

# The Saltwater Scroll

## The Newsletter of Saltwater Church

*An Intentionally Inclusive, Spiritually Progressive, Justice-seeking Community*

### April 2016 Newsletter

#### Worship Services

*All worship services are at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings unless otherwise noted.*

**Sunday, April 3, “How to Pay Attention to Politics without Losing One’s Soul”  
With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto**

With 219 days to go until Election Day, how can we make it without giving into the temptation to impale ourselves or those with whom we disagree on the pointy end of a yard sign?

**Sunday, April 10, “My Life in a Parallel Universe”  
With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto**

Reverend James talks about the four years he spent living in Japan in his twenties and the effects those years continue to have on his life.

This topic was chosen by Topher Benum who successfully bid on the chance to pick a sermon topic at last fall’s church auction.

**Sunday, April 17, “We’re Taking Back Our Planet, Dammit!”  
With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto and Members of the Congregation**

While news of global climate change can make us easily despair, a string of recent victories by citizen activists in Oregon and Washington State give us reason to hope that we can make a difference in our planet’s future. This morning several members of our congregation who have participated in those efforts will share their stories.

A potluck lunch will follow the service. Please bring a dish to share.

**Sunday, April 24 “Growing Up and Out of Fundamentalism”  
With Dr. Theresa E. McCormick, Guest Speaker**

Theresa, a Unitarian Universalist and a professor emeritus at Iowa State University, and author of *A Far Cry From Here—Growing Up and Out of Fundamentalism* will speak about her spiritual and religious journey.

## Board of Directors

Sharon Crow, President  
Lisa Key, Vice President  
Echo Allen, Secretary  
Gaye Greeves, Treasurer  
Aaron Sperry  
Quinn Rose  
Saphronia Young

*The Board of Directors may be contacted by email at [board@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:board@saltwaterchurch.org). Phone numbers and addresses are listed in the church directory.*

## Church Office Information

Office: (253) 777-4994 or (844) 480-0647 (toll free)

Email: [info@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:info@saltwaterchurch.org)

Website: [www.saltwaterchurch.org](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org)

**Church office hours:** Sue Eaton, our church administrator, is usually in the office Monday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.; and Friday, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. She sometimes runs errands, so please call before stopping by.

## Minister and Staff Contacts

*Any staff member may be reached by phone by calling (253) 777-4994.*

**Minister:** Reverend James Kubal-Komoto  
Email: [minister@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:minister@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Director of Family Ministry:** Melinda Einander  
Email: [melinda@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:melinda@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Music Director:** Paula Mayfield  
Email: [paula@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:paula@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Choir Director:** Tom Burt  
Email: [tom@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:tom@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Church Administrator:** Sue Eaton  
Email: [sue@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:sue@saltwaterchurch.org)

## Minister's Schedule

**Reverend James** works Sunday through Thursday most weeks. His days off are Friday and (sometimes) Saturday. He is available for appointments late mornings, early afternoons, and evenings. Feel free to call him on Fridays and Saturdays, but unless it is an urgent matter, he may not return your call until later.

## Church Calendar

The church calendar is on our website, at [www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendar](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendar). To have an event put on the church calendar, contact church administrator, Sue Eaton, or visit [www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendarrequestform](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendarrequestform).

## Deadlines

The deadline for announcements for the Weekly Emailed Announcements and the Order of Service is **Wednesday by 10 a.m.** The deadline for the newsletter is the third Sunday of every month. **The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, April 17.**

To submit any announcement or newsletter content, visit [www.saltwaterchurch.org/publicity](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/publicity). If you email an announcement, please use the [announcements@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:announcements@saltwaterchurch.org) address only. If you email a newsletter article, use the [newsletter@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@saltwaterchurch.org) address only.

# *Our Welcoming Community*

## **Meet the Minister**

A “Meet the Minister” gathering will take place on Sunday, April 3, immediately following the worship service in the church office. This is an informal get-to-know-you gathering for recent visitors and is also a chance to learn more about Saltwater Church and Unitarian Universalism.

## **New Member Ceremony on Sunday, May 15**

Have you been visiting Saltwater Church for while? Does it feel like a religious home to you? Have you been considering becoming a member?

A new member recognition ceremony, for all those who have joined the church in the past 12 months, will be held on Sunday, May 15. If you would like to be able to participate in that ceremony, please fill out the online membership form at [www.saltwaterchurch.org/membership](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/membership) form by Sunday, May 8 (or contact the church office to have one mailed to you.)

If you're still trying to decide whether to become a member, the questions and answers below may help you decide:

### **What is the meaning of membership at Saltwater Church?**

- While in some religious communities, becoming a member means affirming a particular set of beliefs, in a Unitarian Universalist congregation, becoming a member means joining in a promise shared among all the members of the congregation. At Saltwater Church, that promise is, "I will support you in your own individual religious journeys as you support me in mine, and together we will support this religious community we share."

### **What are the benefits of membership?**

- Members are eligible to vote in congregational meetings (such as the ones that will like be held to select a ministerial search committee in spring of 2017 to call a new minister in the spring of 2018.)
- Members are eligible to serve in leadership positions within the congregation.
- Members receive a free subscription to the *UUWorld*, a quarterly magazine published by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

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- The minister officiates rites of passage - - such as weddings and memorial services - - at no charge for members.
- Members may rent the church building for special events at reduced rates.
- Beyond these practical benefits, the most important benefit is the feeling of connection and meaning that members experience as a result of being a part of an organization that is making a difference in people's lives and in the wider world.

### **What are the requirements of membership?**

- Members must be at least 14 years old.
- Members should be in sympathy with the mission, vision, and values of the church and Unitarian Universalism.
- Members are asked to make a pledge to support the church financially. All members are encouraged to be as generous as they are able, but there is no minimum pledge and there is an exemption from pledging from anyone experiencing extreme financial difficulty. Members are also asked to support the church by volunteering.

### **How long do most people wait before deciding to become members?**

- Most of the congregation's current members made the decision to become members within a few months to a year after their first visit to the church.

If you have any questions about the membership process, please feel free to contact Reverend James at (253) 336-6561 or at [minister@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:minister@saltwaterchurch.org) .

## **Letting Our Light Shine**

By Bill Adams, Outreach and Welcoming Team Members

Saltwater Swag - - promotional items to help members of the wider community know about Saltwater Church - - are coming back on Sunday, April 10. The Welcoming and Outreach Team will have a table set up before and after church that Sunday. We'll have t-shirts in all adult sizes, bags, bumper stickers and cling-on signs to go inside the car window. We'll also have free business cards with information about Saltwater Church.

And while you're stocking up on swag, consider becoming a member of the Welcoming and Outreach Team. We have some exciting plans for the future and we'd love to have you be part of the team.

# *Our Worshipping Community*

## **Baby Dedications on Sunday, May 1**

On Sunday, May 1, we will have “Ceremonies of Naming and Dedication” for babies as well as recently adopted children.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Reverend James or Melinda Einander. At least one parent must be a member of church in order to participate.

## **Speakers Wanted for Summer Services**

After Reverend James departs and before an Interim Minister arrives later in the summer, many of the Sunday morning worship services at Saltwater Church will feature guest speakers, but there will also be opportunities for members of the congregation to speak at Sunday morning services.

If you are interested in speaking at a Sunday morning service this summer, please contact Reverend James.

## **Musicians and Song Leaders Wanted for Contemplative Worship Services**

by Rosalie Olds

The Worship Team is planning some alternative contemplative evening services for later this year. They will include a lot of singing along the lines of a Taize service. We are looking for musicians and song leaders who would like to participate. If you're interested please contact Worship Team members Rosie Olds, Barbara Nelson, or Janeane Weprin.

# *Our Learning Community*

## **Aging with Spirit**

Housing changes are some of the most stressful events facing elders and family members. On Sunday, April 24, 12-2 p.m., the Aging with Spirit Team is hosting a workshop and seminar entitled *Living Well* to explore housing options, costs, strategies for payment and other issues. Alternatives may be available for varying care levels and pricing can vary according to one's priorities. There are also strategies one can explore in advance in order to remain at home longer.

Gwynne Black from Madrona Park in Federal Way along with Tami Moore, Senior Housing Specialist and Andrea Holmgren from Sound Options, will present and provide a light lunch. Register by calling Gean Dindia at (253) 941-1106, by April 20.

## **Yoga as a Spiritual Practice**

Katie Hardin, CYT (Certified Yoga Trainer) will be teaching a weekly hour-long yoga and meditation class for mixed levels, beginner to advanced, in the Lighthouse Large Room on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Students should be able to weight bear in their shoulders, knees and get up from the floor.

Learn how to center yourself and find your inner guide. Find self-love and abundance of connection to those in community around you. Rediscover your mind body connection. Release judgment and competition and come as you are. We meditate on growing our beacon of loving light to share with our beloved community.

There is a suggested donation of \$10-per-session for participants. Bring a mat if have one or ask Katie to borrow one. Arrive ten minutes early to tell Katie your limitations and injuries so she can help protect you from injury and build a practice toward your goals.

Contact Melinda Einander, Director of Family Ministries, at least two weeks ahead of time if you would like childcare.

There will be no yoga on Sunday, April 24.

# *Our Caring Community*



## **SEABECK ALL-AGES RETREAT 2016**

April 22-24

Kathleen Tracy will facilitate a program of song themed around the idea of our oneness with each other and nature. Her program session will touch on our interdependent web of belonging, and the need for each of us to be more deliberate about seeking out opportunities for authentic connection in this digital age. She will also address the need to actively confront the ever increasing fragmentation of our culture. A metaphor she uses for this exploration is mycelium and mushrooms - crazy, right? But it works!

Shoreline, Evergreen and Westside, together with Saltwater, Tahoma, and Olympia Congregations are proud to present this year's retreat. There will be many opportunities to participate, learn, laugh and play. We hope you can join us and experience the wonder of togetherness that resonates through the weekend and beyond.

Register now at [www.shorelineuu.org/seabeck-retreat.html](http://www.shorelineuu.org/seabeck-retreat.html). For questions about the retreat, contact Kat Sperry at [mommakatsperry@gmail.com](mailto:mommakatsperry@gmail.com).

## **Creative Hands**

By Debra Valpey

Attention all Yarn and Fabric Crafters. We meet in April on to do our own creative projects regularly on Mondays, April 11 and April 25, at 7 p.m. in the Welcoming Room. In addition to sharing ideas and skills in the planning and construction of our own creations, we also make comfort shawl, scarves, and lap robes for members who are dealing with serious illness or who have lost loved ones. We make baby blankets for our newest members and we design and construct fabric creations to "warm" our sanctuary walls.

Beginners are welcome as are those more experienced folks who can teach us new skills. No experience is needed; if you can tie your shoes we can get you knitting, crocheting, weaving, appliqueing. Please join us as we share in camaraderie and creativity.

For more information, contact Debra Valpey, at (206) 953-5704 or Lynn Crow at (206) 429-2005.

## Among Ourselves

Hug the midwife! Congratulations to Katie Einander on her graduation from Bastyr University with a midwifery degree. We are so proud of you!

Congratulations to Greg Laurel on his new job!

## Our Caring and Lay Ministry Teams

Both the Caring Team and the Lay Ministry Team at Saltwater Church help members of our community during difficulty, transition, and crisis. Members of the **Caring Team** can sometimes help with some of the following tasks: Bringing meals, providing emergency babysitting, providing respite care, providing transportation to medical appointments, buying/delivering groceries or other needed items, and meeting other specific, short-term needs. To contact the Caring Team, contact Denise Yanega at (253) 838-7479 or at [denise@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:denise@saltwaterchurch.org).

Sometimes during a time of difficulty, what a person needs most is someone to talk to. Members of the **Lay Ministry Team** can provide an ear to listen, a heart to care, and a hand to hold. They are also available to visit hospitalized or homebound individuals. You can contact any one of the lay ministers below:

- **Debra Valpey** (206) 243-5566 or [debra@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:debra@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Denise Yanega** (253) 838-7479 or [denise@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:denise@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Peggy O'Connor** (253) 839-1432 or [peggy@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:peggy@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Mike Yanega** (253) 838-7479 or [mike@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:mike@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Phil Dindia** (253) 941-1106 or [phil@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:phil@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Lynn Crow** (253) 941-0860 or [lynn@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:lynn@saltwaterchurch.org)

## *Our Serving Community*

### **Saltwater Sound Alliance**

By Susan Aigner, Sound Alliance Team Co-Lead

In our January Congregational Listening Session, you told us you want:

1. Action on behalf of the most needy -- homeless and those burdened with addiction and/or mental illness. (Forty-five votes).
2. Action to protect our planet, by working to have all our energy come from clean and renewable sources, instead of coal or other fossil fuels.



3. Action to address income inequality/unequal taxation in our state.

We continue research to find a concrete, specific, winnable action from among these issues.

In addition, our Saltwater Sound Alliance and Climate Action Now! have been working together to share ideas and energy. Eleven people, from both groups, attended a Utilities and Transportation Commission hearing in Olympia on March 4. We joined more than 100 other people who came to voice their opposition to Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) use of electricity from coal-fired plants in Colstrip, Montana. This is an unprecedented turnout! The hearing room was packed, with standing room only. It was a victory! PSE will submit a plan by January 2017, for closing half the plant.

## **Saltwater Climate Action Now! Update**

By Mary Paynter

East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church will hold an Indigenous Solidarity Climate Action Forum on Sunday, April 10.

“The beach where we used to dig for clams is now covered in coal dust.” When I heard a member of the Lummi Nation utter these words I thought to myself, “*What are we DOING?*” He captured the essence of the impact of the extraction of fossil fuels on indigenous people, and spurred me to become active in the struggle to stop the destruction of our Pacific Northwest environment in the interest of exporting fossil fuels. Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel. It harms human health, and is the number one source of human-caused climate change. It is an energy source of the past. Coal companies are going bankrupt. China is trying to limit dependence on coal, so that their people can breathe. Why would we in the Northwest allow coal export terminals to take precedence over treaty-protected fishing rights, breathable air, and a habitable planet?

East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church in Bellevue invites our congregation and other area churches to join with them for a lunch buffet followed by an Indigenous Solidarity Climate Action Forum. This is a chance to become informed about the coal export terminal that is planned on the site near Bellingham where the Lummi have lived and fished for 3,500 years.

Representatives from four different tribes will tell how they are being impacted by fossil fuels and climate change. We also hope to learn how we can join with area tribes to curtail the expansion of fossil fuels extraction and transportation in the Pacific Northwest.

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In many cases indigenous treaties enforcement could limit the development and transport of coal, oil, and liquid natural gas fuels in our region. Please join with us and other area churches for this special day. If you plan to attend the lunch, or if you need child care for the forum, please RSVP to [ilove\\_trees@yahoo.com](mailto:ilove_trees@yahoo.com). (For child care, be sure to specify the number and ages of children).

Those members of Saltwater Church who are able to attend East Shore's morning worship service (starts at 10 a.m.) will have the additional opportunity to hear a Lummi Nation speaker who was an Indigenous Peoples Representative at the Paris Climate Talks last December. From him we'll learn about the spiritual connection that the Co-Salish tribes have to the land and the message that they carried with them to Paris. Contact Mary Paynter at [payntermary@comcast.net](mailto:payntermary@comcast.net) for ride-sharing for the service and/or lunch and forum.

## *Family Ministries*

By Melinda Einander, Director of Family Ministries

### **Transition and Change**



My step-daughter is fond of reminding us that our current home is the longest she's ever lived anywhere—four whole years! She often tells me how moving around so much and changing schools so often has helped her—how she's learned to be adaptable in new situations, make new friends quickly, and even that she gets bored in a school if she's there more than two years. Six years at Saltwater Church, and she still wants to come to church most Sundays. Our child, so fond of change, seems to like this form of consistency, and the community she has found here.

Change is a normal part of life. While there are plenty of challenges associated with rapid change, those that come from a change of something that has been relatively stable for a long time can catch us off guard. Change in our children's lives—whether it be changing schools, moving to a new home, parents' divorce or remarriage, the birth of a sibling or the death of a family member—can affect them in ways that may be surprising or unexpected from our adult perspective.

Children often find comfort in routines, the familiar, the known. A change that may seem minor to us, may be quite distressing to them. Alternately, a change that we think is earth-shattering may be accepted by our child seemingly effortlessly.

As Reverend James prepares to leave his ministry at Saltwater Church, we should be prepared for a variety of reactions from our children and youth (as well as from ourselves). Depending on how long your child has been at Saltwater, James may well be the only minister your child has ever known.

Ideas to help your children in the transition:

- Make sure you have talked with them about James' departure. Children are often not aware of the conversation that is going on in the adult part of the congregation, and they may not be aware that James' family also be leaving.
- Ask your children if they have any questions, and absolutely let them know that they can bring those questions to me or to James.
- Encourage them to write a goodbye note to James. This is their chance to tell him goodbye, or to tell him what his ministry here has meant to them. Children may also want to write goodbye notes to their friend Kai.
- Bring them to RE classes in April and May so they can participate in group projects for James' departure party on May 29.
- Attend the party on May 29, with your family to say goodbye to James and his family.
- If a letter or note doesn't appeal to your child, they could also do a thank you gift — a picture, a gift card, any small thank you (think similar scale to the teacher gifts you do at the end of the school year).
- For very young children, the concept of change and goodbye can be introduced with a book like *Farfallina and Marcel* by Holly Keller.

Change and transition are inevitable in life. Change is necessary for almost anything to grow. But that doesn't make changes easy. Change, whether happy, sad, or in between, is almost always stressful. For those amongst us — often our youngest ones — who have had the least practice with transitions, we should extend extra grace and care.

And remind them that in the end, new friends arrive in our lives, new teachers turn out to be pretty nice, and new ministers can bring a different, but still lovely, perspective and leadership to our congregation.

## Family Ministries Calendar for April

April 3	Children and youth meet in classrooms 10:30 a.m.
April 4	Family Ministries Team meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m.
April 10	Children and youth meet in classrooms 10:30 a.m.
April 10	Parent Class “Roots and Wings” 1-3 p.m.
April 17	Children and youth meet in classrooms 10:30 a.m.
April 17	Potluck lunch at noon
April 17	High School Youth Group 12-2:30 p.m.
April 22-24	Church Retreat at Seabeck Conference Center
April 24	Village Class; all ages meet in the Community Room

## *Church Life*

### **News from the Board: The Interim Opportunity**

By Sharon Crow, Board President

As the Board is beginning the search for an interim minister, we would like to share with you some information from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) about interim ministry and the search process.

#### **What is the role of an interim minister?**

Interim ministers do much more than fill a vacant pulpit until a new minister is called; they make interim work their calling. Accredited interim ministers have completed a specialized training program and are competent both in parish ministry and as resident consultants, able to assist congregations in reviewing and revitalizing their operations.

In addition to carrying out the normal responsibilities of congregational ministry, including worship and pastoral care, they possess specific skills in assisting a congregation in:

- claiming and honoring its past and engaging and honoring its griefs and conflicts
- recognizing its unique identity and its strengths, needs, and challenges
- clarifying the appropriate leadership roles of minister(s), church staff, and lay leaders and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition
- making appropriate use of regional, UUA, and other outside resources
- proudly coming into possession of a renewed vision and strong stewardship, prepared for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest.

The interim minister may not become a candidate for the congregation's called ministry, may not serve the congregation for more than two years, and may not discuss specific prospective candidates for the called ministry of the congregation with the ministerial search committee.

**But wouldn't a permanent, "settled" minister perform those functions? Why do we need an interim?**

For twenty-five years now, Unitarian Universalist congregations, many of the mainline Protestant denominations, and synagogues of all traditions have depended on interim ministry to deal with the phenomenon of transition. They have done so largely in response to an important Alban Institute study which established the fact that congregations not hiring an intentional interim minister during a ministerial transition often find themselves having called an "unintentional interim minister" instead. At best the next minister will have heavy going. At worst the minister will not last. And indeed, among Unitarian Universalist congregations the practice of hiring an interim minister following a ministerial departure is almost universal

**How and when will we call an interim minister?**

The search for an interim minister is already underway, and the process will proceed very quickly between now and May 20. Due to the short timeline, the board started work on the application in mid-March but will turn the interim search over to a three to five-person task force. The task force will complete the application, will gather information about the interim minister candidates, conduct interviews, and bring a recommendation to the board. Per Saltwater Church bylaws, the Board of Directors may hire an Interim minister by majority vote.

- April 22 - application for interim minister due to the UUA
- May 9 or 10 –congregations receive names of interested ministers
- May 20, noon Eastern time – congregations may make an offer
- August or September 2016 – interim minister starts serving a two-year term

Please feel free to contact me or any Board member if you have questions or concerns. For additional information you may also wish to watch this short video from the UUA called The Interim Opportunity: <http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/interim/173977.shtml>

# Healthy Congregations Training Day

By Aida Sanchez-Vela

PNWD Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 9, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Saltwater Church. Team leaders and future leaders are encouraged to attend but anyone interested is welcome to attend. This training day is hosted by Saltwater Church and presented by PNWD Healthy Congregations Team and UUA Regional Staff. The course will help identify and anticipate situations likely to trigger conflict, navigate difficult conversations, triangulated situations and manage polarities. Register online by April 3 at [www.pnwd.org](http://www.pnwd.org). The cost is \$25. Snacks and light lunch will be provided. Volunteers are needed to help host this event. Please contact Aida at (253) 820-9101 or [aidasanchezvela@hotmail.com](mailto:aidasanchezvela@hotmail.com) to volunteer. Volunteers will have the workshop fee waived but still have to register.

## We're STILL Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table! (Or, What! Reverend James is Leaving! Why Should I Give?)



*Reprise of Stewardship Team skit originally presented to the Congregation on January 24, 2016. Scene: Church Sanctuary. A (Y)oung adult and a Stewardship Team member(S)uzanne Laurel, talking by the suitcase table.*

**Y: Hey, there, Suzanne! Why is this goofy table still sitting here?**

S: This table STILL represents the support of our congregants to our church. Each leg is a piece of what is needed from each of us to keep the church going, now more than ever!

**Y: Looks like this first leg is rock solid.**

S: This leg is Presence. Saltwater Church's members and friends are solid here, attending services at church regularly almost every Sunday, like they have done for years and like they will continue to do, welcoming new friends every week.

**Y: Yeah, it seems like there are a lot of people here today. Jeez, it even looks like we could use a little more room for all this presence! That must be what that "Stay or Go" Task Force is all about. Remind me about this second leg? It seems really good and tight yet, too.**

S: Yup. This one is the Essence of our Community. We bring not just our bodies, but our minds, our hearts—indeed, our spirits, if you will—to all we do together in this church. This community has had a special essence ever since its creation, through several different ministers and several interim/search years. Why, we had Essence long before we called the Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto, the soon-to-be Pacific Western Region Regional Lead, to be our minister sixteen years ago. You can feel that, can't you?

**Y: Gosh, yeah, I know what you are talking about! It seems pretty evident even the first time you come here—friendly, caring individuals with passion for a shared mission and vision. But how do you know that feeling, that ‘Essence of the Community,’ will continue here after Reverend James moves on? I mean, how can we have ‘Essence’ without his awesomeness?**

S: Because we have ‘Essence of the Community!’ James is part of that essence because he has been part of this community. His ministry has definitely brought us all a “fuller, deeper, richer experience of life,” but he is not the essence of Saltwater. You are. I am. We all are!

And because we have this next leg, the one called Participation. This one holds us together as much as any other of these legs. The “work” we each do here, volunteering at and for the church, is REALLY important. Also pretty solid! We’ve got great participation here at Saltwater Church, a lot of dedicated individuals, and no one expects that to change. In fact, we may all become even closer, even more ‘Essential’, if you will, as we support each other and the community through these next years of transition.

**Y: And this last leg? It seems a little tighter, a little less wobbly than when we first looked at this table in January.**

S: Wow, you really are pretty perceptive for a young congregant! Particularly given that we don’t talk about this leg too much here at Saltwater Church. This is the “Economics of the Community,” or money leg. And though each leg is just as important as the other, this one, when neglected, leads more quickly to the others becoming shakier.

**Y: Really? Because I was thinking about giving some of my hard earned money to this church when James made the announcement. And now I’m not so sure I should.**

S: I hear you, and I imagine you are not alone in that thought. Many of us are really happy for James and his promotion, and even a little proud, thinking about how Saltwater Church has “raised” such a wonderful minister. But I imagine some may ask, “Why should I give when James is leaving?! Is this still a sound deal?”

But many have given and many will continue to give. In fact, we’re having a pretty successful pledge drive this year, and things are looking good for Saltwater Church financially! Looking forward to our second year of the Five Year Plan, the next phase of our “Stay or Go” process and the first year of our interim minister, we should do fine! I have no doubt that south King County Unitarian Universalists will continue to grow Saltwater Church. Together we will keep Saltwater Church strong, dynamic, welcoming and enduring.

**Y: Well, you’ve reassured me and convinced me. I’m ready to pledge to Saltwater Church. Here’s my pledge card!**

S: Wow, thanks!

Saltwater Church  
A Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
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