

Minister's Report
Rev Roger Butts
October 13, 2022
UU Congregation of the Outer Banks

1. Visit to the Outer Banks: September 2022

I visited the UU Congregation of the Outer Banks in September and met with a number of congregants, committees and the board. Most of the meetings were informal and opportunities for congregants to meet me. The program team, the caring team, and the committee on ministry were more of a hybrid—some business and some getting to know one another. I lead my first service and I believe it went well. Attendance was very good. I also conducted my first adult education class (How Democracies Die) and attendance was around 20-25 people, a very good turn out indeed. I plan a follow up, On Tyranny, in December.

2. First Remote Service

My first remote service was October 9. I preached on St. Francis. Attendance in the meeting house was 14. I believe there were 10 online. We learned a few things, such as each hymn/song should probably include a miked song leader. It is not easy to hear the hymns online. We are also interested in making the front of the meeting house more 'churchy' when a minister isn't there in person. We had about 7 people stay on zoom after the service, but there was a significant echo that made it difficult. I think that was a one time glitch.

3. Simplify and Vision

I see myself this year as having two priorities. One is to help the congregation adjust to a smaller congregational membership by simplifying its processes and procedures. How that will look involves getting a better sense of how many committees are functioning, how many committees are redundant, and which committees/teams are absolutely required (like the board). I believe a crucial part of this will involve role clarity and empowering those teams that do exist to make their decisions with confidence and within the framework of their budget parameters.

The second priority is to assist with the vision of the congregation moving forward. This will involve some activity that resembles transitional ministry activities—getting a sense of history, getting a sense of possible conflicts in the past and present, getting a sense of identity right now, and helping to imagine what you might look like in the future. This kind of work is not something everyone wants done. They would rather have a priority around good worship and good events. And those are important. But I am convinced in order to vision a future, we need to at least engage some of the questions.

4. Upcoming Services

10/23/22 Prayer, via Zoom (spirituality theme)

11/13/22 Blessed are the Peacemakers, via Zoom (social justice theme/lots of music)

11/27/22 Gratitude (practical living theme)

12/4/22. How Silence Heals (spirituality)

12/18/22 In person Festival of Lights (multi-faith and holidays)

Respectfully submitted,
Reverend Roger Butts