

July 15, 2010

Beloved board, staff, congregants and friends:

After serving this spiritual community for over 12 years, Spirit is calling me to step out in faith to do what my heart has called me to do for nearly a year. I am resigning as your minister effective March 31, 2011, to move to Cleveland, Ohio to live near my daughter and her family.

This has been a challenging decision to make. My “considerations” are:

- I have never felt so loved, or been able to love in return as I have here. As much as I look forward to being close to my family, leaving this staff, board, congregation and individuals in it, as well as my friends in the broader community is very sad and I will grieve. I will miss you very much.
- I do not as yet have another position to go to, and I will want/need to work. You may have heard me say that God’s will for us is good, and we get to choose the good; that “abundance is the natural state of affairs in my life and in the universe” and that regardless of appearances, God has, does and will provide. I am literally putting that to the test!

Fortuitously (and Spirit!) we have arranged to have Rev. Martha Creek come to Kalamazoo for a Congregational meeting Friday evening, September 17th, Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th. ***Please put that entire weekend on your calendar.*** Martha’s original intent was to do a “Healthy Churches” workshop. Ministries in transition is also her specialty, and she will be an excellent consultant to help us navigate this major transition for our community. I trust that we will all do whatever is up for us to do in these eight months, so that when I leave, you and I both will move forward into a thriving, healthy, happy community life.

Please know that outside of some brief times away, I am available to you in whatever ways will contribute to your understanding, healing, sharing, crying, laughing, spiritual enrichment and personal growth.

Those who have experienced a ministerial transition before all ready know that all is well and will be well. Those who have come during my tenure are likely to be the most impacted by my leaving. We will talk about all of this a lot, but I ask you to remember....it is because *you* are open and available to the Spirit of Truth in *you* that you have been blessed and awakened. If I have been a channel of good news, I am more grateful than I can say, but I have only been the messenger.

I am leaving because I feel my work here is done, and I know that the right and perfect leadership will be here to even more successfully continue the long history of Unity in Kalamazoo. I know they will be received in love and supported just as I have been, and your consciousness will be blessed and expanded even more.

With the Divine wisdom of Spirit, guidance of our consultants, and the support of our International Association of Unity Churches we will walk through this time with peace and love. We can experience the sadness of parting while also celebrating our time together in joy. The board will be in close conversation with you as they make decisions and lead you in the next right steps.

My heart overflows in gratitude for each of you and for the collective that is Unity of Kalamazoo. God is blessing us all as we make this journey of transition together.

In love beyond words

Rev. Marty Newman