



Minister's Report

March 2, 2022

Monthly Worship Theme: Faith

Opening Words: ** *Love in Kyiv* (Natalka Bilotserkivets)

	Ministerial Observations	Minsterial Wonderings	Ministerial Flags	Ministerial Celebrations
Governance and Leadership	RL is beginning to have conversations with current and former worship committee chairs about how to reconstitute/rethink the worship and welcoming committees for the next fiscal year.	The Nominating Committee is preparing to meet. How many new board members will we need next year? Will we need new officers and how will they be chosen?	RPG should be thinking soon about the possibility of unmasking for worship and/or reinstituting food/drinks for social hour.	The Justice Coalition met this month, with representatives of RJAC, IJC, Climate Justice, Common Hope and Justice Calling in attendance. We collaborated on a vision statement and brainstormed support for each other's current initiatives.
Staff	Keith has hired a new alto section leader, Lisa Barrone, who will start this coming month.	When and how should we begin to talk about plans for Rev Lisa's sabbatical in 2022/2023? It seems important to give the	The internship search committee is very close to making an offer to a candidate, choosing from an excellent pool. With luck, we	Ebiere announced this week that she is expecting a baby the end of August!

		congregation plenty of notice and preparation.	may have an announcement by the time of our board meeting.	
Worship, Ritual and Ceremony	Several wedding and memorial services are on our schedule; our building is still seen as a sacred place for these rituals.	This month we will begin thinking about summer worship services, (assuming they will be back in person,) and recruiting lay leaders.	Karla Baehr and Susan Larrabee are working on ideas for a monthly Friday Dinner Church, starting this Spring.	Our worship services joyfully returned to in person, as of 2/27/22!
Congregational Life and Spiritual Development	<p>7 PCT members participated in a pastoral care retreat this month, led by Rev. Liz Weber, and focused on listening practice, boundaries and prayer.</p> <p>The Pastoral Care team has been very active, supporting members with meals, calls, visits, walks, and rides.</p>	RL will reach out to some members to help plan an all-church outdoor gathering in the Spring, maybe close to Easter? This would be a chance for all ages to reconnect and celebrate together.	The Deacons met with RL to consider how to make our grounds more welcoming to the community and whether to welcome new deacons this year or next.	RL and the Pastoral Care Team hosted “Conversations to Restore Hope for the Future,” the first in a series of monthly drop-in gatherings for conversation, connection and spiritual deepening.
Community Engagement and Social Justice	The IJC continues to build ties with our Ecuadorian neighbors in Milford. We hope to invite their musicians to perform again	The Racial Justice Action page on our website is being reworked and simplified. Members of RJAC have kept it going for	Climate Justice is hard at work on “greening” our building. Plans are being made for a workshop on	RJAC led a very well-attended and extremely well-received workshop on Enslavement and Land Dispossession, with over 85

	in a worship service this Spring.	10 years and need a break! Justice Calling is now providing an action outlet for many members and friends.	“greening our homes” this Spring. Clint Richmond is also sponsoring several town meeting warrant articles related to climate justice and will circulate information about them through the social action email list.	people from our congregation and several others. The next workshop is set for March 22 nd .
Finance and Administration	End-of-year tax statements have been sent out. We experienced some challenges with the Breeze system, which delayed the mailing; those have now been resolved.	When does the budget process begin? Budget meetings should get onto the church calendar soon.	Ellie, Ebire and RL have now prepared an accurate active members list for the Canvass team, a job which is quite time-consuming, but needs to be done every year.	Adam has applied for loan forgiveness for our second PPP loan.

**** Love in Kyiv by *Natalka Bilotserkivets* and translated by Andrew Sorokowsky**

More terrible is love in Kyiv than
Magnificent Venetian passions. Butterflies
Fly light and maculate into bright tapers –
Dead caterpillars’ brilliant wings aflame!

And spring has lit the chestnuts' candles!
Cheap lipstick's tender taste,
The daring innocence of miniskirts,
And these coiffures, that are not cut quite right –
Yet image, memory, and signs still move us...
Tragically obvious, like the latest hit.
You'll die here by a scoundrel's knife,
Your blood will spread like rust inside a brand
New Audi in an alley in Tartarka.
You'll plunge here from a balcony, the sky,
Down headlong to your dirty little Paris
Dressed in a blouse of secretarial white.
You can't discern the weddings from the deaths...
For love in Kyiv is more terrible than
Ideas of New Communism: specters
Emerge in the intoxicated nights
Out of Bald Mountain, bearing in their hands
Red flags and pots of red geraniums.

You'll die here by a scoundrel's knife,
You'll plunge here from a balcony, the sky, in
A brand-new Audi from an alley in Tartarka
Down headlong to your dirty little Paris
Your blood will spread like rust
upon a blouse of secretarial white.

Natalka Bilotserkivets is an acclaimed poet, editor, and translator. Her poems have been anthologised and translated into dozens of European languages.