



The North Parish of North Andover

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Lee Bluemel, Senior Minister
Frank Clarkson, Assistant Minister
David Blanchard, Minister Emeritus

January 20, 2008

Dear members and friends of the North Parish,

Several months ago, at an informational meeting in the sanctuary, I talked about the process of calling an associate minister. I said for me it was a time of discernment, of “trying to get a clearer sense of whether I am called to serve this congregation beyond this church year, or whether it is time to practice my ministry in another setting.” I’ve been thinking and praying on this, asking myself, “What kind of ministry am I being called to? Where might my gifts best be put to use? What is the best thing for the North Parish?”

I have now come to clarity about this. Though I have loved serving as one of your ministers and being part of the excellent staff team here, I now feel called to seek a congregation where I can serve as the lead minister. Therefore I will be leaving the North Parish at the end of this church year in June.

This certainly has been a difficult decision, and one I make with mixed emotions. I hope it is obvious how much I have loved being one of your ministers. Even as I am excited for what might lie ahead, it will not be easy to leave the North Parish and all of you. Working here, being part of your lives and the life of this congregation, has been a gift and a blessing to me--one that I will never forget.

I am full of a variety of feelings about this change, and I expect that some of you will be too. We will have plenty of time over the next few months to talk about these things, and at the right time, to say a proper farewell. I welcome your questions and the chance to connect with you, so please don’t hesitate to be in touch. My office phone number is 978-687-7446 and you can e-mail me at asstminister@northparish.org.

This is a wonderful church, and I cannot adequately express what it has meant to be in your midst these past 2 1/2 years. Thank you for the opportunity you’ve given me to be one of your ministers here, and for all the ways you enrich and support this beloved community.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Frank Clarkson