Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
Sept. 10, 2025

Our search for a new music director has begun!

In June, Gail Swain, UUFSCC music director for 19 years, announced that she will retire on October 26, 2025. Ann McCrow of the Personnel Committee has convened a Music Director Search Committee consisting of Mindy Scherr (chair), Edy Rhodes, Andy Kreyche, and Bob Campbell, with Rev Laura Horton-Ludwig as an ex-officio member. Ann will provide administrative support. Gail leaves very big shoes for us to fill.

With the approval of the Board, we have begun the search process by enlisting the services of Bailey Whiteman, a UU consultant who specializes in congregational transition periods. After 19 years, this is an ideal time for our congregation to revisit our music history and imagine the future of our music ministry. Here is the plan as we move forward:

- Bailey will conduct several listening sessions in September and October with different cohorts of the congregation, giving all of us the opportunity to assess what we love about our music program and envision what we seek in the future.

- Bailey will synthesize and summarize the feedback to inform the Search Committee as they write a job posting that will comprehensively reflect our needs and resources.

- We are planning a "Celebration and Appreciation of Gail" on Sunday, October 19 to acknowledge and thank her for all her contributions to our Fellowship.

We intend to post the job opening in November, followed by the search committee's review of applications, then interviews and auditions. Our goal is to have a new Music Director in place by February 1, 2026.

We are currently working on a plan for the three-month transition period between Gail's departure on October 26 and the new hire's start date in February, which will take us through the holiday season and into the new year.

We are excited about where this musical journey will take us, and grateful to be able to celebrate Gail's wonderful tenure with UUFSCC.

Questions? Please contact Mindy, Ann and the Search Committee at musicsearch@uufscc.org.