

**Report to the Board of Trustees  
Of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church**

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi

August 11, 2017

Dear Trustees,

I am glad to be back at church and glad to be turning my attention to the coming church year at Cedar Lane.

A special welcome to my colleague, the Rev. Katie Romano-Griffin who jumped into religious leadership at Cedar Lane on Aug. 1! Katie and I met in July to figure out some of her priorities for this year. I am really looking forward to working with her and Tim Atkins to support and promote Cedar Lane's mission and ministry.

Below, please find a summation of the activities of my ministry since my last report.

**Worship**

I preached on the "Necessity of Freedom" on July 2.

**Rites of Passage**

I officiated at a child dedication ceremony for Jamie and Lane Crooks, grandchildren of CL members Cathy & Stu Grubman (July 1), a wedding for CL members Robert Laws & Laura Hinds (7/22), and a non-member memorial service for Robert Abbott, father of CL member Meredith Vassell (7/20).

**Pastoral Care**

Made three home visits and two hospital visits to CL members.

**DLRE Search**

Met with the DLRE Search Team and participated in candidate interviews. I am delighted that Tim Atkins is going to be our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education. Tim brings impressive insights and experience to religious education leadership. He is held in high regard by his peers and is known for being a visionary, innovative, and motivated leader in our movement. He will begin serving Cedar Lane on Sept. 5.

**Internship & Davies Partnership**

Attended a half-day orientation for Internship Supervisors at Wesley Theological Seminary (7/20).

Met twice with Norman Allen to do some goal setting as he begins his ministry at Davies Memorial UU Church.

**Public Witness**

I joined a group of interfaith clergy to protest the deep cuts to Medicaid included in the Senate healthcare bill that eventually failed to pass (July 13 & 18).

Here is my testimony:

Medicaid is an entitlement program that was passed during Lyndon B. Johnson's administration in 1965 — five decades ago. Today, it pays for health care services for several of society's most vulnerable groups: poor people, disabled people, children, and elderly Americans in nursing homes.

Medicaid enables one in five Americans to access quality health care and live with dignity.

Medicaid expansion has allowed 11 million low-income individuals gain access to quality, affordable coverage.

Republican senators are considering legislation that would strip away funding for health insurance from some of society's most vulnerable people, and transfer those funds to the richest people in this country.

Medicaid is a sacred covenant we've made to protect poor, working class, children, disabled, and elderly people.

Health insurance that doesn't include essential health coverage victimizes people by denying benefits when they are needed the most.

Illness should not mean financial ruin and bankruptcy, which it surely would without annual and lifetime caps.

An acceptable health care system provides access to all, regardless of their means, and at all stages of life.

These changes [to Medicaid] will wreak havoc on low-income families and struggling communities, and must not be supported .

The loss of affordable access for millions of people is simply unacceptable.

This would turn our country farther away from health, farther away from our values, and farther away from a just society.

Our faiths call us to expand life-giving health care to all, not to take it away.

We call on our elected leaders to prioritize our country's most vulnerable populations and oppose any legislation that rolls back or eliminates the Medicaid expansion and institutes a Medicaid per capita cap.

**Study Leave projects:**

- Researched material for Fall worship themes & Spirit Experience
- Developed agenda and materials for worship associate retreat
- Worked on a new grant proposal for "The Spirit Experience" for 2017-18 church year
- Met with Ritter Norton Architects and shared some of my thoughts about building needs.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Abhi Janamanchi**