

Dear Members and Friends of UUCM,

Growth and change require shifts and new ventures. I am making a personal, professional, and spiritual decision that makes a shift in my life and the RE program at UUCM. It is time for my next step in career development and other ministries. I am finally preparing to take the next step toward being a minister. This requires a concentrated effort on applying for and participating in a Clinical Pastoral Education program. What follows that will be studying a pile of books on the UU Ministers' Association reading list, and going before the UUA Ministerial Fellowshiping Committee.

Therefore, it is time for me to take leave of my position at UUCM. I am satisfied with the depth of my ministry here at UUCM. I have loved the work in RE and I love the people at UUCM. There will always be a special place in my heart for this congregation. I hope to maintain a relationship with UUCM through projects that serve Unitarian Universalism and the needs of the people and the planet. My last day in the position of Director of Family Ministries is scheduled to be **Sunday, June 9, 2019**.

My journey in ministry has been a long and winding road which included me being here at UUCM doing a seminary internship in 2005-2006 and as RE Director since January 2013. In the past six years, UUCM and I have each grown and shared gifts too numerous to count. The journey has been a blessing. I look forward to a future relationship with UUCM in another form. This will likely be in cluster, district, and regional venues.

Thank you for the love and support of me in this position and of the RE program. There are significant shift and growth opportunities ahead of this community regarding RE programming and Family Ministry. You all have a big project ahead of you and you deserve to have someone who is ready to go the distance with you. I know I am not this person at this time. I hope and pray for the greatest success for your ministry to children, youth, and families and the health of the congregation at UUCM.

May it be so.

Gratefully Yours,

Jeffrey Melcher