



Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church

17503 El Camino Real, Houston, Texas 77058 | 281-488-2001 | www.BAUUC.org

April 17, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my privilege to recommend to you Rev. Tony Lorenzen. I worked with Tony for a year and a half at Pathways Church where I was Director of Lifespan Faith Development, and I have followed his work there with great interest since I left. Tony is a courageous, visionary leader, a prophetic voice, and a rising star in the Unitarian Universalist ministry. In my opinion, Tony can take a good church and lead it to become a great one.

Tony is a powerful and moving preacher, one who crafts worship services artfully, is comfortable with innovative worship styles and is adept at forging profound topics into experiences of awe and wonder without sacrificing their intellectual nuance. His sermons are not simply stirring; they are transformative.

Tony would fit best with a highly active congregation, one whose energy level matches his own. He is a passionate leader in social justice activism, politically savvy, and skilled at public relations. While working with him, I was amazed at the amount of press coverage he could generate for a small church far out in the suburbs. To find a minister who can be both a strong spiritual leader and a social justice powerhouse is unusual, but he is committed and skilled at both spiritual deepening and outreach.

Tony ministers to the whole church. He involves himself with youth programs, teaches adult classes regularly, and leads work teams in service projects. He is technologically literate, writes a popular UU blog, and brings a contemporary sensibility to church communications. But while at ease with new technologies and broad audiences, he does not neglect personal contact – every Monday he personally calls every visitor to thank them for attending. His energy and intelligence and compassion attract and retain newcomers, particularly young families, with whom his style resonates strongly.

He works closely with his DLRE in commitment to the adage that “All we do is faith development, all we teach is Unitarian Universalism, and the congregation is the curriculum.” His relationships with leadership are supportive, collegial and collaborative, and it was a joy to be on his staff. His appreciation of both staff and volunteers is deep, genuine and generously expressed. More than once I came to work to find a flower on my desk with a note saying, “You rock.”

I have seen Tony meet and triumph over major church crises – with a highly dysfunctional and antagonistic board of trustees in his first year, a disastrous budget crisis that he inherited, and a long-entrenched rogue discussion group holding the church hostage to their agenda. Even his most challenging relationships are conducted with insight, respect and compassion. He has an impeccable sense of integrity, and is a consummate professional at all times. He is a true servant leader--and a blessing-- to his congregation, the greater community, and Unitarian Universalism.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Yours in faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Lambert', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Julie Lambert
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