

To: Members of Unity Church

From: Unity Church-Unitarian Board of Trustees

Re: Emeriti Status for Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs

The Emerita or Emeritus designation is granted to a minister to honor long and meritorious service to a congregation where the minister has given devoted and competent ministerial leadership. The minister granted this designation defers to the current, or in Unity's case the future settled minister, the tasks of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and rites of passage; however, the minister granted this designation regularly offers their considerable gifts in these same areas to a congregation with which they have a strong bond. Conferring this designation requires a congregational vote.

The Board of Trustees of Unity Church-Unitarian is asking the members of Unity Church-Unitarian to vote on conferring Emerita/Emeritus designations on Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs, respectively.

Resolution

Janne Eller-Isaacs, Minister Emerita

Rob Eller-Isaacs, Minister Emeritus

Whereas Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs served Unity Church with dedication, vision, and distinction as Senior Co-Ministers for 21 years, from 2000 to 2021 supporting our faith within, among, and beyond our congregation.

Whereas *within* Unity Church, Janne and Rob have consistently modeled and invited each member to cultivate a daily spiritual practice; helped us become aware of our white privilege as a predominately white congregation and, for those members who are white, also as individuals, and effectuated change toward realizing the Beloved Community; and embodied ministry as a shared practice by implementing outreach ministry teams and a worship associates program, and cultivated a lay-led lifespan religious education program.

Whereas *among* our faith denomination, Janne and Rob have served as a beacon of liberal faith in the St. Paul, Twin Cities, and larger UUA communities by putting forth a vision for our faith to be a catalyst of the Beloved Community; guided a capital campaign to renovate the church to make us welcoming and accessible to the larger community, living into full radical hospitality; fully established Unity Church as a teaching congregation, having mentored and taught dozens of ministerial interns within our faith; and been leaders in our denomination through service to the Unitarian Universalist Association, Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, Prairie Star District, and MidAmerica Region, to name a few.

Whereas *beyond* our community, Janne and Rob have created bonds with communities through partnerships with our partner church in Homorodszentpeter, as well as Malawi, Bolivia, New Orleans, and the Holdeen Project in India; and served as leaders in the Minnesota community on human rights, racial justice, immigrant rights, and voting rights.

Whereas after twenty years of distinguished service, Janne and Rob generously agreed to delay their retirement by one year, at the request of the Board of Trustees, due to the COVID pandemic.

Whereas Janne and Rob have provided limitless pastoral care to Unity Church members and friends in moments of celebration, need, pain, loss, and while facing their final days with dignity, compassion, and love.

Whereas Janne and Rob have brought ritual and sacred meaning within our congregation to all stages of life, rites of passage, and spiritual threshold moments from birth to death.

Whereas Janne and Rob have shared a ministry with the Unity Church congregation and community that has touched the hearts and changed the lives of countless people by being wise spiritual guides with a vast understanding of the human condition, helping us lead lives of integrity, service, and joy.

Be it resolved that the members of Unity Church-Unitarian confer on Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs the title of Minister Emerita and Emeritus of Unity Church.