

Rev. Lyn Cox

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Dear Colleague,

I am so glad you are considering the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg in your settled ministry search. This is a brave, creative, and loving congregation, eager to partner with a settled minister as they move into the future.

As you probably know, UCH took on a unique experiment in 2009, when they decided to become a multisite congregation. They are one church with two campuses, one a midcentury architectural retreat in the suburban Swatara Township, the other a historic church building in a multicultural urban neighborhood known as Allison Hill. The suburban neighborhood is dominated by hotels and big box stores, symbolic of the isolation that reminds us why we need spiritual communities. Allison Hill is one of the poorest neighborhoods not just in the city, but in the region. There is important mission work to be done in both locations.

Harrisburg is the capital of Pennsylvania, a politically divided state in the heart of the mid-Atlantic. It is an honor to collaborate in ministry with the members in a community where the need for a liberating faith is so clear. There is no road map for the kind of journey UCH is on, and the congregation has certainly encountered challenges along the way. Things that are worth doing are rarely easy.

Moving through the difficulties of the last several years has clarified many of the congregation's strengths. Members come together to support each other in times of need. The choir, which sings at both campuses, is a center of spiritual growth and pastoral ministry. Volunteers on the Worship Team are enthusiastic and creative. The congregation demonstrated a willingness to experiment and to explore new ideas. That spirit of innovation is also evident in ministries with children and youth.

Having done so much learning since their decision to become a multisite congregation, the members are ready for some deeper reflection. The energy required to maintain two campuses can obscure connections with a shared mission and vision. Members will be interested in traveling with a minister who can accompany them through the discernment that is before them.

I am enjoying being the congregation's minister. I live in Baltimore, and I chose to make the trip to Harrisburg because it was a unique opportunity. I have not been disappointed. You are welcome to call or text at the number above or the one in my UUMA profile or to email me so that we can set up a time to talk. I look forward to speaking with you about the warmth and potential here.

In Faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyn Cox', followed by a stylized flourish or second signature.

Rev. Lyn Cox

Interim Minister

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg