

**MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION  
24 Farnsworth St., Boston, Massachusetts 02210**

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Name of candidate Lynda Sutherland

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Lynda Sutherland. For the past five years, I've had the good fortune to get to know Lynda in a number of different capacities: as a member of our congregation in Decorah, Iowa, as a participant in workshops and seminars offered by the Prairie Star District and the MidAmerica Region, as a student in a class I taught at Meadville Lombard Theological School, and as a colleague at the meetings of the Prairie Star District chapter of the UUMA.

Of all the students I've known in my years as a field staff member working originally for the Prairie Star District of the UUA and currently for the MidAmerica-UUA, I have never met a candidate for ministry who has take as much advantage of the offerings provided by our association as Lynda. What's particularly striking to me is the broad range of topics these offerings have covered. Lynda has learned about inclusive, innovative, and intergenerational worship from Marica McFee at a workshop offered by Prairie Star; she has considered the potential for growth in small congregations with Andy Pakula at another workshop offered by Prairie Star on the Growth & Vitality of Small Congregations; she has explored the spiritual possibilities of digital media, web technology, and social media in my Digital/Spiritual Literacy class at Meadville Lombard; and she has learned about how ministers can bring a spiritual formation focus to their ministry at the Clergy Seminar Series on Congregation-Based Spiritual Direction offered by MidAmerica-UUA and the Center for Congregational Spirituality. I have been either a teacher or co-facilitator at all of these learning opportunities in which Lynda has participated, and I can say without hesitation that, because of the work she's done in them, she is thoroughly prepared to face the challenges of being a Unitarian Universalist minister in the twenty-first century.

I've also had the opportunity to get to know Lynda on a personal level as well. In fact, Lynda was present for one of the most transformation experiences I've ever had in collegial setting: a meeting of the Prairie Star Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association where we used the Lectio Divina process to consider poems that were currently speaking to us in our lives. During that process I found Lynda to be an attentive, considerate, and insightful colleague, and I'm looking forward to a continued collegial relationship with Lynda in the future.

I'm also looking forward to seeing how Lynda integrates the learnings she has acquired during her preparation for the ministry. I am confident that Lynda will serve our faith with enthusiasm, dignity, and grace.

*Please circle one: Contents of this letter can be/have been/will be shared with the candidate.*

I understand that this letter will be taken into consideration only if the contents may be shared with the candidate.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_