

## **Message From Your President The Ministerial Search Team**

The team is: Ann Hollister, Linda Moffat, Mary Jane Aldrich-Moody, Dorie Godfrey, Rita Brown, and Rev Rob Hardies, our advisor. The team is diverse in age, race, sexual orientation, ability, length of UU membership & volunteer roles held.



Our path to finding our next minister is to make it known at the onset to candidates that we hope to hire a half-time contract minister who might wish to, or be open to, be called by the congregation, after the first year of a 2-year contract period. (A contract minister is hired by the Parish Committee. A settled minister has an agreement with the entire congregation.) This allows us to have a year to “date” or work together, get to know one another, and then together decide if this minister is the right person to be called to be our settled minister.

A settled minister and our congregation living and working together is the best hope for UUSMV to grow, not only in numbers, but in faith and in service to our members and our community and to thrive as a liberal religion on the island.

The search team utilized the congregation’s input in our visioning work in 2019 and 2021, and the listening circles last July in creating our congregational record which is information about us for potential candidates to read.

Our #1 priority to hiring a minister is they be an inspiring worship minister. The other top five priorities are: provide pastoral care; help foster a sense of community within the congregation; encourage universal justice initiatives; and provide leadership to help our members grow spiritually. Nancy Cox, a long-time worship committee member, stated the traits to look for in a minister are: the ability to talk about the mystery, awe, and wonder of the holy, without self-consciousness or apology; a modicum of skill in administration; well-read and be able to speak in an informed way about the important issues of the day; a good listener and a compassionate, understanding human being with good pastoral skills; secure and confident in their own personhood; a person whose ego doesn’t need constant stroking and who is able to say if they are wrong or sorry; and is able to forgive and ask for forgiveness. We thank Nancy for sharing her wisdom.

We have cast a net wider than only posting our job opening at the UUA, reaching out to past ministers and their networks; ministers who have spoken in our pulpit with a tie to the island; island clergy; and posting in our island newspapers. We plan to share our job opening with United

Church of Christ and Congregational churches in New England (through Rev. Rob's contacts) & progressive Buddhist and Jewish congregations. A space on our website provides information for anyone interested in the position. We urge you to use any networks you have to reach out to anyone who is qualified and interested.

We will keep the congregation informed of progress as this process unfolds. We welcome your thoughts or questions anytime. Let us set our collective intention that the minister who needs us and whom we need will find his or her way to us in the next few months.

Rita Brown, President