

October 2019
Minister's Report to the Board

Dear BOD,

If Sunday morning is any indication – we are growing. Not just in numbers – though that too – but in depth. As you've heard me say before, I'm quite influenced by UUA President's Susan Frederick Gray's reminder that "this is no time for a casual faith."

If one looks at the arc of our faith, and of our congregation itself, there's an aspect of maturation happening. Gone – in both cases – are the days of solo decision making (e.g., "she's always been in charge of X for the congregation:); we've instead entered a time of not just policies and bylaws but heartfelt and real conversations about who we are and who we want to be.

This matters because it represents policy governance, how progress is made in lieu of a hierarchical structure, and for Unitarian Universalists draws us back to the very roots of our faith, that people together can propel us and the larger world forward, positively.

Allow me to give two examples of this.

The Communications Committee felt our website had stopped meeting the need. Within a year, a small but mighty team of committed congregants have changed all that for the better. Along the way, they realized the need for input, so they met with multiple committees, seeking and integrating feedback along the way. The final product, the new website, represents *us*.

Another example pertains to General Assembly. Two congregants observed gaps in the planning process and not only stepped in to help, but also brought questions both to UUCSC Committees and other RI UU congregations, widening our reach and impact in the process.

This and much else allows me, as your minister, to step back a bit and observe. To do less and be present more. To explore more deeply what I might bring to you on Sunday mornings and beyond. And I'll admit, openly, while my heart is aching with personal losses, my time is best spent being less administrative and more of a spiritual leader. Which seems to be serving us well this year.

It's not without bumps, of course, and the work is never done. I've been hearing rumblings of concern, ranging from finances, about gender pronouns for non-binary or transgender individuals, of overwork and succession. There's always more growth on the horizon.

But this year, when I speak with one (or many) UUCSCers, I'm finding the deep wells of spirit, passion, love, and hope that are the hallmarks of a truly beloved community.

May we spend this year in deep and open growth.

With love,
Rev DL