

Paul has been an ordained UCC minister since age 24. He has served First Congregational Grand Junction since September 2021. His focus beyond serving local churches has been in the areas of interfaith peace work, ecumenical spirituality and dialogue, social justice issues, support for GLBTQ and immigrant rights, and serving on boards for racial reconciliation in Cincinnati and Tulsa.

Those interests have been reflected in:

- Serving as Chair of the Peace and Justice board for the Southwest Ohio UCC.
- Teaching church history and UCC polity at United Seminary and Phillips Theological Seminary.
- Founding the Peace Meditation Center in Tulsa
- Being a meditation student of Thich Nhat Hanh for 3 decades and doing Jukai with his order in September 2000
- Enjoying membership in the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
- Organized Prayers for Peace Rally for Cincinnati, Ohio
- Worked through the process for 3 churches to become Sanctuary Churches that offer protection, shelter and food for immigrant families.
- Guiding the Monday night meditations for One Drop Seattle Zen, affiliated with Shodo Harada Roshi in Japan.
- Serving as Vice-President for 3 terms for Seattle Soto Zen.
- Being admitted as a Family Brother, sharing the monk's life and living in monastic cloistered residence at Assumption Trappist Abbey.
- Training in Advaita Vedanta Hindu theology and meditations with John Wheeler, Stephen Wolinsky, and Swami Bhaskarananda
- Training in Sufi meditation by Llewellyn Vaughn-Lee
- UCC representative on Interfaith Boards in San Diego, Cincinnati and Seattle.
- Training and Certification as a Spiritual Director in the Catholic tradition with the Hesychia school of Spiritual Direction, Tucson, AZ.
- Representing the UCC at two national Conferences on Buddhism in America.
- Completed 30-day Ignatian Retreat at St. Bernard's Institute

Paul holds the following degrees:

- Bachelors in Political Science, James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA
- Masters in Political Science, College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia
- Masters in Divinity, Southeastern Baptist Seminary at Wake Forest, NC
- Masters in Theology, with focus on Global spirituality- Princeton Seminary – Princeton, NJ
- Doctorate in Ministry, Colgate Rochester Divinity School/ Bexley Hall Episcopal/ St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Institute – Rochester, NY
- Dissertation topic: Reinhold Niebuhr's Defense of Democracy.
- Post-doctoral study Asian Religions: Merrell Fellow Harvard University – Cambridge, MA

Clergy Service Awards include:

- Northside Community Service Award (Cincinnati) for Peace and Justice, 1991

- A Friends of Tibet” award for work with Tibetan Buddhist refugees, 1993
- Awarded Merrill Fellowship, Harvard University 2000-2001 for study of Asian religions
- Bennett Award for Inclusion by Oklahomans for Equality for the work of promoting justice and acceptance of GLBTQ persons, 2011
- Awarded Writers scholarship by Collegeville Institute for 10-day study program, that included a fully funded Residency Program with author Kathleen Norris, 2013
- Awarded Lilly Endowment Grant to do Interfaith Peace work in Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Taiwan during sabbatical year 2018
- Awarded Louisville Institute grant to do Interfaith dialogues in residence at 12 Hindu temples 2019 -2021.
- As a reflection of interfaith work for peace and understanding, Paul was honored with a lifetime membership in a Hindu temple (the Vedanta Center of Western Washington), 2019.