



Andrew Crabb
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March 8, 2017

Dear Fellow Members and Friends of UUYO,

As you read in his letter, our Rev. Matt Alspaugh will return to a path of Interim Ministry and will complete his service as our minister on July 15, 2017. We will miss his gifts and presence as we celebrate his career and life journey as it transitions to its next phase.

Your Board of Trustees is working to make this transition a successful one for our community. We have met with Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, our Regional Staff primary contact, and been in touch with the UUA Transitions Office. With every ministerial transition come challenges and opportunities. The Board of Trustees will be discussing options for the transition over the next several weeks, and will be working with the congregation, asking you to participate in the process.

While some of us, myself included, have not known any other minister at UUYO while we've been members, there is a long history of ministerial transitions at UUYO that we as a community have grown through, with each new minister bringing their own approach to leadership. So as we celebrate Matt's contributions to our community, we look forward to discovering and experiencing a new minister's approach to guidance and leadership.

UUYO is a healthy, active congregation which is welcoming new people every Sunday, and doing important work in the Mahoning Valley. This transition can be a positive opportunity for reflection and refocusing for our congregation. As we begin this journey of transition, the Board asks for your active participation. While comments, questions, and suggestions are always welcome, there's nothing like broad involvement to make a big job seem like light work to all. Take this opportunity to help shape UUYO's future the way YOU want it to be, and be open to joining in the process.

This will be a demanding time for me as Board President and the rest of the members of the Board, so we request your involvement and support as we work through this process in addition to our normal duties, responsibilities, and expectations.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Andrew Crabb

P.S. – Start picking out micro brews and we'll all have a joyous, celebratory send off with Matt on Friday July 14th – he's partial to IPAs but loves variety! ☺