

## Looking Ahead Together at UUCSC-A Message from the Committee on Ministry (COM)

As most of you now know, Rev. Denis has shared that he will be leaving us. While this brings an important transition in the life of our congregation along with some sadness, we are heartened that the work already underway through our *Roots and Wings* conversations is helping to prepare us for the meaningful journey of hiring a new minister.

In these conversations, we have begun to name three complex and interconnected challenges facing our community:

- How we sustain ourselves for the long term—growing our financial resources, membership, and leadership
- How to ensure our organizational structure, which no longer aligns with our resources and needs, truly supports who we are and what we need today
- A sense of disconnect between “upstairs and downstairs”—an imperfect way of naming a divide we are continuing to explore with care and curiosity

In response, two self-selected action groups have begun their work:

- **Research**, gathering resources that may guide us—both on our own and with outside support
- **Assessment**, helping us more deeply understand the experiences and concerns within our congregation

The Committee on Ministry has also placed an idea box on the altar. We invite you to share your thoughts, questions, and hopes—whether they are small insights or big-picture possibilities. If you are comfortable, please include your name so members of the Assessment group can follow up and continue the conversation with you.

In May, we will undertake our annual evaluation of ministry. While this process has traditionally focused on strengths and challenges, this year we hope to widen the circle—inviting more voices and listening more deeply for our shared priorities as we shape what comes next.

This is a time of change, and a time rich with possibility. We are grateful for the care, presence, and commitment each of you brings to UUCSC. We move forward together, with intention and hope.

In Peace,

The COM (Sarah Dinklage, Barbara Nowicki, Danielle Bilecki, Aline Couture)

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