



Minister's Report
November 5, 2019

Opening Words: *Beginners (Devise Levertov)

Overall: It has been a very active and productive fall. The building is busy most days with rentals and is looking well, with repairs and cleaning weekly. The expanded worship committee is enjoying its role in shaping worship services; improved lighting in the sanctuary has enhanced our worship as well. Committees are busy with their work and small groups are forming.

| | Ministerial Observations | Ministerial Wonderings | Ministerial Flags | Ministerial Celebrations |
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| Governance and Leadership | Fall Congregational Meeting plans moving forward for 11/17. Meeting with board reps and welcoming committee to discuss "path to membership." | Some congregants have been asking about follow-up/decision-making from Shared Leadership meeting. Also, do we need another SL meeting this winter to consider further decision-making?* | Nominating committee has tapped a new moderator, to begin at annual meeting in May. Gene will confirm her willingness to serve and training/support needs. | Minister's MFC evaluation/renewal application has been submitted, with great gratitude to all involved. |
| Staff | Digital Ministry team will meet soon to address social media and congregational communication issues. 10 add'l hours/week added to Derrick's regular schedule to cover increased rental cleaning needs. Still within budget. | Looking forward to clarifying the role and having the support of the board personnel consultant/committee. | Laci and Jud are working closely to coordinate plans for her leave in December. Jud has participated in several aspects of worship, is active in pastoral care, and will preach on 11/17 and 12/1. | Staff celebrated Laci at surprise baby shower this week! |
| Worship, Ritual and Ceremony | Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray will preach on 11/10. Board offered to provide a light lunch. | RJAC has asked to meet with board re the idea of removing some pews from the sanctuary for | There have been requests for more involvement of young people and more testimonials. | Children will sing with Quechua women at 11/10 service and actively participate in Thanksgiving service. |

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| | <p>We will have a post-service conversation.</p> <p>Children's space in front of sanctuary has been popular with kids and families and is working well.</p> | <p>greater access, inclusion and flexibility of use. **How would we take next steps (e.g. convene SL meeting?)</p> | <p>Worship teams are working on making these happen.</p> | |
| Congregational Life | <p>Small groups are organizing and PCAs are recruiting at coffee hour. 3 new small groups are forming and 3 existing groups are accepting new members. Two more groups will likely start in January.</p> | <p>Plans being made for joint carol singing with Sai Center in December. Hoping that FP members will participate.</p> | <p>Plans are being made for 11/24 Thanksgiving potluck, followed by pie-making at All Saints Church and Thanksgiving Interfaith Service at Temple Beth Zion.</p> | <p>"Taco Night" Community dinner on Friday, October 18 was a great success. Halloween Happening was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.</p> <p>More community events are being planned.</p> |
| Community Engagement and Social Justice | <p>Petition drive for signatures for constitutional amendment has happened in coffee hour throughout the month. More social action activities in coffee hour may be planned.</p> | <p>First Parish cosponsored "Necessity" film at First Parish in JP.</p> <p>FP has offered to cosponsor a climate justice intersectionality forum at Temple Israel on 11/14.</p> | <p>New BLM banner has been ordered and will be rededicated on 11/17 after service.</p> <p>Climate Justice Action group is organizing and will have its first meeting on 11/10.</p> | <p>Rev. June Cooper's 11/27 post-service conversation yielded ideas for further connection and collaboration with Boston City Mission.</p> |
| Finance and Administration | <p>Fin Comm is actively seeking new members. Will ask nominating committee to assist in finding new treasurer for next year.</p> | <p>Conversation continues about working with a UUA consultant and/or someone who can moderate good conversations about money at FP.</p> | <p>Should the board ask someone to co-chair a fundraising event this Spring?</p> | <p>Fin Comm has successfully tapped 2020 Canvass co-chair.</p> |

* Beginners by Denise Levertov. (*Dedicated to the memory of Karen Silkwood and Eliot*)

But we have only begun

We have only begun

How could we tire of hope?

How can desire fail?

to imagine justice and mercy,

how it might be
to live as siblings with beast and flower,

Surely our river
cannot already be hastening

Surely it cannot
drag, in the silt,

Not yet, not yet
there is too much broken

too much hurt we have done to each other

We have only begun to know
the power that is in us if we would join

So much is unfolding that must

so much is in bud.