a unique, life-affirming message that can enrich people's lives. That message needs to be more present and clearly heard in the religious conversation.

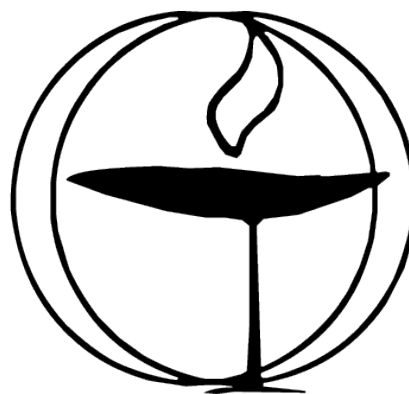
Our accepting, inclusive faith is important to the human race. In our world, in its history and the day's news, we see the effects of exclusive practice in the name of religion. The success of pluralism in the United States, thanks in large part to the (Thomas Paine-influenced) Unitarian and Universalist founders, points to the importance of UU Principles beyond our congregations and their members.

When my wife, Maggie, and I were looking for a faith community, friends invited us to their "really neat" church. It was a small Unitarian Universalist congregation. That began our joyous story of finding

ourselves religiously among Unitarian Universalists and of realizing the importance to individual faith of a community. We are so very thankful to those friends, and that that church existed.

I am among the founders of the UU Fellowship of Frankfurt, Germany – I count that and active membership in other Unitarian Universalist congregations among my efforts at inviting others to share in the joy of this "really neat" faith.

Being a part of the growth of TPUUF is another way I want to be part of expanding the presence of Unitarian Universalism in our lives and in our world. That all the elements of fulltime, professionally led ministry are seen as key parts of TPUUF's growth points to where my experience, education, and enthusiasms can continue to be valuable.



Voting for our settled minister

On Sunday, June 7, we will gather as a congregation to vote on affirming the Search Committee's selection of a candidate for our settled minister. Because this decision is one of the most important in the life of a congregation, the Board shall call a special congregational meeting to receive the report of the Settled Ministerial Search Committee and to vote upon calling the candidate to serve as Minister of the Fellowship. "A minister shall be called by a vote of at least 90% of the voting members present" (Article IX). Earlier in the bylaws, a requirement for a quorum of "over 30% of the active members" (Article X, Article 10.7) is stated.

Choosing Our Settled Minister

The congregation selected the Search Committee and charged it with the following mission: "To follow a process developed by the UUA in order to identify and recommend a candidate for the position of settled minister". During the 9 months since, the Search Committee has held to the principle that the selection of a candidate would be based on the needs and desires of our congregation. Of course, each one of us at TPUUF has his or her own personal preferences and biases. As a committee, we have worked to discern the congregation's priorities in the characteristics and strengths of the minister we will call. The committee was guided by the congregational survey taken by the previous Search Committee. As you consider your vote on June 7, we ask that you follow these guiding principles:

- * He will be positive for TPUUF.
- * He will represent us well in the community.
- * He will serve the needs of the individuals who comprise our faith community.

We hope that you will keep this in mind as you distinguish your personal preferences from the welfare of the congregation as a whole and vote your conscience.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens if we do not have more than 30% of our members present (a quorum) on June 7?

A: Our candidate may regard us as apathetic about having a called minister and would likely withdraw his candidacy.

Q: Can we afford full-time ministry?

A: The finance committee reports that we have achieved the budget for full-time ministry.

Q: What happens if Bryant is not called on June 7?

A: We will decide as a congregation whether to have another search, have another consulting minister, or what to do next.

Q: Do we have more candidates "in reserve" whom the Search Committee found but did not make an offer to?

A: No.

Q: Will Bryant live close to the congregation?

A: Bryant currently lives in Spring Valley, PA, which is about an hour's drive; he may consider moving closer when the real estate market improves.

Q: How often will Bryant be in the pulpit?

A: 3 Sundays per month. If a month has 5 Sundays, he may lead a children's worship service.

Settled Minister Search Committee

Yvon Kennan, chair

Dorothy Hammett

Steve Kahn

Jenn Kanze-Eaton

Lorraine Lee

Joan Mitchell (resigned due to health concerns)

Curt Stauffer

Sincere Thanks to the previous

Search Committee

Marian Augustine, chair

Kerri Finkle

Virginia Kirk

Butch Larcinese

Phil Manos

Chris McKeone

Phyllis Parker

Bryant Brown's Candidating Week Schedule

Day	9am-1pm	1pm-5pm	5pm-9pm
Saturday 5/30	11am-1pm: COA rehearsal	1pm-2pm: Pizza Party Adult RE/CRE teachers, families and committee 3pm Finance Committee	
Sunday 5/31			
Monday 6/1		8:30: Membership Committee (Dorothy)	Pastoral Care Committee
Tuesday 6/2			5:30: Bryant has a Debrief Dinner Search Committee
Wednesday 6/3	12:30: Social Action Lunch (Lorraine)		Bryant has dinner with The Board
Thursday 6/4		4pm-5pm: Prayers with Bryant & Powell	Program/Worship Committee (Yvon)
Friday 6/5	Bryant at wedding rehearsal	Bryant at wedding rehearsal	
Saturday 6/6	Bryant officiating wedding	Bryant officiating wedding	Bryant officiating wedding
Sunday 6/7			

All events are held at The Fellowship unless otherwise indicated.

Black	All committee members and anyone interested in that area. Search Committee member in ().
	All Fellowship event