

Minister's Report to the Board of Trustees
UU Congregation of South County
Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

December 14, 2021

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

I've been with you just less than two weeks at this point, and though there isn't much to report yet, I wanted to take this time let you know what I've been up to.

The staff has been great to work with. I've made it clear that my job is supervisory and not "chief of staff." My understanding of that role is largely to support them in their work so that they can reach their goals within their job descriptions and personal expectations, as we all minister to the whole congregation. We've established a covenant and set a regular monthly staff meeting, as well as weekly supervisory meetings with Lee and Sara. Mike and I will communicate often and regularly regarding worship.

I have been attending committee meetings as they've been coming up, in an effort to determine which will require my presence and attention, and at what frequency. I also started meeting with committee chairs, one-to-one, partly to get a sense of their charges and challenges, but mainly to get to know the people who are showing up and doing the work of the congregation. My intention is also have a one-to-one conversation with every member of the congregation during my time here, without allowing that goal to hinder other work. The deadline is flexible, but the goals are important: to establish connections, build trust, and nurture caring.

Sara and Communications chair Etta Zasloff and I are working to be as clear as possible about how to contact me and how my 3 weeks on/ one week furlough schedule works and what my hours are. I will be on site Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday for long days, and available by phone or

Zoom on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. I expect I'll be coming in regularly for a fourth day, on an as-needed basis. Office hours are Tuesdays 10am to 4pm. This week I hope to set up community office hours, which I call beverages and banter, for each "on" week during the month of January. The times and locations (both physical and virtual) will change week to week, so as not to create a kind of clique.

Pastoral care needs have already begun popping up here and there, a great sign that trust is beginning already.

Next month I plan to submit a report in a format more reflective the style of report you're accustomed to receiving from staff.

In Peace,
Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul