

Proposal to make Rev. Frank Hall our Minister Emeritus

As most of you know, Frank Hall's amazingly rich and inspiring ministry of 29 years is coming to an end this summer. He has been the longest serving Minister at the Unitarian Church of Westport, beginning Aug 15, 1984. He has performed numerous services, weddings, civil unions, child dedications, and memorial services to many in our beloved community. He has taught children in RE and adults in Odyssey. He has become a spokesperson for our religious faith in the larger community of Westport and the surrounding area. His sermons and his poetry have become part of many of our lives. Truly he will always hold a special place in the heart of this congregation.

The Committee on Ministerial Transition was formed last year to oversee and manage various aspects of Frank's retirement. Although Frank will retire from involvement in the day-to-day life of the congregation, the committee has been looking into the idea of formally recognizing his outstanding connection to this community by bestowing on him the honorary title of Minister Emeritus.

A decision to confer this title on Frank requires a vote of the entire congregation, so the committee has drafted a Resolution that clearly defines this future relationship between Frank and our congregation, to be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting on June 9, 2013. We have researched existing models of such resolutions made by other UU congregations, studied the relevant material on the UUA website, and talked to officials of other UUA congregations that have gone through a similar process, in order to learn how best to compose the resolution.

The draft resolution appears below, to give everyone ample time to reflect upon it. There will be two meetings in April when you can meet with our committee to learn more about the process, ask questions, and give us feedback:

Sunday April 21 -12:30 Sanctuary and Sunday April 28 - 10:15 in the East Wing

If you cannot attend one of these meetings and want us to have your input, please feel free to contact or talk to any of the committee members. We want to make sure that your questions have been heard and answered, and that we are in as much agreement as possible about bestowing this honorary status on Frank, before the June 9th Annual Meeting.

From the Committee on Ministerial Transition: Sharon Bittenbender, Howard Aibel, Michele Garvey, Barbara Kezur, Jim Luongo, Catherine Onyemelukwe, and Ken Vogel

Resolution of the Congregation of the Unitarian Church in
Westport to confer Minister Emeritus status on
Reverend Frank Hall

In recognition of his twenty-nine years of dedicated service as our Senior Minister, his prolific power from the pulpit, his invaluable spiritual leadership, and his indelible imprint made upon the life of our congregation, we, the congregation of the The Unitarian Church in Westport, with deep affection and gratitude, do confer upon Reverend Frank Hall the status of Minister Emeritus, which shall entitle him to:

- Recognition as Minister Emeritus by the Unitarian Universalist Association;
- Delegation credentials for the UUA Annual General Assembly;
- Inclusion as Minister Emeritus on the list of our congregation's staff on the Church's letterhead and website;
- Access to the church's library or archives for research.

The Minister Emeritus status may also include, at the discretion of and in covenant with the Interim Minister and subsequently with any Called Ministers:

- Ceremonial presence at major institutional events, such as anniversaries, building dedications, etc.;
- Occasional invitations to preach.

Resolved at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, June 9, 2013