

## Board Notes July 2017

To All our Members and Friends at UUFM:

With no small degree of frustration and disappointment, I have to tell you that we will not be starting this church year with a minister. Last year, after a lot of listening to each other and expressing our heartfelt fears, hopes and dreams for our congregation, we decided together to apply for the Developmental Ministry program. This is a program offered by the UUA to congregations like ours who are trying to get ready to call a minister. We were accepted into the program, but unfortunately were not paired with any ministerial candidates. We do not really know why we weren't. Some in the MidAmerica Region said that most ministers want to live on the East or West coasts, not in the middle of the country. We had some ministers who seemed interested, but for a variety of reasons, could not commit to our church.

Be assured that the Board of Directors remains committed to full-time ministry for our church. We are contacting theological schools, the UUA and MidAmerica to explore our options and to continue our search for a minister. We might be looking for a contract minister, a minister who has a yearly contract with the Board, as we had with both Rev. Lisa Friedman and Rev. Laurie Bushbaum. We will keep you informed about what we find out.

At the Board and Committee Chair retreat that is happening this Friday and Saturday, we will be delving deeply into our vision for our church. We will be working to strengthen our trust and communication with each other. We will be setting goals together for our congregation for this church year.

We will also be considering how we can support and nourish our Worship Committee, as they have the huge task of filling the pulpit each Sunday without a full-time minister. Please consider helping the Worship Committee any way you can.

We will let you know the results of the retreat, probably in next week's weekly.

In Gratitude,  
Nancy Cramblit, Your Board President