

May 2019

Dear UUCSC Members and Friends,

It's a good year when we bless 11 babies, welcome almost 20 new members, and raise \$275,000 and growing toward UUCSC's second-ever capital campaign. It's an even better year when committees find ways to work with each other increasingly well, when multigenerational worship is welcomed and enjoyed, and when the choir is sometimes bursting at the seams. It's a great year when we become more real about our purpose as a faith community, find new ways to show up for each other and in the larger world, become increasingly open to change, and gain a sense of our own ability to work toward justice.

As I've been saying all year, you're – we're – growing in good and positive directions.

This has also been a year of trying new things, and learning from what worked (or didn't). Our first-ever service trip presented cost and logistical challenges, which, while disappointing, gave us insight about what would be required to plan such a trip next year. We attempted different multigenerational formats in worship, with varying levels of success. It took a few tries to launch new covenant groups but now, in May, that's finally happening. And there's so much more – we changed our Path to Membership process, engaged in an amazingly wide array of social justice activities, and hosted many others in UUCSC's space.

My observations are entirely positive. I notice the receptivity to change, whether that's in committees or worship or other groups. Committees, the Coordinating Council, and the Board are communicating with each other in helpful and interconnected ways. When concerns arise, as they will, they're being more often communicated directly, and from a place of desiring resolution. And, many here are learning of their own ability to effect change, during these times, in the larger world. I am impressed and delighted at the efforts of so many.

As you've heard me say elsewhere, that offers a basis for deeper work, spiritually and otherwise. In the rest of this year and into next year, we'll explore just that. Fear, loneliness, life's meaning, loss...this community of seekers can, I know, hold each other's hearts gently as we open to new possibilities.

As always, it is my privilege to serve as your minister.

With love and affection,
Rev. DL Helfer