

Rev. Linda Simmons, minister and Nigel Goss, music director
April 6, 2021

The following music suggestions were agreed upon by Rev. Linda and Nigel, your minister and music director who are charged with defining and choreographing the worship space. The below agreements took months of negotiation between us. We both had to give something up. We finally came to the understanding that as church leaders, as you as board members well know, what we were charged with was not pressing our own ideas/ideals but collecting information from others and balancing this with our professional knowledge of worship space integrity and construction.

What we both discovered on this journey is that people far and wide want to remain connected in a meaningful way. Everyone agrees that zoom has allowed us this connection while taking much away as well: personal engagement, touch, smell. We learned that we can keep the best of zoom and the best of the sanctuary by combining them in ways below. Both Nigel and I accept that this is a flexible agreement, subject to trial, error, and change: our needs will evolve as a church community, and we will need to respond to changes with the pandemic. As we learned in our first month of zoom, there has to be room for us to learn on the ground.

We also talked a lot about the integrity of our historic sanctuary and came to the understanding that for the Christians who started this church in 1809, what we practiced, pre-covid, would be heresy (including lighting the chalice). When the church became Christian Unitarian in the 1830s, they still said the Lord's prayer—Much has changed since then, and it continues to change, as society, the world, and culture all change. Nigel and Rev. Linda both agree that the space was built to contain faithful community that meets the needs of what it is to be human and faithful in every new era. This new era is asking us to integrate zoom so that those who cannot be present (due to distance/personal preference or health needs) can still feel part of something sustaining, nurturing and faithful.

Music Suggestions:

In order to keep a vibrant and active music program at the church, that also takes into account safety, Rev. Linda and Nigel suggest the following, subject to trial and error and creative evolution:

- Of the three hymns played each Sunday, two will be recordings played over the loudspeakers in the Sanctuary, and simultaneously broadcast to zoom. One of the hymns will be played live in the sanctuary, by Nigel, or with guests.
- The offertory and postlude will continue to be played live, and a prelude, which has not been possible during covid due to zoom's sound limitations, will be performed in the sanctuary. This one piece will not be broadcast to the zoom congregation.
- The choir will perform one anthem per month virtually, until it's agreed that live choral singing is safe.

- Regarding singing in general, congregants in the sanctuary may sing softly, socially distanced with masks. Occasionally a guest singer will perform, masked, on the dais, well distanced (10-15 feet) from any congregants.

Motion from Treasurer, Paul Stewart:

I **MOVE** the Board receive this report from the Recovery Team with gratitude, and receive the accompanying Music report, also with gratitude, and urge those groups to keep working in the directions indicated, with the Board's support, acknowledging that fine-tuning of these plans may occur either before or after the first meetings, with the first possible UU service in the sanctuary on May 30.