



## Minister's Report

December 8, 2019

**Opening Words:** \* May My Heart Always Be Open by e.e. cummings

<b>Overall:</b> Several “shared leadership” meetings this month have provided encouragement and sparked interest in more shared conversations among committees, e.g. the various social action committees/teams. The number and variety of new small groups is also hopeful, as well as new initiatives, such as the Climate Justice Action team.				
	Ministerial Observations	Ministerial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
<b>Governance and Leadership</b>	Building and Grounds meeting with board reps went well, with plans for monthly meetings and reporting to the board. Bob W will serve as board liaison.	What next steps are needed following the 11/17 congregational meeting, re bylaws changes still in question?	Looking forward to confirming board leadership, Jan-June, at December board meeting. Could we consider co-chair model?	Fall congregational meeting went very well; people seemed very pleased with both the consensus process and the outcome.
<b>Staff</b>	Derrick's extra hours are making things go much more smoothly in the building. His wife, Claudia, helped us out at Thanksgiving and has been added to payroll, in case of occasional needs for extra custodial help.	Alisa is becoming overwhelmed with all the extra rental management work. We would like to consider adding a PT “facilities assistant” position, as discussed last Spring.	Laci may be going out on leave any time before 12/18. Jud, with support of all staff, is well-prepared to step in at any time.	Everyone is excited and looking forward to news of Laci's baby!
<b>Worship, Ritual and Ceremony</b>	Collaborative planning and execution of worship services has been noted and appreciated by many congregation members.	Worship committee is considering ways to include more testimonials in our services.	Worship committee is monitoring children's space in front of sanctuary and figuring out how to make it work even better for kids and families.	Thanksgiving service, with Haudenosaunee prayer and cornbread communion, was especially well-received.
<b>Congregational Life</b>	Four new small groups, mainly topic-based, have begun, with two more starting in January.	Preschool discussions continue; at what point does congregation weigh in?	Digital ministry committee needs more members to accomplish social media and AV goals.	Potluck, following Thanksgiving service was well-attended and plenty of food this year!

	Recent deaths and other losses have hit our congregation hard this past month.			
<b>Community Engagement and Social Justice</b>	A very successful Interfaith Thanksgiving service at Temple Beth Zion, with one FPB family attending.	IJC is considering the idea of supporting an immigrant awaiting asylum with housing in our community. At what point does board/congregation become engaged?	RJAC had to postpone banner rededication, due to weather. Will reschedule.	Climate Justice Action group is active and considering several "green" projects to recommend to the church community.
<b>Finance and Administration</b>	Nominating committee will be asked to assist in finding new board treasurer for next year.	Question: do we have enough savings in custodian line to hire a PT "facilities assistant" in this fiscal year?  Minister will reach out to UUA to find about a consultant and/or someone who can moderate good conversations about canvass and stewardship at FP.	Should the board ask someone to co-chair a fundraising event this Spring?  Fin Comm still needs another 2020 Canvass co-chair.	Finance Committee is planning some winter gatherings to educate the congregation on church finances in advance of the canvass and budget planning process.

\* may my heart always be open to little  
birds who are the secrets of living  
whatever they sing is better than to know  
and if men should not hear them men are old

may my mind stroll about hungry  
and fearless and thirsty and supple  
and even if it's sunday may i be wrong  
for whenever men are right they are not young

and may myself do nothing usefully  
and love yourself so more than truly  
there's never been quite such a fool who could fail  
pulling all the sky over him with one smile

~ e.e. cummings ~