

## Reference

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

11400 Morris Bridge Road

Tampa, Florida

My name is Roger Grugel and I was the ministerial intern for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa (UUCT) from September 2011 to August 2012. I worked over 10 hours per week at UUCT in addition to my duties as a chaplain resident at Tampa General Hospital. During my internship I was involved in worship and preaching, adult and children's religious education, social justice, spiritual care, committee work, and church administration. My internship supervisor was the Rev. Sara Zimmerman.

UUCT has a long history of supporting religious education, including ministerial interns, and UUCT was the perfect place for my internship. Rev. Zimmerman was welcoming, gracious with her time, gave me numerous opportunities to lead and develop my ministerial skills, and was a supportive of my ministry. As a seasoned minister, she taught me much about the profession of ministry.

My internship committee was a nice blend of support and challenge that brought out the best in me. The committee was interested in not just knowing me as a student minister, but as a person, too. I have many fond memories of the rich friendships I formed with the committee members. All the members of UUCT were supportive of my ministry and wanted me to succeed. I always felt welcomed and cared for during my internship.

The membership was supportive and genuinely fond of each other. The board and leadership team were proactive and implemented best practices when governing the community. When I arrived the church had just completed the building of their RE center, which demonstrated tremendous leadership, cooperation, and an ability to "think outside the box," especially concerning the financing of the building.

I recommend, without reservation, UUCT to any minister who may want to become its minister.

If you have any questions you may reach me at 239-331-1808 or 680 14 the Avenue NE, Naples, Florida, 34120.