

The Reverend Doak M. Mansfield

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Colleague,

It is a real pleasure to recommend the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa for your serious consideration as a place for you, with a few reservations which I will note presently.

There is a community of some 150 adults and 30 youth/children who make up the life of the UUCT. The cadre of leaderships that make this happen numbers some 35. Organizationally, the leadership over the last decade has established a good set of practices and procedures using current technologies and resources. The UUCT is well organized.

It utilized a good long-term planning effort to guide its proudest success: the Multi-Purpose Building. Financially, the UUCT has pulled off remarkable accomplishments several times in its 60 years. There is a resourceful quality here that will need a strong collaborative attitude on the part of the next minister to face the challenges of 21st century church financing.

The congregation has responded well to the work of transitional ministry, and there is strong energy and the spirit is good. The UUCT enters the future in a good place and hopeful.

Now the reservations I seriously hope you will consider: attitudes will assure a short—or worse, an ineffective—tenure; canned or boring presentations/sermons will be dead on arrival; “high maintenance” professional posturing will not be welcomed; and boundaries that build walls rather than strengthen relationships and empower responsible leadership will destroy your ministry here ... in short, *relate before you reform, love them if you hope to lead them, and offer your authentic self as a co-creator with them of the ongoing life and future of the UUCT.*

Together.

My best wishes,

Doak