



Minister's Report
February 2, 2020

Opening Words: ** Hope Does Dwell by Elizabeth Nguyen

Overall: January was a full month, beginning with a large memorial service for a congregation member. There has been a lot of energy in our community, especially in the climate justice, building and grounds and RE committees. More team participation in worship planning has enlivened our services, and many members are looking forward to our conversations on money.				
	Ministerial Observations	Ministerial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
Governance and Leadership	FPB Conversations about Money are planned for Friday, 3/13 and Sunday, 3/15.	When/how will we convene a working group to address question of membership tied to financial contribution?	We will need new board members, including a new treasurer next year; when should nominating start recruiting?	Appreciations from congregants for board transparency (posting photo and minutes) and accessibility (welcoming members to attend meetings and providing different days/times.)
Staff	Alisa is still working on hiring an office and facilities assistant. We are also working to hire 1-2 new Sunday childcare providers.	Some people have expressed questions about Laci's return from parental leave. She has expressed her intent to return to work in early March.	Recommended that Jud receive a \$1500 bonus at end of Feb., in recognition of his extra responsibilities during Laci's leave.	Jud's work with RE is going well. Parents have appreciated regular communications; Justice Seeking Sunday, planned with RE committee, was very much appreciated.
Worship, Ritual and Ceremony	Upcoming February 23rd service will honor deceased climate justice activists and include a display of countries and names in Lyon Chapel.	B&G is moving forward to remove pews in back section of church to provide space for at least two wheelchairs.	Worship committee has added a "worship steward" each week, to attend to the orderliness of worship elements at end of services.	Overall cohesiveness of worship service elements and connection to monthly theme has been noted and appreciated by congregation members.
Congregational Life	Pastoral care workshop on active listening and caregiving skills for our congregation is being planned for March.	Conversations about Money on 3/13 and 3/15 will be combined with community meals: 3/13, Pulled Pork Dinner by Fred Andree	Welcoming Committee is promoting its Leap Year Community Dance on Feb. 29 th	Black Lives banner rededication was a powerful event, attended by full congregation at end of 1/19 service.

	An ongoing group to support caregivers for those with mental health issues has been proposed and is seeking co-leaders.	and Men's Group; 3/15, Pizza and salad lunch.	Safety Task Force is considering dates for a Spring fire drill, while RE is in session.	
Community Engagement and Social Justice	Climate Justice team is working on numerous initiatives, including statewide Earth Day planning.	RJAC is working on plans to bring "WEE the People" to RE in Spring. A dance party fundraiser, co-sponsored by the IJC, is planned for March 14 th .	Ecuadorian immigrant musicians who benefitted from FPB fundraising and African-led group, Kina Zore, will perform during worship on 2/23.	Interfaith MLK service at Temple Sinai was very successful and attended by 16-20 FPB members and their friends. First Parish has been invited to host next year's service.
Finance and Administration	2019-20 budget seems to be meeting expenses to date.	Money conversations are likely to surface thoughts and feelings about the endowment. Fin Comm is doing more research into investment funds, like Ujima.	We now have a draft timeline for 2020 Canvass and budget process.	

**** Hope Does Dwell**

By Elizabeth Nguyen

God of mercy, spirit who makes peace out of war,

Who wanders with refugees and keeps vigil with children at our border and all borders;

Holy healer in hospitals and shelters, at schools, in homes, at weddings, and in planes;

May your love be balm for all the hurt.

May your truth be present in offices of power and in the hearts of soldiers and civilians alike.

Many times we've thought the arc was bending towards justice.

Many times we saw it happen in courtrooms and in streets, in the hearts of people creating their own liberation.

Many times we've also doubted.

For those of us this morning who doubt, who despair that brokenness and suffering and war may win,

Remind us of the small mercies, the tiny triumphs: hope does dwell in this world.