

Interim Minister's Notes
UUCGT Board
October 16, 2019

I met with Meg Weichman and State Theater Staff re: an Interfaith Holiday service on Christmas Eve. They agreed to our using the space, and the guidelines were clear and firm due to some misunderstandings last December.

2019 SERVICE GUIDELINES

- Time: 6 - 7 pm service start – time cannot be guaranteed until closer to the date due to film contractual obligations
- Cannot start setup until the final film's credits are completed
- Cannot open doors until the manager on duty has given their ok
- Must make a \$250 donation to the State Theatre to help offset holiday staff costs
- Must have a meeting with theater manager and projectionist ahead of the event, and at that time have all information finalized. Cannot make day of changes to schedule of events.
- Must bring in additional sound system if anything other than speaking is happening on the mics. The house mic system only supports speaking.
- Theater will provide speaking microphones and preset house lighting.
- Theater recommends not handing out free tickets ahead of time – just opening the event without presales night of

Amanda and Hal both felt they were being unreasonable and no longer wanted to invest time and energy in a service this year. I thought the guidelines were fair and that \$250 would be a small price to pay for the visibility and ministry UUCGT would offer to the community. Without full support of the Sunday Services Committee, it didn't make sense to proceed, and we all agreed that focusing on an in-house Candlelight Christmas Eve Service followed by a lovely reception would be our goal.

I attended via ZOOM the third of six sessions of the 'After Pastor' course taught by Rev Deborah Pope-Lance. Tomorrow will be the second session of the 9-month Healthy Congregations Systems Theory course. Each session are four hours, twice per month. Both courses have already proven to be useful in my Interim work at UUCGT.

I've had two home pastoral visits this month and phone conversations with others.

I have continued having one-on-one meetings with long-time members as I seek UUCGT history understanding, and I have reviewed all available board minutes and Rabbi reports from 2015-2019. With Susan's administrative help, I will review board documents since before the first settled minister, Emmylou Belcher. The most recent conflict is just one in a cycle of conflicts that have plagued the congregation. I have a meeting with some folks who have left the congregation following the music director conflict on Monday, Oct 21st.

The Transition Team still lacks a member with a long history with UUCGT. Several folks have declined to serve on the team, and I'm wondering if they are just tired and needing a break from leadership.

Meetings this month:

- Staff resources meeting
- Healthy Congregations Meeting
- Sunday Services meeting
- Congregational Care meeting
- Stewardship Committee
- Co-Chairs of Sunday Services
- Sunday services coordinators each week to collaborate on individual Sunday Services
- Cathy Green to assist her with programming ideas for the Benzie group
- Individual Meetings with staff for supervision support and creative brainstorming

There is an all-day Sunday Services planning retreat on Oct 19th.

I preached in Benzie on October 2nd and have agreed to return. I also had a lovely dinner with Susan Lio and was invited to attend the Traverse symphony with Nancy Doughty. Having been a member here for 20 years, Nancy was also a good resource in filling in some gaps regarding history.

I spoke with UUA consultant, Cheri Cody in preparation for our Start-up Retreat on November 1 & 2. We have dinner reservations for Friday evening at the West End Tavern. We still need to decide how to handle lunch on Saturday. We can order a tray of sandwiches and have a crockpot of soup, or order pizza and salad?

I think we have finally worked out the kinks with the Sunday slides that are still an experiment. Three people have voiced opposition and many others are supportive.

I had a phone interview with Record Eagle regarding an upcoming November Sunday magazine article about how UU's and others celebrate the holidays/Christmas. In addition to an interview, I sent the reporter some articles and resources from the UUA so that she can accurately represent Unitarian Universalism and UUCGT.

In faith,

Cathy