

New-Unity.org

Vacancy for a new Minister

New Unity CIO, 277A Upper St, Islington, N1 2TZ. Registered Charity 161363

New Unity (www.new-unity.org) was formed from the merging of Newington Green Unitarian Church with Unity Church Islington. The two congregations started working together around 1995 and merged formally under a new legal structure as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2015. New Unity owns two freehold sites in London, the Grade II listed 18th century meeting house on Newington Green with its Victorian schoolrooms behind, and the 1950's community hall and office on Islington's vibrant Upper Street.

Reverend Andy Pakula has ministered to the congregations since 2006, initially as a trainee, and then called formally in 2012. Under his inspiring ministry the congregation grew rapidly, reaching a paid-up membership of over 100. Pre-Covid attendance at Sunday Gatherings regularly exceeded 70, plus up to 12 children attending the Sunday Bright Lights sessions. There is an extensive range of social justice, community and spiritual activities throughout the week, many of them inspired and lead by members of the congregation. The Meeting House is also a recognised heritage destination, showcasing Newington Green's distinguished heritage of rational dissent and its outstanding members, such as Mary Wollstonecraft and Richard Price.

Congregational activity held up during the pandemic, with the unexpected advantage that New Unity has now mastered the challenge of having both an on-line presence and in-person participation for its Sunday gatherings, which can still attract up to 40 people in person and a further 40 or so online.

Rev'd Andy Pakula is due to retire in the second quarter of 2022, creating an opportunity for a new Minister to work alongside the congregation with an ongoing sense of challenge, renewal and exploration in order to realise our fullest potential and extend the impact of Unitarianism – both spiritual and social – in the locality and beyond.

The fulltime appointment is initially for 2 years, with the hope and expectation that it will convert, by mutual agreement, into a called ministry at the end of that period. Stipend, pension and other terms of the appointment are in line with GA recommendations. A manse or manse allowance is available.

Candidates must be on the Ministerial Roll of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches or willing to take the necessary steps to be appointed to the Roll; for details see www.unitarian.org.uk/ministers.

Full details, including dates for the selection process, are available from Sue Morrison, Chair of the New Unity Transition Team, at sue.morrison@new-unity.org, to whom informal enquiries and/or formal applications (in writing) should be addressed.

Closing date for applications: midnight on Sunday January 30th, 2022.