

2017-2018 Minister's Report

It's hard to believe we're already nearing the end of our second year together. What an honor and gift it is to serve at UUCSC as your minister.

When the *last* congregational year concluded, it was a time of shift. Karen St. Peter had just joined us as Office Administrator, we were without a Director of Religious Education, and I was still new to many of you.

What a difference a year makes!

Staff and lay leadership alike are finding their place in this renewed and invigorated congregation. We're discovering new ways of doing things, from taking more time at Board Meetings for sharing deeply of ourselves to considering how (and how much) to best care for each other. So much has been launched – a holiday fair, the possibility of service trip, a safe congregations team. And what is here is finding further solidification – from the board clusters and the coordinating council, to the work of the communications team, to a strong and dedicated facilities committee. Everywhere I look, there is movement forward.

All of this is taking place in the context of an unsettling world, where politics and policies are put forth, meant to vilify and punish those already most marginalized. Such actions are entirely discordant with the call of Unitarian Universalism, and ever more of us thus find ourselves moved to substantial action. And not just in the 'resistance,' though that too, but also in innovative and exciting ways of engaging youth, encouraging voter involvement, and sharing our skills in support of positive shift.

As I've repeated often, in the words of UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray, "this is not time for a casual faith." This is an age when Unitarian Universalism will – if we're open to it – call us into the world in new and challenging ways. We are asked to live our faith loudly, not a charge that either New Englanders or UUs are accustomed to, but such is the call.

This is an invitation that you have responded to in powerful ways. From study groups to housing committees, from marches to vigils, from stewardship drives to care for families risking deportation, you show up in love and commitment, again and again.

For that reason, my work with you focused this year was focused on resistance and renewal, encouraging us to act and reflect in a depthful and heart-searching ways, with a counterbalance of joy, innovation, and love. Thank you for your patience as we try out new ideas, inside and outside of our congregational walls. Sometimes, the changes are fun and exciting, and at other times discordant or unsuccessful. That's all part of the process, as we learn and grow together in this ever-changing body that we call UUCSC.

We are building the future we dream of, together. And that is good.

With joy and love,
Rev. David