

Collaboration between the UUCWI Worship Committee and Minister (v2)
January, 2018

As we enter a search for a new part-time minister, we want to clarify our understanding of the working relationship between our Worship Committee (WC) and Minister.

Since our Congregation began in 1993 we've evolved from in-house and guest speakers to a quarter-time minister (Rev. Tim Jensen, 2000), then a third-time minister (Rev. Kit Ketcham, 2003), and our most recent half-time minister (Rev. Dennis Reynolds, 2012).

The WC comprises the minister, members of the congregation who serve as worship leaders, and a liaison from the Board. The WC also works with the Special Music Coordinator and Choir Director. A member of the congregation chairs the WC and facilitates monthly meetings.

We know from surveys of the congregation that people like the variety of Sunday experiences presented at UUCWI. There is an intentional balance of the need for "head" and "heart". People have interest in Buddhist, Earth-Centered, Christian, Jewish, Humanist, Agnostic, Atheist, and other perspectives. Music is very important to our congregation and past ministers have been supportive of and collaborative with our accompanists and choir director.

The WC has a collaborative relationship with the minister on selecting and engaging speakers. When in the pulpit, our minister selects the topic and worship leader. Our protocol is that the minister will contact other UU ministers to invite them to speak. The WC assigns contacting other speakers – in-house congregants, clergy from other denominations, and speakers from outside UUCWI – to whichever committee member has the best relationship with the guest.

The WC and past ministers have had mutually supportive relationships that recognize and appreciate the years of education and training required to earn fellowship from the UUA. Our ministers have complete freedom of the pulpit. We look forward to learning new perspectives and skills. We hope the new minister recognizes our strengths and experience.

We invite prospective new worship leaders to join the WC and we have a mentorship process in place to bring new members on board. We plan annual enrichment and skill-building opportunities for all worship leaders. Some members of the WC have served for over a decade and there is a great store of knowledge regarding the art of Worship and experience with outside speakers.

The WC looks forward to continuing this collaborative model with our next minister.