

From Sandra's Study
Rev. Sandra Fees

I was deeply touched (and totally surprised) by the kind words, warm acknowledgment, and gift of a stole by the congregation during our June 15th worship service. As Nelson Simonson shared then, there are a few major milestones in a minister's career. Among them is the achievement of Final Fellowship awarded by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I was awarded Final Fellowship in March 2008, and the achievement was formally acknowledged by our denomination in the Service of the Living Tradition at our annual General Assembly held this year in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the end of June. I was deeply grateful that Caroline and Nelson Simonson were in attendance and could celebrate with me at this special time. I proudly wore the stole Joanna Groebel, our Director of Religious Education, and Nelson presented to me on behalf of the Board and congregation. It reminded me of the love and support of this spiritual community, and of all the reasons I accepted the call to serve the congregation four years ago.

In our tradition, Final Fellowship for a minister is akin to receiving tenure as a college professor. It marks the completion of a seven-year minimum credentialing process. That process includes three years of seminary, a ministerial internship in a UU congregation, and three years of successful UU ministry. Preliminary Fellowship is granted after the first year of ministry, and Final Fellowship after the third. That is all contingent on demonstrating successful ministry during that time. Each year, the Board of Directors, Committee on Ministry, and I have submitted an evaluation to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA. That evaluation included an assessment of a full range of ministerial responsibilities – everything from pastoral care, administration, and organizational ministry to worship arts, professional growth, and prophetic outreach.

As I told you on the 15th, I came to the congregation right after my internship at Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon, Pennsylvania. This is my first settled ministry. I feel my achievement of Final Fellowship is a tribute to and reflection of the wonderful ministry we have been doing together these years. I feel blessed to be your minister and look forward to our continued relationship in the coming years. I know that together we will continue to deepen our relationships, grow spiritually, and work toward healing the world.

Yours in faith and love,
Sandra

Sandra's Summer Schedule:

July 1-Aug 10 Vacation and study leave (August 2-9 out of the country on vacation)
Aug 12 Returning to ministerial duties
Aug 17, 24, & 31 Preaching; modified RE for children and youth

During Sandra's vacation and study leave, you may contact her for pastoral emergencies. All other communications will receive her attention on or after August 12. During this time, for administrative concerns, contact Office Manager Janet Tomlinson or a member of the Board. For pastoral concerns that are not an emergency, contact a member of the Caring Committee.