



September 21, 2021

To whom it may concern:

Congregation NefeshSoul (a small synagogue) has rented space from Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation for the past eight years (since our inception). During that time, VUU has been warm, welcoming, and ever conscious of our needs and religious traditions. Their former minister, Andy Burnette, valued the concept of an interfaith campus and saw our involvement as one step towards his larger goal. We collaborated from time to time, shared sermons at one another's podia, and enjoyed a very strong and positive relationship.

With COVID and with Reverend Andy's departure, we have not been as active as we once were but VUU has remained supportive of our diminished financial state and has worked to continue the relationship. We recently observed the High Holy Days and VUU stepped up to ensure that we had the space and set-ups that we needed to support our congregation at such a crucial time.

We love the VUU campus. The sanctuary is large, the grounds offer ample parking, a vegetable garden, a lovely grassy courtyard, a playground, and even a space for our sukkah when we build one. There are sufficient classrooms and a nice library and we are grateful for storage shelves and space to store our ark, Torah, and ritual items.

The Board has been available and accommodating to us. The former music director was a pleasure to collaborate with as well.

VUU is comprised of good people, with good hearts, with social justice priorities, with a strong sense of community. Sunday services are full to overflowing and their many committees are well-supported and active. A new minister with energy and strong leadership and communication skills who cares about people and wishes to repair the world will be a perfect match for VUU.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Susan Schanerman

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