

May 19, 2019

Dear fellow Congregants,

I want to encourage you to participate in our Annual Meeting, scheduled for after the service on Sunday, June 2. This has been a year of change and we have several things to decide together as we move into a new era for UUCGT starting in August. We need to elect ten new leaders, four for the Board of Trustees, four for the Leadership Development Committee and two for the Endowment Committee. We need to decide on two Bylaw changes that are proposed and whether or not to adopt a new Covenant. Finally, we need to approve a budget for 2019-2020.

As you know, we have a new full time Interim Minister, Rev. Dr. Cathy Harrington, starting in August. Cathy will walk beside us for the next two years as we work to call a Settled Minister to start in August 2021. We have developed a new plan for Religious Education that includes hiring a new RE Director, Betsy Hammerberg, to lead our staff of teachers, who recently had their contracts renewed. We have formed a search committee to find a new Music Director and meanwhile, engaged Susan Holmes-Glazier as our Temporary Music Director.

Last October, we set some goals for this year. In addition to revitalizing our RE program and working on a new Covenant, we have accomplished a lot. We have held more all Congregation events including four after church potlucks and a Contradance event. We continued our community involvement with the weekly Tuesday lunch for the economically challenged. We expanded our volunteer involvement in Safe Harbor, the community emergency homeless shelter and staffed two full weeks this year. We opened the doors of our facility, converting our smaller classroom to a meditation center that is now used by at least two of our weekly meditation groups. The Indivisible group also uses our facility for meetings every week.

Our Pledge Drive showed an increase this year, despite the loss of several members to relocation and death. Our attendance is on the rise. More children are showing up on Sundays for RE. We are just getting started.

Thanks to all of you for supporting our Congregation this year. It is a year we could have been discouraged, but instead you chose to move forward.

Please come to our Annual Meeting on Sunday June 2 at Noon, hear more about what we are planning, and vote to sustain the momentum we are building.

Mike McDonald

President, Board of Trustees