

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Search Committee: We need your input!

Jackie Smith, Board Chair

Thank you to all who attended the congregational meeting in mid January. After a morning of preaching a fantastic sermon on change, Jen Crow, Unity's Transition Coach from the UUA outlined the upcoming months. She described the process of our search for a new called minister. She also had time to answer many excellent questions about the process, terminology, and other concerns around our ministerial search. I had several helpful conversations with congregants about aspects of the transition, and I feel excited about the work of the next six months. If you were unable to attend the meeting, you are invited to listen to it online at <https://www.unityunitarian.org/ministerial-transition.html>.

Many things are happening concurrently: planning for a unique farewell celebration for Janne and Rob, assembling search materials for an interim minister, and deep discussions about the nature of church as we live into this change. Questions from the procedural to the spiritual have come up in our trustee conversations, and in the community.

Our biggest upcoming task is to assemble a search team. Our hope is to create a skilled, balanced team that can hold the community as a whole throughout the search process. We hope to put together a team of church members who work well with others, understand the Ends that were developed through the congregational input this last year, and will represent and serve the whole congregation while understanding various parts of church life. It is important that the candidates have been active members of Unity Church and demonstrate responsible leadership. Ultimately, they have a deep love for this community and want to find a new senior minister who embraces where we are heading, along with where we have been.

As we form this team, we need your input! We are collecting nominations from congregants in three ways. On Saturday, February 15, all Unity Church members will receive a phone call from a current or past trustee. Congregants will be asked for input at that time. Additionally, trustees will be available in the Parish Hall following services on February 16 and 23 to collect nominations. Finally, an online form will be emailed to all congregants to complete. All voting members will have the opportunity to nominate up to two individuals that they feel would contribute to a balanced team.

Once this information is gathered, the board will work to assemble a slate of about 20 candidates for the congregation to review and vote on at the congregational meeting on April 26. Please mark that very important date on your calendars!

Many church members have expressed their interest in joining the team. I am overwhelmed at the quality of gifts and talent that we have at Unity. Congregants are welcome to nominate themselves for the search team. It is also important to remember that we will have many ways to engage in this transition. From an interim support team to our party on May 31 — opportunities abound!

If you see an unknown number pop up on your screen on February 15, please pick up!! We'd love to chat and hear what you have to say. If you can't talk then, not a problem! Find us on Sunday at church, or check your email. Bottom line: we'd love to hear what you have to say!

Rejoice at the River All Congregation Worship Service and Retirement Celebration for Janne and Rob

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 31, 2020, at Harriet Island. An all-congregation, outdoor worship service will be followed by lunch, program, and party!

