

Rev. Mary Kay “Sophia” Ducey
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Dear Selection Committee,

From the time I felt “called” to go to ministry school, I knew I would be a senior minister. My life experience has helped me develop in the areas of spiritual leadership, public speaking, teaching, pastoral care, ceremony and ritual, curriculum development, financial management, personnel and volunteer management, and empowerment. My balance of business savvy and depth of interfaith spiritual practices has prepared me for the role of spiritual leader of a vibrant church community. To now feel called into serving your growing community feels like a beautiful next step on the evolution of my ministry. I see the grand possibility of truly embodying the Global Heart Vision of creating a world that works for everyone together with you!

The call to ministry has led me to many wondrous places around the world and within my own heart. I have witnessed many breath-taking demonstrations of the Law from my students and ministerial peers, and I have soared upon the wings of serendipity in my own life through the power of conscious intention. I must also be clear that the "call" has not been without challenge and has required constant vigilance to accept the many invitations for growth with an open heart and a willingness to surrender that which no longer serves. Self-examination has been the cornerstone of my journey as I recognize and transform old patterns into a new awareness of Self and a renewed passion for all life.

I have grown tremendously in my understanding of what it means to be a senior minister in the past two years at CSL Vancouver. I have also come to realize where my consciousness and skills will best serve. I have had a personal life, spiritual journey and career readying me to take the helm in shared leadership of a “program” church with members who are ready to step forward into their vibrancy and abundance as individuals and as a community.

My senior minister in San Diego often commented on how I was more suited to have my own church than to serve as a staff minister once I graduated. I arrived at Midtown Church in Spring of 2002, and quickly stepped into leadership by serving as part of the team that planned and implemented the senior minister’s installation, heading up the coordination of the first UCRS Global Heart Journey to Russia and Ukraine and serving in youth & family ministry. By the end of my first partial year at Midtown Church, I was asked to serve in the roles of Youth & Family Director, Practitioner Business Coordinator, co-teacher of Self Mastery and Prac II, serve on the Vision Core, and oversee the marketing of our classes and events.

By the following summer, I was coordinating our second Global Heart trip to Russia and working closely with our Russian leaders in setting the agenda and speakers for the conference. That year, I taught Self Mastery and Treatment & Meditation, coordinated all the service activities of the Practitioners, co-hosted the Practitioner retreat, served as the leader of the Community Outreach (Global Heart Service) committee of Midtown Church, and served on staff in service planning and other all-staff activities. Throughout my time of service, I spoke one Sunday every other month at Midtown Church, and then was booked at other churches in the area and across the country on the alternate months. I also performed 13 memorials, 3 christenings and 2 weddings. Immediately upon completion of my ministerial oral panels in August 2004, I was given a Letter of Call as Staff Minister at Midtown Church.

Speaking is an easy part of ministry for me. I love my days of reading through spiritual texts and formulating a talk. Since 1990 I have been speaking nation-wide as a motivational speaker and since 1999 as a spiritual speaker in Religious Science and other New Thought churches. Since 2002, I

have been blessed to co-write talks and music with my husband Steve Ducey and deliver these talks throughout the U.S. and the world.

When I decided to accept a second Letter of Call as a staff minister at United Centers for Spiritual Living home office in Burbank, I intended to use the time to build relationships with the various communities of UCSL. I passionately grew the activities of International Youth & Family Ministries in shared leadership with Rev. Charles Hall, supported our global centers as Vice Chair and Chair of the Global Core, and traveled and conducted trainings, workshops, counseling and Sunday talks. I have had the opportunity to serve on the Gathering committee, the Asilomar committee, vision and organize ritual and ceremony for our global folks and youth & family, and visit with many of our communities nation-wide in person, and our global centers through the telephone, email and at conferences. I have learned a lot through my observations of what works and does not work in growing churches and building partnership between ministers, boards, practitioners, and committees.

I have been asked to serve several church communities in conflict transformation. Tapping into my business background in conflict mediation and management training, I was able to assist a number of communities in the Global Heart principles of open communication, congruency, accountability, and integrity. My work with these communities has allowed them to move past some mis-communication or indirect communication and open channels for opening hearts and building bridges.

My time in International Youth & Family reinforced the importance of family as an integral part of the infrastructure and marketing plan of a church. Religious Science churches must realize that without outreach to the families of our communities, we will dwindle. We must learn from our brothers and sisters in the large Christian churches that youth & family programs grow churches.

Prior to ministry school, I owned and operated a training and consulting firm for 12 years. My business had a similar focus and structure to our Religious Science churches – self help workshops, people make a long-term commitment to their own development, weekly reinforcement and inspiration, phone and face-to-face counseling. In fact, many people over the early years of my business life told me I should attend the National Science of Mind Center (now Celebration Center of Religious Science) since they were teaching exactly what I was teaching – positive thinking, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Norman Vincent Peale, Mind-Body-Spirit integration in all aspects of life.

My years of business ownership included networking and alliance building. This experience has taught me the importance of engaging fully with the local community. I was on the executive committee of the largest chamber of commerce in the Washington, DC area and oversaw membership and international business support. I assisted the regional chamber of commerce in gaining buy-in and implementation of their strategic plan. As a non-parent and even a non-resident of the county in which my business resided, I volunteered on the business advisory council of the public school system in order to provide my gifts of leadership and direction in the school system. Our council supported business-school partnerships, financial and productivity review of all departments of the school system, and classroom support. My most cherished time was running the 4-H club for kindergarteners and 1st graders at a local school. It was beautiful to watch these children engage and grow into local and global citizens.

I believe my global perspective from my personal and ministry life, and my ability to initiate and build alliances has prepared me for the role of senior minister of a growing, vibrant church. I have a deep reverence for all faiths and a voracious appetite to learn and grow. I am a visionary, goal-oriented leader, ardently committed to the Global Heart Vision of creating a world that works for everyone, and the Global Heart Principles of Vision & Treatment, open communication, congruency, accountability and team work. As a spiritual leader, I am committed to transparency and self

responsibility. I know that one builds OR breaks trust through direct, loving, honest communication, and by the ability to own one's own actions, beliefs and thoughts with others.

I look forward to getting to know you and your community better and exploring the wonderful world we can create together!

PB&J – Peace, Blessings & Joy



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Sunday Messages:

A select number of Sunday messages on Eckhart Tolle’s “A New Earth” last spring can be heard online at:

<http://www.cslvancouver.com/Talks-Audio.htm>

I am working to upload a video of a recent Sunday talk for your viewing. I will provide the link for download when it is complete.

Compensation Ideas:

I am open to discussing a compensation that is appropriate for your budget, and that honors my experience and gifts. I have been living in VERY expensive areas (Vancouver, Burbank and San Diego), and I am unclear about the cost of living in the Springs.

I would like to see the following included in a compensation plan:

Base Salary

Compensation for teaching UCSL and personally created classes based on % of profit

% of growth over base operating costs

Conference travel and expenses

Professional development

Family Health Insurance for me and my husband

Relocation Costs

Vacation

15% of compensation to UCRS Retirement Fund (Polycomp)

Ceremony fees paid directly to me

References available upon request.