



Minister's Report

February 7, 2021

Monthly Worship Theme: Beloved Community

Opening Words: **A Brave and Startling Truth, (excerpt) by Maya Angelou

	Ministerial Observations	Ministerial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
Governance and Leadership	RPG met to consider safety guidelines for proposed outdoor RE and March Covid commemoration gatherings, as well as for singing outdoors.	Nominating Committee will take up: new nom comm chair/members and new board members. How many new board members do we need? Who recruits a personnel liaison?	We will need to think about how to reconstitute a "Welcoming/Outreach" Committee before next Fall.	2021 Canvass: Strong, consistent leadership, experienced canvassers, and creative messaging will strengthen the 2022 Canvass.
Staff	Emily Wheeler is being trained to take over part of Alisa's job, as we search for a new Parish Administrator (PA.)	RL and worship co-chairs are considering how to create an opportunity for congregation to say goodbye to Alisa.	Alisa seems to be balancing the two part-times jobs well, while we interview PA candidates. She will support the Canvass team through March, while training the new PA.	Search process is going well for new PA: 68 resumes reviewed, (33 in-depth;) 15 initial interviews conducted; 6 2 nd interviews (in process.)
Worship, Ritual and Ceremony	We will have a "New to UU" gathering in February; hoping to have a new	Worship Committee is considering a ritual to commemorate one year	Worship team will meet with professional production consultants next week, to	Another child dedication (a family new to FPB,) is

	member Sunday in March. We have 10-12 regular visitors who may join.	since building closing and honor the losses from Covid, bringing the community together safely, in person, (both outdoors and in the sanctuary,) this Spring.	consider potential video, lighting, audio and other improvements for our live streamed worship.	planned for Spring 2021; our third during Covid.
Congregational Life and Spiritual Development	Worship co-chairs and RL led a gathering on 1/31 for "Moving Through Anger Together." 12 people attended, including 2 Brookline community organizers (known to RL through racial justice work.) It is clear that our community could benefit from more "listening circles."	Pastoral care team has been making calls to all members of the congregation. We had hoped to be done by 2/7, but calls are taking longer than expected. About 75% have been made; new target end date is 2/14. RL will give initial report on impressions from the calls.	Many young adults are struggling right now. RL is working with some FPB young adults to set up a First Parish YA monthly (online) Games Night.	Barbara Simonetti and other members are planning a Valentine's Day card making and cookie distribution event on Feb. 14. They will also collect food donations for Chelsea neighbors.
Community Engagement and Social Justice	IJC is actively finding ways to support immigrant-serving organizations in Chelsea and Boston as needs are changing rapidly.	FPB will have a joint worship service with First Church in JP on 2/28, focusing on "building the beloved community." Both congregations will be on Zoom together for the service, followed by connecting in breakout groups at coffee hour.	Over 20 FPB members have signed up for the Ujima workshop on 2/7. RL has been invited to offer the chalice lighting and share a personal story.	MLK Interfaith event on 1/17 was well-attended by FPB and other members of racial justice committees from Brookline houses of worship. New collaborations may spring from this initial gathering.

Finance and Administration	Budget still shows surplus; some funds may be reallocated to support live-streaming and other worship-related expenses.	Canvass plans are moving forward with an excellent leadership team.	RL met with IJC, RJAC and Climate Justice leaders to discuss ideas for the use/s of the Cedar Tree grant funds. Further discussion will happen in committees – the group will reconvene for final decision/s in a couple of weeks.	Church comparison study is generating some positive feedback from ministry colleagues and others.
-----------------------------------	---	---	--	---

**** A Brave and Startling Truth, (excerpt) by Maya Angelou**

We, this people, on a small and lonely planet
Traveling through casual space
Past aloof stars, across the way of indifferent suns
To a destination where all signs tell us
It is possible and imperative that we learn
A brave and startling truth...

When we come to it
We, this people, on this wayward, floating body
Created on this earth, of this earth
Have the power to fashion for this earth
A climate where every man and every woman
Can live freely without sanctimonious piety
Without crippling fear

When we come to it
We must confess that we are the possible

We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world
That is when, and only when
We come to it.