



CUUC News

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Nosotros, las congregaciones miembros de la Asociación UU, convenimos en afirmar y formentar el valor y la dignidad propia de cada persona.

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From the desk of Barbara...

I am pleased to return to this congregation for the second year as quarter-time consulting minister. I want to take a few moments to remind everyone of what this means. As a consulting minister, my relationship with the congregation is time-limited, just as an interim ministry is: that is, my contract covers a distinct amount of time, nine months, from September 2004 through May 2005. Generally, we have agreed that this quarter-time assignment includes the following: preaching or otherwise being involved in one service a month; advising the board and committees; offering music and adult religious education as needed; pastoral counseling; and participating in rites of passage as necessary. In this, my second year of full-time ministry, I have some hopes and visions for this congregation, that I will outline in more detail in future newsletters.

Here, let me ask, what are your hopes and visions for your church? What do you value about this congregation? What new activities and attitudes do you envision? What do you plan to do this year to continue those parts that you value, and to implement new ideas? Can each of you reading this newsletter identify two areas in which you can contribute something during the course of the year?---to worship, or membership, or buildings and grounds, or fund-raising, or community outreach, or working with the children, etc., etc., etc. I wonder if sometimes we become a bit unmindful---perhaps self-doubting---about the important place of liberal religion in our communities. Especially during this election season, make no bones about it, our communities need our liberal voice, our liberal presence. We as a congregation need to be here for those seeking a liberal spiritual home. We also need to be living those values in our communities. What are your hopes and visions for your liberal church?

Speaking of living our values in the community, this year I am exploring new avenues of ministry, in community ministry as a chaplain for Planned Parenthood, Austin chapter. It's an exciting new venture for me, involving counseling patients in our clinics, testifying before state agencies, and occasionally making an appearance on the evening news. I'll keep you posted about my experiences this year.

Also I can name one of my visions for my own ministerial formation this year. Sometime in winter, probably in March, I am planning a ceremony of ordination. The ceremony will be in Austin, and involved congregations and ministers from throughout the southwest UU district. I will keep you posted as plans for the ceremony take shape.

Keep visioning, keep moving forward. Blessings!

Dr. Barbara Coeyman
CUUC Part-time consulting minister

