

Testimonials

Rev. Kate Wilkinson

I. Rev. Dr. William G. Sinkford

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to offer a recommendation for Rev. Kate Wilkinson. I met Kate during the year following my time as UUA President when I served as Senior Minister and Advisor at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury. My primary goal in that year was to raise the visibility of the Urban Ministry within the Boston area congregations which constitute the Urban Ministry. Kate joined the staff as Coordinator of Congregational Outreach and Volunteers as I was beginning my ministry there.

Kate is both a bright and a loving presence. Her office was at the entrance to the building and Kate helped make everyone welcome: committed volunteers from suburban congregations, the young people served by the programs, donors and potential funders. Her ministry is one of hospitality to the human spirit.

Kate was extraordinarily effective in building and strengthening relationships with the congregations. Her careful and prompt communication and follow-through were a plus. Her strong preaching and worship leadership skills were a great gift. But it was her compassion and eagerness to engage that made our work successful.

Kate is deeply called to the ministry and the congregation she serves will find themselves blessed by her leadership. She will minister with authenticity and depth. I would welcome Kate Wilkinson as my pastor.

Rev. Dr. William G. Sinkford
Senior Minister
First Unitarian Church of Portland

II. Rev. Dr. Terasa G. Cooley

To whom it may concern:

I am happy to recommend Kate Wilkinson as a candidate for your ministry.

I first met Kate when I interviewed her as a ministerial aspirant. I was immediately struck by her lifelong commitment to our faith, her intelligence and her willingness to explore many applications of her ministry. I took total advantage of this willingness and asked her to become an intern for the district to help us explore our social justice ministries, and she agreed. The district greatly benefited from her help, and I've been watching her career develop ever since. I recommended her for an open position on the Mass Bay District Board because of my esteem for the contribution I knew she could make.

I have not directly worked with Kate in a congregational setting, but I can tell you what the congregations she has served have said about her: "one of the best preachers I have ever heard" was a common remark. And also "a compassionate pastor," "an invigorating advocate for social justice involvement," and "just generally thoughtful about everything." In her work at the Urban Ministry I have heard reports about her visits at local congregations as being above and beyond the usual "drive-by" preaching – many talk about how she helped them to think deeply about their values in a non-judgmental and inviting way.

I hope you will seriously consider her candidacy as one that could bring great depth and compassion to your congregation. Please contact me with any questions you may have. And best of luck in your search process.

In faith,

The Reverend Dr. Terasa G. Cooley
Director for Congregational Life
Unitarian Universalist Association

III. Rev. Tim Kutzmark

To whom it may concern:

Kate is a splendid preacher, with a warm presence that creates a spiritual embrace in the sanctuary. I tend to be a pretty tough critic when it comes to preaching, but Kate recently was a guest preacher at my congregation, and she knocked it out of the park! She truly has a wonderful presence and energy -- so open, so genuine, and so human. Her sermon, on the difficult subject of inviting and engaging privileged suburban UUs into hands-on ministry in the inner city, was perfectly crafted and expertly delivered. In a lesser preacher's hands, such a topic could stir up guilt or overwhelm. But Kate has such a gift of writing. Her speaking voice, her presentation, was flawless. Kate truly touched people and opened hearts that Sunday morning. Two long-time members who rarely give compliments talked to me about how moved they were by Kate's passion and perspective, and how they were going to adjust their personal schedules to volunteer next year. Believe me, they don't say such things lightly.

I've experienced Kate's worship leading on several occasions. Sitting in the pews, I always feel ministered to by Kate. I've worked closely with Kate in planning District events and activities. She is a careful and organized planner, an engaging facilitator, and great with the details as well as the larger vision.

And did I mention how warm a person she is, and how her smile will light up a room? Your congregation will be blessed to have Kate bring her gifts for ministry and become part of your spiritual community.

Rev. Tim Kutzmark
Minister
Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading