



December 28, 2019

To Whom It May Concern

This letter is to give an enthusiastic recommendation of Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson for any ministry position in which she may be interested.

Rev. Beth and I began our ministries in the San Diego area together in 2004, and have been good friends and colleagues since then. Since she was in Preliminary Fellowship at the time, she was required to have a mentor, and I was honored to fill that position. I was immediately impressed with the depth and breadth of her gifts for ministry. She genuinely loves people, which show in her ability to lead in a collegial way with the lay leaders of her congregation. She is also a caring and insightful pastoral presence. Her instincts about congregational dynamics are excellent.

Beth has a deep spiritual and psychological grounding that is the result of many years of work on herself. I have not met anyone who is more attuned to the deep connection between people, animals and the earth. This has led her to be deeply involved with issues of climate justice, immigration, racial justice, and worker justice. She is articulate as a spokesperson for the causes that she is committed to, bringing a universal and UU perspective to the issues of our time. Her colleagues, and her fellow workers for justice look to her as a leader and inspiration.

There are many things about Beth's parish ministry that I admire. One of these is the way in which she engages in worship and preaching. Her worship services are creative, joyful and energetic blends of music, preaching and congregational participation. She takes joy in encouraging and including talented members of the congregation in planning and participating in worship. The congregation has grown under Beth's leadership, in both numbers and in diversity.

Beth is highly intelligent. All of her ministry gifts are supported by a clearly articulated theology.

Please feel free to contact me if there is any more information I can give.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube

Affiliate Faculty