



### Message to the Congregation:

I'm very excited and humbled to be your contract minister, starting in July, 2023. I look forward to meeting all of you and getting to know you. I hope to serve you well.

I grew up just next door, in West Hartford, before getting my degree in English Literature and Philosophy in Birmingham, England. I have been a Unitarian Universalist minister for 15 years, serving in New Jersey, Northwest England, and the Catskills region in New York City. I'm a proud father to two amazing kids, avid writer, enthusiastic soccer player and extremely mediocre three-chord wonder on the guitar.

There's an old Buddhist story I quite like about a monastery, up in the Tibetan mountains, that had just acquired a new Abbot. He was rumored to have magical abilities (I assure you that no such rumors exist about me). In his first

day there, an acolyte asked the abbot, "Reverend Sir, what auspicious sign or miracle can we expect upon your arrival?"

The Abbot answered: "I have just swept up the snow from the front gate!"

I'll be honest: I haven't even accomplished that, thus far (and here in New England, of course, snow shoveling is highly prized!) But I do hope to pitch in and do my part here at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. On my own, I won't accomplish much, but together? Who knows! I look forward greatly to our time together.

Kind regards,

Rev. Bob