



First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

September 14, 2007

James Ishmael Ford
Senior Minister

To the FUSN Congregation,

Anne Watson Born
Director of Music

With a variety of emotions, I am sending this letter as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of FUSN to inform you that both James and Anne have decided to leave FUSN as of the end of this church year, Anne as of June 15 and James as of August 31.

Anne Bancroft
*Director of
Religious Education*

My first emotion is sadness. I will miss both of them tremendously. They have played a very important role not just in my life but in the lives of the members of my family. My children, Jake, Sam, and Melissa, have each grown up in this society under James' and Anne's tutelage, first through the RE and Coming of Age programs and then each, in turn, having the opportunity to serve as youth representatives on FUSN's Board of Trustees.

Wendy Berenson
*Assistant to the Director of
Religious Education*

Fran Clancy
Administrator

My next emotion is a profound sense of gratitude to James and Anne for sharing so much of their lives with us. It has been a real privilege to know them and benefit from their wisdom. They have truly been an inspiration and I have been particularly impressed with how much they have accomplished together given our hectic environment and less than abundant resources. We have been most fortunate to have such a remarkable and professional duo leading our society for so many years.

My last emotion is a very real sense of excitement about FUSN's potential and future. Growing up as a Protestant, I had no idea what Unitarian/Universalism stood for or that congregations like FUSN existed. FUSN and our UU liberal religious traditions are real treasures.

Thanks to James, Anne, and so many of you, we have a very solid foundation on which to build our future. Over the coming months, the Board of Trustees looks forward to working with them and all of the congregation to initiate a process to identify their successors. We have also been in contact with, and are looking forward to working closely with, our district representatives at UUA to facilitate a seamless transition to our new leadership team.

Although there is much work to be done, if we all pitch in, it will help ensure that we have the best possible outcomes at the end of the transition process. The Board will be working with James, Anne, and the rest of FUSN's lay leadership to identify untapped resources among FUSN's membership. We need your help! If you have been wondering how you might make an additional contribution of your time, now is the perfect time to ask. Further information in this regard will be forthcoming shortly.

Best regards,

Arthur I. Anderson

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