



## Minister's Report

November 4, 2020

### Monthly Worship Theme: Challenge and Healing

**Opening Words:** Nothing is Over by Rev. Elena Rose Vera

Overall:				
	Ministerial Observations	Minsterial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
<b>Governance and Leadership</b>	The Reopening Planning Group (RPG) set guidelines for small groups to meet in person and considered and considered a proposal for an in-person recital in the sanctuary.	What leadership will the board take on post-election events?	Who owns fundraising – the board or the finance committee? This includes the Canvass and the proposed 2021 fundraiser.	Our leadership team is working together well during a very difficult time in our history.
<b>Staff</b>	Staff are all working together closely to balance and support each other's work.	With extra stressors on all of our lives, staff need to pay attention to self-care, including breaks, time off and family time.	Regular meetings with DRE are going well; using the "quad" status form weekly.	Staff are using laughter and storytelling to bring more joy into our meetings.
<b>Worship, Ritual and Ceremony</b>	Livestreaming from the sanctuary with new equipment has been going	The UUA will sponsor a virtual candlelight vigil on Thursday, 11/5. We are	We could use 2-3 more "tech volunteers" in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.	Worship services have received much appreciation this month, especially the

	well, with a few glitches along the way.	tentatively planning an outdoor vigil on Sunday, 11/8, perhaps with the interfaith clergy.		one with Rev. Karlene Griffiths Sekou.
<b>Congregational Life and Spiritual Development</b>	Two new small groups will start this month; one in-person and one virtual, bringing the total to four. Lisa is initiating a podcast of "Tiny Spiritual Practices" to sustain us in this time.	Pastoral care is considering making calls to the membership of the congregation, to see how people are doing. They may ask for board volunteers.	Rev. Lisa, Prilla Brackett, and Leigh Smith are offering a bi-monthly spiritual journey group, working with the book "Me and White Supremacy."	Monthly poetry workshops with Regie Gibson have started and are nearly full.
<b>Community Engagement and Social Justice</b>	The RJAC led a conversation with Rev. Karlene after her worship service, which touched on topics of police abolition and systemic reform and was well-attended.	Should First Parish be preparing, as the UUA has suggested, to support any post-election activism (protests, marches, etc.)?	The IJC is continuing to look for ways to support our neighbors in Chelsea and Boston as the rental moratorium has ended.	An outdoor "Treat and Treat" event is being led by congregation members.
<b>Finance and Administration</b>	We are doing well in terms of 2021 budget management.	We need to have conversations soon with possible organizers to confirm their willingness to organize a fall/winter fundraiser (online auction.)	Alisa will prepare reports for the fin comm on progress toward pledge goal and completion of individual pledges to date.	Our largest pledge finally came in this month, as well as an additional, unexpected, large pledge.

Nothing is Over (Rev. Elena Rose Vera)

"Nothing is over. Take a breath, take a minute, feel your feelings. Then get back in the fight. The fight is harder, but the fight is the same, and it needs you, and it needs me, and it needs us. The stakes could not be higher, and the world we hope for doesn't happen if we don't make it. We fight the fights that need fighting, not just the fights we're sure we can win. We do what needs doing, and we make a way out of no way. We get miracles by being each other's miracles. We get chances by making chances. We get hope by doing the work of hope."