**September 2020**

Dear Board members,

Welcome to our 5th year together!

You’ll notice that there is an extra board report this time – from Michael Galib, our Music Director. It felt important, during this virtual worship time, to have a sense of the work he’s doing. You’ll see, I think, he’s excited to contribute in this way.

Things are going well. It’s taking time to onboard 2 new staff members, but both are excited and eager to be engaged in UUCSC work. As a newer staff, we’re finding ways, again, to work together, and perhaps even improve upon some things.

I have – largely – planned worship for the year, which gives Michael and Lee more information on which to base some of their work. I also met with the Worship Committee earlier this month, and we have the beginnings of a good plan for supporting the weeks I’m off.

The beginning of the year is always busy for me, and the new technology needs make it more so. That said, I think worship is unfolding well, as is coffee hour. I’m readying to offer the course on the 7 (hopefully soon 8) principles. I continue to offer a spiritual course, as well as a Monday morning check in.

I think the hardest part of my ministry right now is realizing that I can’t fix it for folks, that things are simply challenging right now in the world. I’ve been the recipient in the past months of a fair bit of frustration about why we are not meeting in person, objections as to why our worship isn’t like that of another (often much larger, and better staffed) congregation, and a weird duality where folks want more offerings but aren’t willing to volunteer as they usually would. I’m aware that all of this is coming from places of frustration, loss, and sadness, so I am doing my best to respond to the underlying needs.

All of this is normal. I’m in regular contact with colleagues and we, like so many other congregations, is adapting, as we know how, to the times in which we find ourselves. It’s not always easy, but it is easier together.

Warmly,

Rev. DL