



## Minister's Report

February 6, 2022

### Monthly Worship Theme: Widening the Circle

Opening Words: \*\* Where the Mind is Without Fear (Rabindranath Tagore)

	Ministerial Observations	Minsterial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
<b>Governance and Leadership</b>	The Justice Coalition will meet again this month; there is a growing awareness of the intersectionality of the justice work of these groups: RJAC, IJC, CJAC, Justice Calling and Common Hope.	Can we give some thought to how to reconstitute the worship and welcoming committees? Or are these committees needed; is there another way to accomplish this work?  Is this something the board takes the lead on, or is it the minister's responsibility?	RPG is considering the metrics for reopening to in-person services, correlated to CovidActNow data .	The board retreat seemed to set the right tone of nurturing our connections and our spirits, while moving important work forward.
<b>Staff</b>	Without a paid RE staff leader, more work will fall on the RE Committee. This group will meet regularly	When and how should we begin to talk about plans for Rev Lisa's sabbatical in 2022/2023? It seems	Interviews have begun for a ministerial intern for 2022-23 and 2023-24. There are four active candidates, who will	Staff greatly appreciated their holiday gifts from the board!

	to support each other and our families, and will look to Deb Weiner for additional support, as needed.	important to give the congregation plenty of notice and preparation.	have second interviews in February with former members of the internship committee.	
<b>Worship, Ritual and Ceremony</b>	Live-streamed and prerecorded worship has been a bit uneven, due to technical difficulties. Staff is working hard to resolve these.	As we consider our return to in person worship we'll be considering whether and how much to limit numbers, ask for preregistration, etc.	We are still struggling with the Fenway group contractor to set up installation of the improved livestream equipment we purchased last Spring.	Our Christmas Eve worship services were very much appreciated and were managed with safety.
<b>Congregational Life and Spiritual Development</b>	The Pastoral Care team is supporting a number of congregants in need with meals, rides, etc. They also felt connected and encouraged by the Dec.-Jan. congregational calls.	How do we engage more congregation members in the community life of the church? In the past, potlucks, dances and other gatherings sustained us; what, if anything, can/should we do now?  Could we plan an all-church outdoor gathering in the Spring? This would be a chance for all ages to reconnect and celebrate together.	RE classes, for grades 3-8 are meeting virtually. The younger group will attempt to gather outdoors in person. Virtual gatherings for young people and families are challenging and seem to work better for the older grades.	A new small group opportunity will begin later this month; a series of "Conversations to Restore Hope in the Future."
<b>Community Engagement and Social Justice</b>	The IJC is still working on finding local temporary	RJAC is actively working to prepare upcoming	Climate Justice continues to build a relationship with	"Justice Calling" on Thursday afternoons had been a

	housing for neighbors in need.	workshops on the history of enslavement and reparations, which board members are encouraged to attend.	A.C.E. and also to explore ways to increase the “greening” of our building and community.	“pandemic win,” offering community connection, as well as engagement in justice issues.
<b>Finance and Administration</b>	Adam and Lisa will take another pass at budget projections through the end of the year for the Match meeting.	When does the budget process begin? Budget meetings should get onto the church calendar soon.	The Canvass team will begin organizing soon. Ellie, Ebiere and Liss have been preparing the active members list for the team.	

**\*\* Where the Mind is Without Fear by Rabindranath Tagore**

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high  
Where knowledge is free  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments  
By narrow domestic walls  
Where words come out from the depth of truth  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way  
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit  
Where the mind is led forward by thee  
Into ever-widening thought and action  
Into that heaven of freedom, let my country awake.

