Rev's Reflections

Being Heard

Unitarian Universalism is a faith tradition governed through representational democracy. Our central body, the UUA, works for the congregations, not the other way around. When we gather as a national association every year, each congregation sends a handful of delegates to make decisions on its behalf in a kind of congress called General Assembly. And in our congregations, we elect lay leaders to take responsibility to make decisions about how we live out our covenant and our values.

For the most part, we have a lot of faith in our association and its staff, our ministers and our lay leaders. And yet we are not a people of blind faith. We want our opinions to be heard, and we want to know what is going on "in our names."

The world feels like it's on fire as more of us feel stripped of our rights and threatened existentially, so we engage in this congregation in two major ways. We want it to be a place where we can feel safe, AND we want it to be a place where we can fight for democracy together. As the world changes and the demands placed upon us grow exponentially, we're living in the tension between preserving our traditions and having to rethink everything.

It's a lot for the lay leaders to carry. Especially for board *officers,* whom I know are all doing their best.

In an effort to help keep lines of communication open, the Committee on Ministry,* whose charge is to evaluate and support the ministry of the congregation, will be hosting the first of a series of congregational conversations after the service on Sunday, April 6. Everyone is invited to stay, in person or online, to ask your questions and share your thoughts **about the biggest challenges we face.**

Immediately after the service in which we will welcome and celebrate new members, we'll share a little cake and coffee, then reconvene. I hope you'll join us. Your voice matters.

In Peace,
Rev Denis

*The Committee on Ministry is also called "the COM," and is currently made up of Barbara Nowicki, Donna Caldwell, and Sarah Dinklage.