

Celebrating Our Ministry, Susan Richards, President of the Board

When I looked up the definition of ministry I found this: “a person or thing through which something is accomplished” ... I like the simplicity of this... It fits us. The word “person” of course covers our Rev Linda who, I think we can all agree, has accomplished so much in her 6 years with us... but, more importantly, has helped us as a congregation work towards accomplishment in our immediate UU community as well as our island community and beyond. She has helped us, and continues to help us find our own strengths, individually as well as as together as a congregation. Because of Rev Linda’s steadfast committment to a group ministry we have become stronger, more confident, and more capable. We are a work in progress, for sure, but I have no doubt that we can be sucessful in our mission - open doors - open minds - open hearts. This is our ministry.

As current president of the Board, I have the responsibilty and joy of being one of the leaders of the congregation and movers in our ministry. I believe strongly in our goal of expanding our circle of leaders and I believe that there are many of you who are already leaders and movers in our congregation and may not know it yet. The continued sucess of our ministry depends on all of us.

Finally I feel the need for a little Mary Oliver to wrap up my words today....She died just a few months ago and left behind a body of work that is especially relevant to us UUers. She had some beautiful and wise thoughts about many subjects including leadership... In an article I read a while ago, it was said: “beneath the buried beautiful lines lies the code she left for how to lead — not only your business or family, but also yourself” and I would add, your congregation and community as well. I especially love what she wrote about being useful: “May I be the tiniest nail in the house of the universe, tiny but useful. May I stay forever in the stream.”

Here's to being tiny but useful and swimming in the stream together in our shared ministry.