

## **April 2023 Minister's Board Report**

Dear Board members,

I'll keep this report short as I know a certain fatigue sets in this time of year as we move toward the June congregational meeting.

I'm very happy to say that there is a certain energy at UUCF these days that speaks well of what's ahead. When gathered, our people are so much more lively, inclined to laugh and chat, than they were at this time last year. It's a great sign—in fact, our previous UUA president, Peter Morales, used to say that this spirit of ready laughter and fun was one of the key things that marked the difference between congregations that grow and ones that do not.

Your efforts in supporting our Engagement Ministry team have paid off in building a team of people who are invested in welcoming newcomers. We're seeing more and more kids attending our RE offerings, and I think that's because of all the healing, changes, and good leadership at work specifically in this area these days. Our small group ministry programs are well attended. These are all markers of a congregation doing what it needs to do to stay relevant, meaningful, and sustainable.

Ahead of us is the pledge drive with its "Growing Stronger" theme. It's going to need some major attention. I'd suggest that Board members could be at least some of the people to offer weekly stewardship testimonies during our services.

Hang in there; your efforts this year are so appreciated!

In gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook