

## **A Note from the Board Chair**

There are two topics which I want to address with the Congregation.

### **Canvass Time**

It has been a truly remarkable year so far for FUSN and I personally have been impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm that so many have demonstrated time and again as we embark on our transitions. The response to the Listening Circles and Governance Committee initiatives has been truly wonderful. **We now need to tap that vital energy to have a terrific canvass!**

FUSN always operates on what many would consider a shoe string budget. We rely heavily on volunteers which is something that we can all take pride in, but there are two areas where I believe that we are in serious need of additional paid staff assistance. Because of budgetary constraints, we have now been without a membership coordinator for almost a year and the hours of service that we could afford from our membership coordinator during the prior year were capped at a very low number for the same reason. Without a membership coordinator, it is much more difficult for us to follow up with people who show an interest in joining FUSN. As a result of natural attrition in our membership base, we need to constantly recruit new members just to maintain our existing programs. I would personally like to see us actually grow some so that we can think about expanding our programs. The other area where I believe we need additional paid staff time is for our high school age youth group which is bursting at the seams. With additional paid staff time, there is so much more that we could do for our high school youth. What would positions like these cost? In round numbers around \$40K. We won't be able to add these positions unless we increase the results of the canvass by almost 10% before inflation. Please, please give as generously as you can and pay close attention to what the Stewardship Committee has to say about your recommended contribution level. Also if you are asked to help with the canvass, please say yes!

### **Planning for a 2 Year Period of Interim Ministry**

After feedback from the Congregation, the Board has spent considerable additional time reviewing its decision to target a 2 year interim ministry period. We have decided not to modify that decision primarily, from my vantage point, because of the resources that the UUA has committed to developing its interim minister training program over the past 10 years. We have been assured by the UUA that we will have the opportunity to hire an interim minister who is trained to **listen** to us and help us assess and understand our needs as we embark on the process of hiring a new permanent minister. If we had targeted a 1 year interim ministry period, we would need to appoint our permanent search committee now and have the search process in high gear shortly after our interim minister arrives in the Fall. Although, as a Board, we fully appreciate that there are lots of arguments pro and con for 1 year versus 2 years, on balance, we feel that the depth of talent at our Congregation is such that we are more than strong enough to embark on some additional self reflection so that we know who we are and what we need when we call our next permanent minister.

Arthur I. Anderson, Chair