

VUUPoint
BOARD HIGHLIGHTS
November 27, 2016

Friends of VUU,

The elections have left many of us shocked, heartbroken and exhausted, grieving the apparent backlash against progressive values. It seems we have been out of touch—hence our bewilderment about the psyche of America and even certain family members. We have apparently not sensed the fear and loss of trust simmering under the surface in so many of our people. Now we are shouting across the divide.

What do we take away from it? Speaking for myself, I am still in an internal battle to cope, lurching between fight and flight. Some days I am turning off the news to escape announcements about political appointees who do not share our principles. Other days I'm holding onto my outrage to avoid normalizing the latest national developments. At some point, I expect to find the equilibrium described by Holly Near's hymn, "We are a gentle angry people..."

In the meantime, it seems like the best antidote to the current despair is to take action. VUU provides you the means to:

- 1) **Gather together often**—Our sanctuary is filling up on Sundays as we welcome more like-hearted people. We had 450+ people on campus at the mid-November service, a record attendance level. You may also want to "find your people" more frequently in VUU educational or social events throughout the month.
- 2) **Take one step each week**—The UUJAZ newsletter will now offer one suggested action each week to work for justice, including some actions that are not time-consuming. Offered by Anne Schneider, this 50-week action plan will help us roll up our sleeves and avoid "overwhelm". If you don't already receive the Legislative Alert, you can contact legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org
- 3) **Do "radical hospitality and nurturing"**—this is one of our new VUU Ends to cultivate our inclusive community. What does this phrase mean? We are still defining it collectively, but on Sunday we heard an interpretation from worship associate Melanie Cloonan, who suggested we should accept and care for another like we would for a family member who was acting out on a bad day. How would you exhibit radical hospitality?
- 4) **Connect to a cause**—Your involvement in social action may be more impactful and gratifying when you are doing so with members of this congregation. Consider joining an active VUU ministry to aid the homeless, advocate for policing & prison reform, protect immigrants, preserve tribal lands or cultivate a sustainable planet. Contact our Social Action Coordinator Willa Cree socialaction@vuu.org to get involved.
- 5) **Plan VUU's future**—Reverend Andy Burnette is holding small group sessions in December and January to get input on how to achieve our new Vision & Ends. He will facilitate lively discussions about the 5 Ends statements, and has requested your involvement. RSVP for these dates & times:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d49adab22a64-vuuministerled>

Taking action to build a better world—it's the antidote to despairing a bleak future. I hope that our VUU community provides you the means to achieve meaningful impact and connection in the years ahead.

Yours in covenant,

Janice Miller

President

VUU Board of Trustees