

Minister's Notes
March 10, 2021

Dear Board members,

As spring begins to unfurl and daylight is accelerating, it also feels like time is accelerating. The end of June will be upon us before we know it! One could say, "the end is in sight" but actually it is the beginning that is in sight, and what an exciting time for UUCGT. It will also be the beginning of a new adventure for me! It is always hard to leave when the interim work is done, but the people and congregations I have served are forever held in a sacred place in my heart.

Here are some things that I (with the help of others) plan to accomplish before our time together is complete:

- Alison and I will have completed a whopping six RAWW/White Fragility classes and 3 and maybe 4 of the How to Be an Anti-Racist class.
- The six-week Harvest the Power Leadership Development workshop will be held every other week starting Thursday, April 8 – June 24 (Alison will be co-facilitating). We have 12 people registered for this workshop!
- Alison and I will offer one more 3-wk Starting Points class to anyone interested newcomers and long-timers and will welcome new members on the 21st of March and again in May or June.
- The Healthy Congregations Team and I will be offering a series of 3 sermons about healthy communication, minister/congregation relationship, and collaboration to prepare the congregation for a successful settled ministry. These Sundays will be April 11, May 9, and June 6.
- Alison has just started another Small Group using the Soul Matters curriculum making the total number of SM small groups that meet, 4.

The Reopening Taskforce is working diligently to offer guidance, but the board will need to make the final decisions and answer questions such as: is it worth it to be able to have 25 people in the building safely for Sunday Worship or should you wait until there is a more equitable opportunity for participation? Regarding planning for a hybrid worship model, there is a Facebook group open to worship leaders, ministers, etc. called Tech UU Response to Covid-19.

I will be flying to SC to celebrate my mother's 98th birthday on Monday, March 15th thru Monday, March 29th. I'll Zoom in from SC for the service on the 21st for Celebration Sunday, but the 28th is a lay-led service. I won't hold office hours or Vespers while I am away, but I will be attending meetings and co-facilitating scheduled workshops with Alison.

The AIM (Accredited Interim Ministers) conference will be held from April 26-30. Normally, I would be in Texas for this retreat, but it will be virtual for the second year. We are encouraged to treat this time the same as if we were away from the congregation, so I will not have meetings during this time. In addition to learning about Interim Ministry positions, there is conflict transformation training, anti-racism training, spiritual sustenance, worship services, collegial conversations, a business meeting for the Transitional Ministers UUMA Chapter and a “Co-creating the New Normal” conversation with Rev Patrice Curtis around the 2021 Commission on Appraisal report, *Widening the Circle*. We will spend two hours with Meg Riley, the former minister of the CLF (Church of the Larger Fellowship), a congregation without walls that connects UU’s all over the world. Check it out at clf.uua.org. My favorite is the annual tradition of one seasoned colleague sharing life’s *Odyssey*.

I hope you will consider attending the UUA General Assembly this year June 23-27. It is entirely virtual and full registration is \$200. Even virtually, it is a powerful experience that you won’t regret. *Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage* is the theme for General Assembly 2021. GA is a time to circle ‘round in community. We circle ‘round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. <https://www.uua.org/central-east/blog/better-together/virtual-ga-2021>.

In faith and love,
Cathy