

Opening Words

Sunday, April 23, 2017

Good morning. My name is Cory Labanow. On behalf of my fellow Co-chair Hanan Watson and the entire Search Committee, I am thrilled to introduce you to a seasoned, insightful, and vibrant woman, our candidate for Associate Minister, Audette Fulbright.

I distinctly recall reading Audette's application for the first time and learning about her 16 years of senior minister experience, first in Roanoke, Virginia and most recently in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I was amazed. I just couldn't believe my eyes--there are religious liberals in Wyoming?!

But it was much, much more than that – from her application to our initial video interview and throughout the weekend-long interview process, Audette showed us a deep well of self-knowledge, a strong track record of social justice leadership, and a drive to do the tough, courageous work of ministry in all its forms. She has endeared herself to her congregations as someone who cares deeply for them and challenges them to live our values boldly. We on the Search Committee were wowed by how both effortlessly down-to-earth and unpretentiously sophisticated she is.

We believe Audette will fit right in at All Souls. We believe she'll change us at All Souls. And we believe that Audette will play a beautiful and vital role in our journey ahead.

Today and next Sunday, you'll get to know Audette in the pulpit. This week, there are a lot of opportunities for you to get to know Audette outside the pulpit. Take advantage of them. Tell her about your path to All Souls. Ask her tough questions. Begin the journey now of falling in love with Audette.