

# Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church

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The Rev. Shayna Appel, Interim Minister  
Char James, Director of Religious Education

Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Office Administrator  
Maria Belva, Director of Music

December 21, 2015

Dear Prospective Pastor,

On behalf of the entire Congregation, thank you for your interest in our church. After you have read our information packet, and should you visit us here, we will with abundant pride, introduce you to our members, our programs, and to our beautiful, historic (1825) building where both Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson once spoke. We will introduce you to Peterborough (Thornton Wilder's inspiration for the timeless play Our Town) and to our vibrant regional community, and throughout, we promise to avoid boasting. But we all are sincerely looking forward to meeting you, shaking your hand, and getting to know you.

Our hard-working and productive Search Committee through surveys, historical analyses, and many meetings with our members, has amassed a considerable amount of information as they, with the help of our unique team of interim ministers, have led us to a deeper self-awareness. The Congregational Record and website present the results of this introspection. We very much look forward to your objective assessment of our work, and once you have visited us we will be most interested in learning your thoughts about our strengths and weaknesses.

Why? Because we believe we are very well poised to leap forward. We have concluded nearly a decade of harmonious stability in our congregation - our beloved minister retired a year ago – and we have been quite pointedly challenged during the interim period to bring our church up to the standards of the twenty-first century. This process is nearly complete; by the time you arrive we expect to be ready for you.

We want to make many gains while writing an exciting new chapter for our 270-plus-year- old institution. We are simply waiting for a new settled minister to pick up a pencil and help us get started.

Thank you again for considering our church as the one you want to serve. We very much look forward to your visit and promise to welcome you and your family with open arms.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Jones, President