

## Ministerial Annual Report Reflection

I have been reflecting on this congregation's history and where we are in the healing process. Systemic change is hard and it takes time to heal, more time than we recognize.

One example is how together we have made great strides on healing UUFG's music connections in Gainesville. We have relied on best practices, fair compensation, and respect for the leadership, building a strong shared ministry between the music director, the religious educator, and the minister. The only way to continue to process is to continue living by example. We have begun to grow again, and the dream of a larger music program that draws from the community as well as showcasing the talent from within is ready to break open. Many traveling UU musicians have begun to reach out and are glad to see UUFG as a potential venue for growing Unitarian Universalism through music whenever the congregation is ready to build these opportunities.

I believe there are issues around trust that still run deep, and I see this reflected in stewardship. Being willing to make a commitment financially through pledging is as important as committing time and participation beyond one's own personal interests. There are a few folks who are carrying the bulk of the workload in the community and the whole community could benefit from more willingness to serve one another.

UUFG has made strides in Widening the Circle of Concern – by embracing religious language and radical inclusion. Though not faultless or flawless – there has been success in including a more diverse offering of faith traditions and spiritual growth. The seed of breaking away from the ideas of perfection and worship being a prescriptive amount of time has been planted.

There has also been some intentional growth in reconnecting UUFG to the greater UU community, through offerings of the UUA, BLUU, TRUUsT, DRUUMM, UUSC and Side With Love. However, these deeper connections are currently being built on an individual level and are not yet embraced by the entire community. These connections have been a great help in bringing social justice actions greater support and broader impact within the community as a whole. They also bring a diversity of voices that UUFG currently does hold.

It is with deep and abiding love for this community's health and growth that I informed the Fellowship that I will be leaving at the end of this church year. COVID took away many of the dreams we started imagining when I came, while it also opened opportunities to grow this community in different ways. I have faith that this community can grab hold of its ministry and embrace another shared ministry without losing momentum.

In Faith  
Rev. Christe Lunsford