Rev's Reflections

Projecting Our Faith

If you've been in our sanctuary during Sunday morning services you've likely noticed that I use a small electronic tablet. The script on it contains everything, including my text, readings, song lyrics, and even stage directions for the Zoom camera. Having everything in one place obviates the need to juggle a script, order of service and hymnals, allowing me to be more relaxed and engaged with everyone present, in the moment.

Contrary to my preconceived notions, technology really can encourage human connection. Many of you have said the same thing to me, noting that if we were to have projection screens in the sanctuary, you all could have an experience like mine, with the order of service and hymn lyrics all in one place. You'd have the added benefit of getting to look up as you sing, which feels and sounds better than looking down at a hymnal

In June, at our annual General Assembly, our Unitarian Universalist Association is rolling out a new hymnal, the first in almost 20 years, with new songs and more inclusive lyrics. It will ONLY be available electronically for projection — not printing. That means if we want to take advantage of this new subscription service, we need to install a projection system.

We have a lot of thinking, discussing and planning to do!

What kind of system do we want? A screen and projector? A video monitor or two? Where should it/they be located? How will we pay for this system, since it can't be in the general expenses already budgeted? Who will run the technology during the service? (I'll give you a hint: the service leader can't simultaneously engage with the congregation, move the camera around, and run the technology). Do we even want to do this?

Members of the most affected committees including worship, music, religious education, board of directors, facilities and finance are going to start thinking strategically. If you are interested in this topic, have any expertise, or can help out in any way, you're welcome to join the conversation. Please let me know. Meetings are about to be scheduled.

In Peace,
Rev Denis