

Highlights from the Last Month:

- Installation weekend was a delight
- Honoring Gary W. Harris
- Planning for Christmas Eve at the State

Major Considerations/Activities/Goals

Integrating Missional Focus: To Care, Share and Repair the World

Having been tasked for my installation with work of naming a clear, concise summary of UUCGT's history and mission, I carefully studied the work of our committees, spoke with long time and new members and read all the program council minutes to date. In other words this approach used study of existing culture, observation of behavior, study of historical activity and interviews – it is not a top down statement but a careful culling of what is important to our active members; it is from grass roots, not top down. With excellent coaching from Chris Innes, chair of the Committee on Ministry, this process distilled to three main aspects of UUCGT culture: caring, sharing and repairing the world.

The next step is to nurture awareness of this mission distillation internally and externally. In other words working on “branding” UUCGT's mission so that it is clear, concise and reproducible. Another next step is to work with committee chairs to integrate and “unpack” awareness of what this statement means in their work and in the expression of their committees' work.

I would also like to work with a graphic designer who can take our UUCGT logo and integrate this wording to produce a jpeg that can be used for the website, letterhead, Beacon, Flash and orders of service.

Installation

I want to take this space to express my thanks to everyone who made the installation weekend so very lovely and loving. Our congregational community came together to create a meaningful and beautiful showing of what we are about. It was a great honor to have so many people from the broader community present to celebrate our noble experiment. I have been thinking a great deal about Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks' comment that “though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we each are free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world.”

I hope with this solidifying event behind us, we can now turn to stepping up our life of kindness and service to one another and to the greater community. This will be my focus during 2018.

Upcoming Time Off

Please be aware that I will be attending a professional development conference January 7 – 12, and UUMA Excellence in Ministry January 21 – 26.

Requests for Board Action

Please keep on your radar reading the book *Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice* by Erik Walker Wikstrom. I would ask that we please consider devoting just a few moments in our monthly meeting to be in conversation together about our thinking on leadership. The ongoing conversation is not only about content, but about building ways of being together. Perhaps we could plan 10 minutes at the January or February meeting?