

Dear Board,

I write this the morning after our vote affirming our adoption of the 8th principle. I hope we pause for a moment, and acknowledge the good work and the shared ministry that got us to this point. Yes, there is much work to be done, yet, but I encourage us to celebrate this memorable and important milestone!

At this point in mid-April, your staff is largely focused in two areas: (1) what fun and connective opportunities can we create before we leave in June for the summer, and (2) what will fall look like? The document we sent you with some ideas for in-person activities represents the feedback we are getting, the hope for some outside and in-person opportunities for connection. That, of course, will depend, in part, on our conversation at the Board meeting.

And we are looking towards fall. We're exploring whether we might offer OWL this year or next, how multigenerational connection might happen yet more, and the list goes on.

For my part, it's a busy time right now. There's budget input to consider, summer worship to help plan for, tech support needed now and through the summer, the question of when to return if we begin in-person activities (inside) this fall, and on and on. In between all that, I create worship, offer pastoral care, and lead or co-lead weekly and biweekly meetings, and attend board and committee meetings. There's been more virtual collegial connections lately, too, which I'm particularly grateful for, as well as some in person protests in Providence. It's a busy time, as late spring here always is. Even more so in a pandemic year.

So, when you see my note about perhaps lessening my time commitment to UUCSC for next year, and you might ask "why?, how?." Which are fair questions and good ones.

It will certainly be a help when we hire a new congregational administrator in fall. It will help, too, when some who have stepped away during virtual time are willing to step back into some of the roles they once held.

As we move forward, I keep thinking about the rule that the federal government has – I forget what it's called – but the essence is that a new rule couldn't be put into law unless there was budget money present to support it. I advocate that we do the same here – with human capital. Figure out what you lovely humans can reasonably (!) do, and don't take on more than that. There's a lot of interesting and good ideas about what we might do, but too few are carrying too much. I personally think it's time for us to do less, and BE more.

It's been my goal this year to reintroduce us to our more spiritual sides. I've been more successful in. that in some areas than others. For me, that remains the core question – to remember why we gather and what the work is, both internally and externally, to which we are called.

In this busy, complex, ever-changing year, that's where I keep returning – that we are a people of faith. Faith that will help us find a new path forward, again and again.

Best,
Rev. DL