

September 2018

Dear UUCSC Board,

Coming back as your minister a few weeks ago, in this, year three of our shared ministry, feels tangibly different than the past two falls. Part of that is that I know you – individually and as a congregation – far better than when I arrived. (Though I know there's much more to know about you.)

This is the first year – at least for me – where it feels like we are beginning the year with some shared vision. The first two years were more finding our way with each other, finding our feet. Now comes the work.

Not the business, the work.

What's the difference you ask? As your spiritual leader, I recognized – during my study leave this summer – how much time I spent last year on the 'business' of the congregation. Strengthening our staff team, working with FinCom, Membership, Pastoral Care, and Caring Connection to begin to rethink approach and process, collaborating with the Worship Committee to try new things, and so on. All of which was time well spent.

This year, I hope and intend to lead us back to the work of spiritual deepening. Some of that will look like forms of group pastoral care, for there is a high level of anxiety about the state of the world. There will be small group formats for reflecting on our places of stuckness, and to releasing some of that. And, at a very concrete level within these walls, holding a space for the congregational anxiety that's a very natural response to change.

Our new resource – Soul Matters, which gives a shared theme for worship, RE, music, and small groups, if desired – helps with respect to that. It's already far easier for the staff to create complementary worship and RE, by giving us common language.

As Bethany notes in her Board report, we're in a time of change. We'll be asking – again - for the Board's support along the way, as we try out new ways of being in community with each other. Everything we do is meant to provide an opportunity for your well being – so show up, try new things, and keep giving feedback.

In hope and anticipation,
Rev. DL