

37 Byrne Avenue  
Westford, MA 01886  
December 19, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to recommend Reverend Anthony Lorenzen to you as a Unitarian minister. Tony has been the minister of my church, First Parish Church in Billerica, Massachusetts, for only a brief time, since August of this year, but he has demonstrated an impressive degree of ability and commitment to this role. As a member of the Committee on Ministry, I have been impressed by the depth and sincerity of his dedication to his work. He described to us clear, well formulated goals for his work as a minister, and he has taken action to accomplish them.

He has eagerly sought involvement with the Board and with standing committees, or ministries, and made valuable contributions to all. I can give an example of his involvement and assistance from my experience in suddenly, with little experience, becoming newsletter editor. My coeditor, who had been in that role for a long time, and upon whom I was relying heavily, left the parish just prior to the deadline for our first issue of the new church year. Tony, without being asked, casually offered a sample format template. He also offered additional help if I wanted it. He did this tactfully, making me feel free to ask for whatever support I needed or to proceed on my own to the degree that I was comfortable in doing so. I found the sample template to be excellent, and, with some modification, it has been the basis for this year's issues. Many people have given feedback praising the new format. The editorship has been enjoyable and, thanks to his help and support, much less stressful than it might have been.

Rev. Tony has introduced a midweek Vespers Service, about a half hour in length, with readings, meditation, and candles of joy and concern. A spiritual practice separate from the Sunday service was quite an innovation at our church, I and the others who attend have come to value it highly. Rev. Tony has remarked to us that, if he were not holding a service like this, he would be attending one somewhere in order to maintain a focus in the midst of day to day busyness. We are glad to have the opportunity to keep our own focus by sharing in this with him.

I have attended a short "Adult RE" course he has offered dealing with UU history in North America. He is extremely well educated, and can discuss somewhat complex topics readily and conversationally. There has been an emphasis on clarifying our own individual beliefs in reference pivotal

ideas from the UU past. The number of participants has varied from week to week, but it is always easy to discuss ideas freely with Rev. Tony, and he makes complexity understandable for anyone.

His sermons are invariably well planned and presented with force of conviction. His positive focus encourages that of others. I have been impressed with the personal attention he gives to our congregation members of all ages and backgrounds. It is evident that he cares about each of them, and he makes them feel comfortable with him. Recently, as I was waiting to pass through a doorway after coffee hour, I heard him answering a question from a child who was about five years old. It impressed me that Rev. Tony was listening and speaking as respectfully as he would with an adult, but using the vocabulary of a young child.

Many of us at First Parish Church strongly regret that we will not benefit from Rev. Tony's leadership for a longer period of time. I am confident that he will assist the parish he leads in accomplishing much. I would be happy to discuss further these matters or other areas of interest to you. I can be reached by phone at (978) 692-9599 or by email at marnold1026@hotmail.com.

Yours truly,

*Mary Arnold*  
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