

Dear ones,

Thank you for the many blessings you have offered me throughout these past years, but especially during these past months as we have prepared to say farewell to each other. My last day will be this Sunday, June 16, when we bless each other in this parting. Blessing is how I hope we remember our experience of one another. I would welcome you to bring a card on Sunday to take with me.

Several people have asked whether, when, and how they can be in contact with me going forward. The UU Minister's Association's Code of Ethics dictates that I will no longer have contact with UUCA and its members for a one-year period. I ask that you respect this policy, which is also meant to protect UUCA, by not reaching out to me for this period. These boundaries are not about my affection for you – it is about giving you and UUCA's leaders space to develop what is to come, and to allow me to turn my attention to the developmental ministry I will begin at All Souls, Unitarian in Washington, D.C.

Most tenderly, my departure will also shift our relationship beyond this initial year period. I will not be able to perform weddings, memorial services, or other rites of passage, as those would be the duties of the serving minister. Please know that I will honor your life moments privately. Also, while I will be rooting for UUCA, I will not engage in offering advice or influencing its decision-making. You can see the other covenants that I have made with Rev. John, now that I am departing. While I will no longer be your minister, I will still value and cherish our relationship. Seeing you again will be a joy.

I hope to see you on Sunday so we can bless these changes and say farewell to each other.

With love,

Rev. Anastassia