

## Reverend Carol Strecker Biography

Rev. Carol E. Strecker is completing a two-year interim ministry at the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship in Kingston, Ontario, but her home is in Cumberland, Maine, where her spouse, Kate, lives and works in the Emergency Department at Maine Medical Center.

Before her interim position in Kingston, Carol served Unitarian Universalist congregations in Maine for 11 years; nine years in Kennebunk as Parish Minister and two years in Augusta as Director of Religious Exploration. While she was in Augusta she developed a passion for the spiritual opportunities and challenges of aging. What started as a book group evolved into an ongoing support group and an online course that Carol still teaches through the Geriatric Certificate Program at the University of Southern Maine.

Carol moved to Maine from Cambridge, Massachusetts where she served as Associate Minister at the Arlington Street Church in Boston. Carol considers ASC her “home church.” She was ordained there in 1999 and will celebrate 20 years of ordained UU ministry while she is serving UUCM! Her portfolio included religious education, volunteer coordination, and organizational development. She was accepted into the UUA’s Accredited Interim Minister in Training program this spring and plans to make interim ministry her focus for the balance of her career.

Carol attended the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. She chose EDS because of their program in Feminist Liberation Theologies. She also has a Master of Social Work from Boston University, working in a variety of settings serving children, youth, and families before attending seminary.

Carol's roots are in the Midwest. Born in Greencastle, Indiana, her dad moved the family to St. Louis, Missouri, to take a position at Washington University when she was three years old. She graduated from University City High School and went on to Albion College in Albion, Michigan. Carol spent many summers at a camp on the shores of Lake Michigan where she developed a deep and abiding relationship with the natural world that continues to ground her spirituality. She also continues to embrace the ideals of love and service she learned growing up in the Methodist Church.

More recently, Carol's spiritual journey has led her to explore Buddhist teachings. She belongs to a Sangha that practices in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. She finds mindfulness training a grounding practice that enables her to make more conscious choices about who she wants to be in the world.

Carol and Kate are very proud of their daughter, Hillary, who is a public defender in Worcester, Massachusetts. Carol and Kate enjoy just about any outdoor activity, especially long walks with their dogs and hanging out on their deck watching their chickens wander around the yard.

In her spare time Carol enjoys all kinds of music. She's been playing guitar and singing since high school. She got hooked on the traditional music of Maine and Maritimes at a folk festival in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, and was inspired to take up playing fiddle and mandolin. She also enjoys bicycling, kayaking, and hiking.