

Minister's Notes
November 11, 2020

Dear Board Members,

The stress of the election and the pandemic has taken its toll on the entire country. I look forward to January for many reasons; one big reason is that your search team will begin looking at ministerial candidates interested in serving UUCGT. There is much to look forward to; a vaccine, a new minister, and a new president!

Guy is approaching the time when he can take over the bookkeeping position from Glenda, but they both have had health issues that have made it harder to complete the training. The Finance Committee has recommended that we contract with Glenda to assist Guy if he runs into glitches. They suggest up to 20 hours through Dec 15th, and Guy is in agreement.

Issues with the Internet and the old modem have been resolved, and Renée reported that it has improved her capabilities with recording and uploading, etc. in the sanctuary. Prior to the upgrade we were not able to play anything from YouTube prior to the repair and had no problem last Sunday! The staff is VERY happy. Internet access issues in the library should also be resolved. When services resume in the sanctuary, the added capability will allow for livestreaming the service for those unable to attend in person.

The first round of Reading & Writing Whiteness was completed on Oct 13 (Tuesday night group) and Friday, Oct 16. We started a Tuesday evening group last night with five participants. Four people were unable to arrange their schedules for the 6:30-8 pm time, so they are on the list for the next class in January.

In addition to the study group for *How to Be an Antiracist* that started last Friday, I am facilitating a discussion group for Toni Morrison's book, *The Bluest Eye* which began yesterday morning with six total participants. This group will continue for a total of three weeks.

Fridays have traditionally been my study day but with workshops, rehearsals for Sunday, and Vespers, I decided to make Thursday a study day. It has helped relieve some stress that was weighing me down. I have my office hours on Wednesday 11:30-1:30 via Zoom and have a few drop ins, but not nearly as many as previously when the pandemic forced us into isolation. As we move into winter weather perhaps more folks will stop by.

The Staff Resources Committee asked me to review the job description in the Policy Manual for the minister, and a couple of things caught my attention. The Congregational Care Team has a large fund that the minister is supposed to keep a record of money spent. I have been curious about the fact that there is no Ministerial Discretionary Fund and recommended that one be

established. I am curious if there ever was one and if so, what happened to it. The other was the mention of the Operations Committee that has not been active. I want your thoughts about this committee and how to proceed. Perhaps Mark Bernstein could be of help.

If all goes well, I am flying to SC on Monday, Nov 23rd to visit my family for Thanksgiving week. I was wavering about going, but my doctor said airlines are taking so many precautions that it's safe if I'm careful with mask, hand washing, distancing in airport, etc. My mother's health is declining, and I feel the need to go. I will work from SC as needed but will not hold Vespers on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Mark Bernstein is our guest speaker for the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and I won't miss it!

See you tonight!

Cathy