

Minister's Board Report  
September 2023

Greetings Board members!

I'm delighted to welcome some of you on (B)board and greet once again our returning Board members. The new congregational year has begun with our installation this past Sunday of Sam Hunt as our Intern Minister, Sarah Whittenberg as our Director of Family Ministries (DRE), Joy Ellis as our Nursery Coordinator, and Eleanor Nunez as our Music Director. We have a strong staff this year!

As we begin this year, especially with some of you being new, I want to remind you of the Board's main purpose here at UUCF: to have a larger vision that matches with our mission and to help steer the congregation toward that vision. It's "big picture" work. We have committees who will carry out much of the actual work needed to create that big picture; your job is to make sure the committees are populated and healthy so they can do that work. A great question to ask ourselves throughout the year is: "Is this Board work or should one of our committees be doing this?" If one of our committees isn't doing work they should be doing, our job will be to figure out how to help them become more functional.

The other thing to keep in mind is that the on-going goal of this congregation is to be what is known as a "program-sized" congregation that has a big presence in the surrounding community. Program-sized congregations have a Sunday engagement of 150 people (which we used to have before the pandemic). What does this mean? Primarily it means that we have robust programming offerings, particularly small groups where people can connect in an intimate way rather than expecting to connect with (and know the names of) the entire congregation. The Board will need to continue to support our programming efforts in order to help our congregation reach the levels of engagement it used to have. It could easily take a year or more to re-build that level of engagement, but I'm confident that in our current location, and with our staff and volunteer leadership team, we can get there.

I look forward to a great year ahead with all of you. Thank you for your service to UUCF.

In gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook