

Weldon Frederick Wooden, D. Min.

Date



253 Madison Ave SE
Grand Rapids MI 49503
Phone 616-304-1850
Email wfwbklyn@gmail.com

Greetings! Thanks for considering me for your interim position. Below is a formal list of my experience, education and such. Over forty years, I have served congregations of all sizes, in different regions, and a wide range of styles and spiritualities. I bring wisdom, patience, humor, and humility to the task of helping your congregation make room for the future. Thank you!

Experience:

2005 – 2020 : Senior Minister, Fountain Street Church, Senior Minister, Grand Rapids, MI

Served as presiding Clergy responsible for overall direction of church, comprising 1000+ adults and children, with annual expenditures of \$1.1m, endowment of \$3.2m. FSC is a non UU liberal church.

Retired \$1.2m indebtedness, quadrupled social action ministry and budget including an annual full scholarship for marginalized students to our neighboring Community College, modernized TV and website ministries, secured 501c (3) registration, created partnerships with local arts and social organizations to host community events.

Non Church Activities:

GR Urban League Board From 2007 – present, chair from 2009 – 2013.

West Michigan ACLU Advisory Board, 2010 -present

Grand Rapids Press “Ethics and Religion” panel member 2011 -2017

Host of WPRR “Faith and Reason” radio program, 2009 - 2017.

Congressional Candidate 2016

Opera Grand Rapids Board, 2012-2020

GVSU Internal Review Board, 2019 - present

1994 – 2005: Senior Minister, First Unitarian Coongregational Society, Brooklyn, NY

Presiding Clergy responsible for overall direction and support, consisting of four buildings in Brooklyn Heights, 400+adults and children; annual expenditures of \$400k, \$1.5m endowment.

Completed capital improvement project, created second clergy position and part-

time chaplain, increased ties to local Islamic community post 9/11, presided over local clergy association, columnist for Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

Non Church Activities:

NYS Interfaith Alliance 1995-2000,

Meadville Theological School board and Alumnae president 2001-2005.

1990 – 1994: Minister, First Unitarian Church, Austin, TX

Sole clergy for a congregation of 500 adults and children, a budget of \$350k, and a staff of 6.

Initiated second service, enhanced AIDS advocacy, conducted first LGBT unions.

Non Church Activities:

Completed current UU hymnal in 1993.

Served on UUA Commission on Appraisal 1991-1997.

1980 – 1990 Minister, Petersham MA (1980- 1985) Groton MA (1985-1990)

Clergy for 100-200 members churches in rural towns. Principal provider of worship, pastoral care, administration and publications.

Upgraded office equipment (both), instituted Sunday bulletins (Petersham), active in local ecumenical clergy groups and worship services (both), served as District Moderator (Groton), member of Rowe Camp and Conference Board (Petersham), and appointed to UUA Hymnal Committee (Groton)

Education:

D. Min. 1979 Meadville Theological School Chicago, Illinois

A. M. 1977 University of Chicago, Divinity School

A. B. 1974 Washington University St. Louis, Missouri

Publications:

- “*The Soul’s Horizon*,” the Channing Bicentennial Lecture, May 19, 2019, Baltimore MD. To be published in the *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History* vol. 43, Spring 2020

- *Unitarian Universalist World Magazine, Inward Springs* and the *Swedenborgian Journal* (1989, 1992, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2011).

- *Encyclopedia of American History: The Development of the Industrial United States (1870-1899)*, (New York: Facts on File, 2003) 13 articles on American religion.

- Columnist to Fitchburg (MA) Sentinel, Barre (MA) Gazette, Austin (Texas) American-Statesman, Worcester (MA) Telegram and Gazette, Brooklyn Heights Press, Grand Rapids Press, (1981 – present)

- Editor of and Contributor to *Singing the Living Tradition*, 1993, current Unitarian Universalist Association Hymnbook: four original hymn tunes, one arrangement, two text revisions and one original liturgical reading. General editor for Readings.

Continuing Education:

Certificate in Non-profit management 2004,
The Support Center for Nonprofit Management, New York New York.

Leadership in an Urban Setting, 1999, Alban institute.

Leading the Medium-Size Church, 2003, Alban Institute.

Center for Career Development, vocational assessment 1993.

Dealing with the News Media, Logos Consulting Group, 2003

Pastor as Spiritual Leader, 2006, Alban institute.

On-Line Material:

<http://fredwooden.com>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/fountainstreetchurch>

<http://topics.mlive.com/tag/ethics-and-religion-talk/index.html>

<https://www.uuworld.org/authors/wfrederickwooden>

Personal:

Sourdough baker, weight lifter, pilgrim walker (on three continents) opera fan, casual knowledge of French, Italian, Biblical Greek and Hebrew, non-Jewish member and worshiper at local Conservative Synagogue.