

## Minister's Board Report: April 2022

Greetings Board members,

This month begins a time that has been traditionally devoted to stewardship at UUCF. I'm very willing to provide what support I can for any campaign being planned for this year.

The addition to Rev. Judy Tomlinson as the consultant for our Religious Education program has been very welcome; by the beginning of June, we should have some clear direction for our next steps with this program and the open director position.

While we have been enjoying the relatively relaxed atmosphere of our in-person gatherings as of late, we recognize that Covid still remains a concern. Our Covid Safety Task Force will remain an important voice in making decisions in the weeks and months ahead.

Speaking of the months ahead, my letter of agreement says my sabbatical "leave [is] to be taken after four but before seven years of service." As we have talked about previously, I currently am eligible for a six-month sabbatical. To be essentially in compliance with my letter of agreement, my suggestion would be for it to take place from Jan-June 2023, which will be during my seventh year of ministry here at UUCF. In our financial accounts, we should have a certain amount earmarked for a sabbatical minister. If we plan this now, we should be able to secure a sabbatical minister to provide coverage for these proposed dates. I recognize that there is no ideal time to go on sabbatical, but at the same time, I also know the reasons why it is ultimately good for both me and the congregation. (In terms of my sabbatical: I have plans to do some research and study in a program at Cambridge which will help me to translate my doctoral project into a book for publication.)

I am grateful to witness the progress UUCF has made (thanks in large parts to the Board's efforts) in settling into our new space and recovering (essentially re-building) after the challenges the pandemic has wrought.

In gratitude,

Rev. Jason Cook