



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

A Place to Connect, Grow and Serve

May 23, 2018 - MINISTRY MATTERS

Small Groups on Changes Coming

The Rev. Beth Miller

Temporary Senior Minister

As we look forward to UUCA's Annual Meeting on June 3 when you will vote on the slate of candidates to serve as your Board and Officers, Nominating Committee and Search Committee for your next called minister; as we prepare to say goodbye to two people who have lovingly ministered to this congregation: Intern Minister, **Christin Green**, this week and Director of Children, Youth, and SHINE Choirs, **Bea Ann Phillips**, next week; and as we are about to learn who your Interim Senior Minister for the next year will be, I'm thinking about the ongoing changes this congregation is experiencing. And I'm wondering - how are you all doing?

I see a lot of engagement in congregational life and that's a healthy sign. There was great participation in the Wellspring Wednesday programs that are ending this week. Covenant Groups are going strong. Participation in our various programs to address social justice concerns seems strong. The 8th Principle Task Force is getting organized to lead us in consideration of its adoption. The budget meetings Tamara offered were well attended. The Young Adult brunches and other programs seem to be keeping people connected. RE for children is healthy, and oh my! wasn't the Youth Sunday service last week amazing? And there's so much more going on. Too much to name.

It looks like you're doing really well, considering all you've been through this year and the uncertainty of the changes you continue to face. But I'm wondering--do you want more opportunities to simply process all of this?

In March and early April we had a Service of Appreciation for Rev. Aaron's ministry and three opportunities to come together in Congregational Listening Circles to simply hear each other's feelings. I promised to offer facilitated small groups to further process feelings and thoughts. Church life got busy and now May is almost over, but we're still on for those groups. In June I will facilitate 12 one-time groups on different days and times in an effort to accommodate everyone's schedules. Each group will be able to include a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 participants. The purpose will be to discuss your thoughts, feelings, excitement and concerns about changes in the congregation.

A new signup process for church programs is being developed and should be ready in the next few days. Consider when you would like to participate and look for a special email with instructions soon. Here are the dates and times:

Thursday 6/7, 7:00; Friday, 6/8, 10:00; Saturday, 6/9, 10:00;
Tuesday, 6/12, 5:00; Thursday, 6/14, 7:00; Friday, 6/15, 1:00,
Saturday, 6/16, 10:00; Sunday, 6/17, noon; Tuesday, 6/26, 7:00;
Wednesday, 6/27, 5:00; Thursday, 6/28, 2:00; Saturday, 6/30, 1:00.

You don't need to be sad, upset or anxious to participate. We'll address what we appreciate and look forward to as well as what we miss and are concerned about. Come if you need to talk, and come if you're curious to hear from others. Come if you're the type who faces change with great anticipation, and come if it scares you to death. As our hymn says, come, come whoever you are. Let's minister to one another in the complexity and diversity of our feelings as a community of memory and hope.