

Minister's Notes
February 10, 2021

I am proud to report that our fourth Reading & Writing Whiteness class using the book, *White Fragility* began on Feb 4th and will run for six weeks, ending on March 11. There are three people from the community who have joined the class. Renée let me know that there are seven-nine members of the VE who would like to participate in the R&WW class, but would need a Wednesday evening time due to Vocal Ensemble rehearsals on Thursday evenings. The desire to do anti-racism work by members and friends of UUCGT is a powerful statement to the core values of the congregation. There is also a once-a-month group reading books by people of color. The present book we are reading is *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. My hope is that some of the folks who took both classes, *White Fragility* and *How to Be an Anti-Racist* might co-facilitate with Alison to continue the work when I am serving elsewhere. Alison has a writing group that has been meeting for a year!

Alison and I are also co-facilitating the Starting Points class on Saturday mornings with two participants, one member and one non-member who will wish to join the church.

At the request of the LDC, I will be offering the Harvest the Power Leadership Development six-week class in early March with days and times TBD by participants. Susan Lio and Kat Norman have committed to taking the course and have agreed to assist me. If Alison has time, I would love to ask her to help facilitate depending on the number of participants.

I met with the Stewardship Committee, the Transition Team, the Search Team, the LDC, Staff Resources, Healthy Congregations, had a wonderful staff meeting this afternoon (I completed staff evaluations with Guy and Renée) and have weekly Sunday Services meetings and rehearsals. I've spoken with two ministers interested in UUCGT and will meet with the precandidates for conversation over the next few weeks.

The weekly Friday night Vespers Services continue, but I do not want to leave that responsibility for your new minister. Monthly Vespers is a more realistic model however some congregations have weekly Vespers with help from members and associate ministers.

The AIM (Accredited Interim Minister) conference is April 23-27 and will be virtual. The conference is educational and a time to be with colleagues for support and friendship. This is also when we learn the names of congregations in need of Interim Ministers. The search is completed in a whirlwind three weeks. I will use my remaining vacation time to move in July.

The UUA General Assembly is June 22-27 and is also virtual. I have registered and would encourage you to attend if possible. The theme this year is Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, & Courage. The registration for fulltime is \$200.

Personally, I am receiving my second vaccine shot on Feb 19, and I am traveling to SC in March to visit my family and celebrate my mother's 98th birthday and meet my son, Andy's fiancée. I am very excited to say the least.

