

MINISTERIAL SEARCH TEAM



A Million Fractals of Transformation

Tara Romanov Messana on behalf of Unity's Ministerial Search Team

The Ministerial Search Team (MST) is hard at work vetting ministerial candidates.

Through this sacred work we're reminded of so much beauty, compassion, love and calling. The March theme of creating is about grounding ourselves in the possibilities of this creative and relational work we've been called to do.

We want to ask you to think of the possibilities, too.

But what do we mean by possibilities? The possibilities... of your own faith and spiritual practice, in the relationships you've built at Unity Church (and will continue to add to), the covenants and sacred moments that we hold together as a community... the grief and longing of being in covenant with one another, but also in the dreaming and hoping.

What does Unity Church mean to you, what do you take with you, what do you give, and what do you hope for? Many of you took the opportunity to share this and more at our fall cottage meetings, by completing the congregational survey, and through participation in workshops with Alfonso Wenker and Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley. These acts of communion are all part of our calling as Unitarian Universalists.

In her *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds* book, adrienne maree brown writes:

i am not afraid
of what i came here to do
i'm made of stardust
we are not afraid
of what we're called now to do
we're all made of god

The work of the congregation is part of our calling, whether it's a long-term commitment like serving on the MST, small acts of generosity and kindness like recognizing and

welcoming a new visitor in the Parish Hall, or being vulnerable with another Unity member and talking about what it is you might be afraid of during this transition time. These are what adrienne maree brown calls "fractals" or "critical connections." These small acts build relationships and help set the environment needed for creating transformation... the kind of transformation that you build by practicing kindness and generosity on a small scale then seeing those fractals and critical connections grow to what we wish to see at a universal level.

But how do we do this and what is it that we're supposed to do?

We keep showing up... for ourselves and for each other. You showed up through cottage meetings. You didn't just talk, you listened. This month and in the coming months, you can show up by greeting one another and asking, "How are you?" You can ask the Unity groups that you're part of, "How can we engage in the work to prepare for a new minister?"

You've also been grieving and we will continue to grieve through all of this change. The beloved ministers who cannot stay with us forever, the beloved ministers whom we've been so honored to know and love, be transformed by and transform with.

We can all work to be open to new possibilities at Unity Church and in welcoming a new minister, one who the MST is working hard to find, one who we believe is the wisest choice for our beloved congregation. This new minister will be someone who is ready to show up, to share their gifts and gain new gifts, to engage and get to know us, and someday love us and vice-versa, so we can all be part of the transformative work that we want for ourselves, for Unity Church, and for our community and world.

The desire for transformation came up many times in the cottage meetings

and congregational survey. We were listening and we thank you, again, for sharing. But now is not the time for waiting. Now is the time for getting comfortable with the ambiguity and discomfort of transformation. Now is the time to lean into trust.

We want you to lean into the possibilities, but "how" you might ask?

Micah Hobbes Frazier writes about how we are like butterflies transforming, "as we change and transform, we also have everything we need already right inside of us." There is comfort knowing we have everything we need... already inside of us. There is also comfort in knowing that change is part of transformation and so is community, because we cannot do this work alone. Octavia Butler wrote (and Rob Eller-Isaacs often quoted): "All that you touch you change. All that you change, changes you. The only lasting truth is change. God is change."

We create possibilities through connections, a million fractals that allow us to imagine... together, a future full of wholeness. If "what you pay attention to grows," like adrienne maree brown says, then let us connect, invite and sit with the possibilities of what our future together looks like. Let's sit together in this time of transition. Let's hope and dream, and let's hold each other in the uncertainty, so we can continue to transform and make ourselves, Unity Church, and the world, more beautiful.