Dear OUUC Community,

Our congregation has been fortunate to have Reverend Mary as our settled minister for more than seven years. We have been through a lot together and accomplished a great deal. Although her departure next year may raise feelings of uncertainty or concern, please rest assured we have been preparing for the transition and OUUC is on solid ground.

The Board and Reverend Mary have made transition planning a normal part of our congregational life by talking openly about it and preparing together. For example, this year we adjusted the minister's salary to be in line with what a future minister might expect.

The Board has begun working with UUA staff in the Congregational Transitions office and with Congregational Life staff for the Pacific Western Region. They will support us in the coming months.

At its October meeting, the Board of Trustees will begin discussing options for our search. Ministerial searches have changed somewhat over the past seven or eight years. According to UUA staff, there are multiple options for transitional ministry – we could follow the same approach used in our last search or consider a different one.

In the coming weeks and months, the Board will engage the congregation, utilize UUA resources, and decide on a path based on what we learn.

Please join the Board for an after-church forum on October 25 at 12:15 pm in the sanctuary. We originally entitled it "Thinking About the Future", but "Transitions and the Future" may better reflect the conversations we hope to have.

The Board looks forward to working with Reverend Mary, the staff, and the congregation as we take the next steps together with gratitude and grace.

Sally Alhadeff

Board President