

Nick Sanchez is a jack of all trades, lifetime student, spiritual adventurer, and soon to be a father. He currently lives in sunny Boca Raton, Florida with his wife, Katie, where they just celebrated his 35<sup>th</sup> birthday. They are both very active members of their local fellowship, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton, where he serves as leader of their Worship Team, performs lay services, leads Wednesday Compline services, and teaches OWL. Nick and Katie both grew up in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and look forward to returning there this Summer. Although he was raised by parents who struggled with mental health and left him and his siblings as a teenager, he graduated in the top of his high school class. He went on to pursue studies at Penn State University, earning two baccalaureate degrees in Philosophy and Religious Studies with a minor in English. An accident during undergraduate studies left him with a lifelong disability in the form of a spinal cord injury. Despite his chronic pain condition, he considers himself blessed to be one of the few people with his injury who retained full mobility. Financial difficulties delayed graduate study as he pursued an eclectic array of jobs including starting, growing, and selling his own small business. Determined to do his best at any job at hand, he learned a wide variety of skills that he reflects upon now as being preparation for his vocation as a minister. Although he spent much of his time trying to make ends meet, he would continue to pursue his call to help others through volunteer work at hospitals, hospices, and ambulance squads. Nick spent many years as a seeker, curious about the diverse array of faith traditions, spiritual beliefs, and with a sincere desire to learn about world religions. In many ways he feels that his seemingly eclectic history has been preparing him for life as a Unitarian Universalist minister the entire time. He enjoys his graduate studies in the Master of Divinity program at Iliff School of Theology, and he hopes to one day pursue doctoral studies as well. Nick is extremely grateful for the opportunity to pursue his vocational calling, and his family is excited for him as he pursues his path to ordination.