

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa Welcomes Rev. Bob Murphy as Community Minister and Chaplain

TAMPA, FL — The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa (UUCT) is pleased to welcome **Rev. Bob Murphy** as its new Community Minister and Chaplain as of November 1, 2026.

Rev. Murphy brings a broad background in Unitarian Universalist ministry, community engagement, and pastoral care to his new role. He has served as a UU community minister in Florida and has been a familiar and valued presence at UUCT, where he has led worship and spoken on a variety of topics related to faith, justice, community, and care for our world.

In his role as Community Minister and Chaplain, Rev. Murphy will provide pastoral support and spiritual care, participate in worship and congregational life, and help strengthen the church's connections with the broader Tampa Bay community.

Rev. Murphy's education included the following: MDiv, Harvard Divinity School, 1995. MPH, Boston University School of Public Health, 1981. Major: Community Services Administration and BA, San Francisco State University, 1972. Major: Political Science.

Rev. Murphy has been affiliated with Unitarian Universalist churches in North Carolina and Massachusetts, the Unitarian Universalist Church at Tarpon Springs, and remains active with One Island Family in Key West, Florida.

"We are delighted to welcome Rev. Murphy into this expanded role with our congregation," said Christine Smith, president of the UUTampa's Board of Trustees. "His experience, compassion, and commitment to Unitarian Universalist values and to the Tampa Bay community make him a wonderful addition to our church community."

In summarizing his background, Rev. Murphy said, "Before entering ordained ministry, I was active in community health services, environmental justice, and disability rights advocacy work. I was employed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and other agencies. I received an MPH degree from the Boston University School of Public Health. I am the author of Public Health Trails in Massachusetts. In 1990-91, I worked with other volunteers to establish the Green Sanctuary program for the national Unitarian Universalist Association."

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa is a welcoming, liberal religious community grounded in the principles of caring, learning, and acting. The congregation welcomes people of all backgrounds and seeks to create a community dedicated to spiritual exploration, caring for one another, and working for justice.

For more information about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa, visit uutampa.org.

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