

October 2021
Minister's Board Report

Dear Board Members,

With so much to be anxious about both now and the recent past, I wanted to take this time to celebrate a few things:

--UUCF has now successfully had a small in-person service while simultaneously using the available technology to both Zoom and livestream. This is a major feat. Some of the attendees at this first service had barely been out of their homes for 18 months. Thanks to the work of the COVID Safety Task Force and others, it ended up being a well-managed morning with a positive feel to it.

--We have signed the lease agreement for the "other" building on the FCC campus at the price we were looking for. As we all know, this is after months of a very slow negotiation/communication process. We now have access to four designated classrooms for Sunday morning, along with other spaces available on as needed basis (chapel, youth room w/kitchen, etc.).

--Our "Caring for Kids" program is back underway with the children's libraries being worked on. There was a great deal of momentum for this program back in March 2020 right before the pandemic began. It is exciting to see it happening again, especially as we consider crafting our public persona in the downtown Fullerton area.

--The UUCF Players (with Music Director David Diiorio) will return November 14th with a musical revue—a replacement for "A Little Night Music" which was derailed due to the pandemic. There will be two RSVP live performances and it will also be livestreamed.

--Financially, in this new location, UUCF is in a more sustainable situation than it has been for many years. Overhead expenses have been drastically lowered and the ability to grow has been increased. We have also planted the seeds for cultivating a viable online community, which will also be something that will be needed to keep UUCF sustainable.

As we also know, we have a lot of work to do as well. We will need to continue to ramp up to the time when we can safely have all ages present in larger numbers on our campus. This will require multiple decisions—big and small—to make this happen. Likewise, our goal of being inclusive—seen in the fact that we are an 8th Principle dedicated congregation, official LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation, and family oriented community working to build a strong RE program—will require new approaches in our downtown location. Balancing these approaches with COVID concerns will require creativity, flexibility, and generosity of spirit.

Thanks for all you have done to get us to this point.

In gratitude,

Rev. Jason Cook