

UU Community Church of Washington County

Part III: Covenant of Affiliation

February 15, 2009

President:

The Board of Trustees of this congregation has voted to enter into a Covenant of Affiliation with the **Rev. Sue Ayer** to recognize and affirm her role as a Unitarian Universalist Community Minister, serving the larger community beyond our church.

Rev. Sue entered the ministry in midlife, after raising her daughter and son to adulthood while attending the Unitarian Church of Davis, California. She moved to Berkeley to enter the Pacific School of Religion, an interdenominational seminary a few doors from Starr King, the UU seminary she also attended. As part of her training she served as a hospice chaplain in Sacramento and ministerial intern in Walnut Creek.

After receiving her Master of Divinity degree, she was ordained in 1991 by her home church in Davis. She came to Oregon to be the Parish Minister at Eastrose UU Fellowship in Gresham for seven years. When health conditions led her to retire from full-time parish ministry in 1998, Rev. Sue found herself called to a new ministry.

For the past decade she has served the Portland metro area and beyond it as a teacher, speaker, adviser and mentor, and as a minister conducting rites of passage for people who have no church affiliation. Our own church and other congregations have also benefited from her assistance as a temporary pastor and preacher in the absence of settled ministers. She signed the membership book of this church in July 2006.

Rev. Sue, we are glad that you have chosen our congregation as our church home, and today we want to affirm you as our Affiliated Community Minister. In our Covenant with you:

- We pledge to respect your ministry as an extension of our congregation's outreach to make known the principles and values of our Unitarian Universalist faith in the broader community.
- We pledge our understanding that you are not our Parish Minister, but rather, one whose professional ministry takes place largely outside our church.
- We pledge our support and appreciation of your work in Community Ministry and of your volunteer service within this church.

Rev. Sue:

I am indeed grateful for the opportunity and the privilege to be formally affiliated as Community Minister with this congregation that I love so dearly. This is my pledge to you:

- I will bring the spirit of this church and of our Unitarian Universalist faith into my ministry in the larger community.
- I will responsibly represent this congregation and extend its invitation to join with us in gentle fellowship.
- I will be mindful that although I am a member of the congregation, I am first a Minister, in collegial relationship with our Parish Minister, and therefore bound by our ministerial Covenant and Code of Professional Practice.
- I will honor Rev. Christine's call as our Parish Minister, always consulting with her in a spirit of mutual cooperation and collaboration, and I will take an active role in specific areas of congregational life as mutually agreed upon.
- I will keep the congregation informed about my Community Ministry activities; and
- I will continue as a joyfully participating and pledging member of this church, with my deepest gratitude to the Congregation and to Reverend Christine, for your support of my Ministry.

President:

Will the congregation please rise? *[They do so.]*

You have heard the pledges made by Rev. Sue Ayer and myself on behalf of our Board of Trustees in our Covenant of Affiliation. I ask you now to join me in affirming this new relationship with our Community Minister. Please repeat after me:

We affirm this Covenant of Affiliation.

Congregation: We affirm this Covenant of Affiliation.

Rev. Christine:

With these words we have officially recognized a relationship that has been strongly felt by this congregation. Truly, this is a day of celebration -- for Community Ministry, for our church, for Reverend Sue, now our officially Affiliated Community Minister, and for myself. Congratulations! This is a happy day for us all!