

Kenneth Phifer hired by Unitarian Universalists

Maumee Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation has announced the hiring of Kenneth W. Phifer, as a consultant minister.

According to a release from the congregation, members consider him a "longtime friend" of the church.

Phifer was the senior minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor from 1980 - 2005.

The release also noted his "thought-provoking sermons, caring leadership, vibrant sense of humor."

"I appreciate this opportunity to continue working as a minister even in retirement. I am confident that together we can make a difference," Phifer said in the release.

During his career, he has been active with the Human Subject Review Committee of the University of Michigan Medical School; a founder of the Interfaith Roundtable; and has worked on issues relating to peace, aid in dying, and other concerns.

A graduate of Harvard University and the University of Chicago Divinity School, Phifer is the author of two books, "Becoming at Home in the World" and "Aspirations of a Humanist Heart."

"I am beginning this work with you as a consultant minister because of my deep conviction that our religious approach has much to offer the world as well as individual people" Phifer said. "Working together in community gives each of us as well as the larger society greater strength."

The new consultant also shared strong beliefs in the Unitarian Universalist philosophy and what it can mean not only to the congregation, but for the larger community.

"In an age in which the religions of the world are having to confront one another as never before, ours is a religion that demonstrates a way that this can happen without malice or contempt and with positive results," he wrote.