

The Peak Experience



Rev. Joy Atkinson, Interim Minister

Sally Ahnger, DRE

Rev. Barbara Meyers, Community Minister

Mission Peak Calls New Settled Minister Jeremy Nickel Accepts Call; Will Begin September 1

Jeremy Nickel Called by Mission Peak!

Jack Mulcahy, President

It is with a great deal of satisfaction and pride that I announce that on May 2 Jeremy Nickel, in a unanimous vote, was called as our new Minister by the Congregation. Jeremy has accepted the call and will begin his tenure as our Minister on September 1.

Eighty members eligible to vote were in attendance at the meeting. That represents sixty-seven percent of our voting membership; fourteen absentee votes were recorded. One vote was spoiled, and two votes were inadvertently not counted. Those votes not counted would not have changed the unanimous results.

Our satisfaction and pride comes not only from the results of the election, but in the number of people who participated in the process: first, to the members of Congregation who demonstrated their enthusiasm and interest indicated by the large number in attendance and, second, by the number of absentee ballots cast. My sincerest thanks are also extended to all of the members of the Board, and to Pat Rodgers, Elke Gunn, and Maggie Mulcahy for making the meeting run smoothly. My personal appreciation is extended to Steve Wallcave and Jen King who delivered very meaningful opening and closing words at the meeting.

But, the real heroes of the day are the members of the Ministerial Search Committee. We are all aware of the dedication and time that they put into this process over the last one and one half years. Our lasting gratitude goes to Michealle Havenhill, Holly Ito, Allysson McDonald, Mark Rahman, Doug Rodgers, and Steve Wallcave. All of their hard work, in all of the phases of the search process, resulted in a unanimous confirmation of their selection. That is an incredible outcome!

And, lastly, and very sincerely, thank you to Jeremy, for accepting our call. Mission Peak will be beginning a new chapter next September and this Congregation is excitedly anticipating your arrival. A unanimous vote

to call you as our next minister speaks for itself. The large number of members who participated in the process, both in the Congregational Meeting and during Candidating Week, is illustrative of the enthusiasm that you have generated. Thank you, again, for accepting our call.

Jeremy Nickel

Jeremy, now in his 30s, grew up as a Unitarian Universalist but did not immediately set out to be a minister. After high school he trekked in the Himalayas and then attended a Quaker college in Indiana where he was drawn to religion and philosophy. After he graduated from college in 1999 he worked as an event coordinator and then, later, as a documentary filmmaker for a high tech company that made hardware tools for educators.



Finding this work unfulfilling, he decided in 2001 to enroll in seminary at the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley. In addition to his Masters of Divinity from PSR, Jeremy also completed a Master of Arts in Liturgics (worship arts).

Following the completion of his studies, Jeremy worked for a year and a half at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee as the Event and Outreach Coordinator. Jeremy then did a Ministerial internship with the UU Church of San Francisco. He says that within his first week at UUSF he knew he was a parish minister! On completion of his ministerial internship in SF, Jeremy returned to New England to complete a four-month clinical pastoral internship at Massachusetts General Hospital.

He and his wife, the Rev. Nicole Lamarche, live in Cape Cod where she is a United Church of Christ minister. Jeremy and Nicole will move to the Fremont area this summer.