

# *a spiritual community* FOR OUR TIME

MARCH, 2020

*To be a spiritual community for our time:*

*Theologically Diverse*

*Radically Inclusive*

*Justice Centered*

Just about a year ago, I was reading these words for the first time—in UUCP’s search packet and website. I felt moved and called by their boldness and invitation to be the best that Unitarian Universalism has to offer.

I am honored and thrilled to be your new called minister—for so many reasons. This is an exciting, vibrant and committed congregation with a rich history and a commitment to the future. Our music and children’s ministries programs are run by staff who are recognized within our denomination as being innovative leaders. There are wonderfully talented leaders in this congregation. And the commitment to social justice has been articulated clearly; we are a people who care about the future of our community.

This congregation has weathered some difficult times. The renovation project took a lot of time, money and energy out of the congregation. The staff terminations of last year continue to have an impact, both on the hearts of congregants as well as leaving the congregation under-staffed. And any transition—such as having a new minister—can lead to anxiousness as we both learn about each other.

But I feel a great excitement within the community as well as a sense that we are ready to do great things together. This congregation is ready to live into its mission, finding ways to be our best selves and create the beloved community within our walls so that its love can extend into the wider community.

We are always grateful for your time and talent. But this is the season that we humbly ask for your financial commitment to this community. The funds that you contribute pay for the programming, staff, building, worship and justice work in the community. I’ll be honest—we have the financial capacity to stay where we are right now, which is financially stretched but also financially solid. But I hear so much excitement for where we CAN be—and that will require more financial resources.

So I am challenging you to think about what this community means to you. And what we can do together to grow and strengthen it together. This community matters—it is a reflection of our highest ideals and our greatest hopes. It is a place of respite and renewal in times of great concern and it is a statement of hope that we can—and WILL—be better.

I am honored to be on this journey with you. Thank you for all that you are doing to keep us on that road.

With great excitement and hope,

*Rev. Christine Dance*