Minister’s Board Report

March 2021

Greetings!

We have now reached the “one year” marker of moving our worship and activities online. It’s hard to take that in: one year.

This has been a hard year in so many ways, but I am grateful for the work that has been done to keep moving us forward. We still have work to do at First Christian to settle in and get an agreement written out with their regional offices in the “other” building. I know this has been a frustrating process of trying to get answers out of them, but my instinct, for what it’s worth, says that it will ultimately work out fine. Of course, we will still have to keep gently but firmly pushing them to get to a positive result.

Right now, I’ve been working to stir up some dormant energy in the congregation. Our new Depression & Anxiety Group was well attended for its first session, we have a Getting to Know You event tomorrow night, New to UU coming up soon, several Adult RE offerings in the works, and lots of energy being directed at our children’s RE program. This follows a period of Zoom and pandemic fatigue where people simply were not as engaged as we would have liked, though I understand why. In just the last few weeks, I’ve had more than a few congregational leaders privately share with me that they have understandably been dealing with some form of depression during this time. Some are carrying shame because they haven’t been able to provide the hands-on support that they would have wished (and are used to providing) because they simply couldn’t find the motivation and energy. I think we all understand this.

I appreciate that we are going to re-visit our mission statement in the coming weeks and that we have a Covid safety task force and 8th Principle task force to help guide us to our eventual re-opening. We have had some preliminary discussions about a small group leading a stewardship campaign this Spring, so the next steps in that process need to begin to happen.

Finally, I’ve said it throughout this year but it’s worth saying again: thank you. Someday we will look back at this year and be amazed that we were as functional as we have been, that we were able to make the decisions we made, and that we solved problems as they arose. This has been no small feat! I hope you can take that in and know that you are appreciated for your leadership.

In gratitude,

Rev. Jason Cook