



My dear friends,

February 14, 2020

With deep sadness and regret, I am writing to let you know that my ministry to the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale will end this June. I have loved serving you and am incredibly grateful for the time we've had together. It has blessed me abundantly to serve this is a vital, compassionate and generous church.

Unfortunately, the accumulated losses in our families and the illness that Karen sustained over the past few years have taken a deep toll from which I have not been able to recover. While putting my energy into bringing quality worship experiences, there are always too many things in the wider arena of the church not receiving the attention they deserve. This is not fair to the church nor is it sustainable for me. My fear is that my distraction has stifled the normal growth desirable in a church and that my departure will allow both of us the opportunity to heal, evolve and grow.

Let me say very clearly that I am not leaving out of disappointment or dissatisfaction. I appreciate the love and support I have received these past years and will always hold this community in deep affection even when we can no longer be in communication.

I also realize that after the 30-year ministry of Ed Searl, this is a new experience for many of you, but this term of ministry is a natural and common experience for most churches. I remember overhearing church folks talking at another congregation when they couldn't see me around the corner.

"Ministers come and ministers go" one said "but we will be here through it all."

The minister does not make the church, the members do. Ministers serve as best we can, but the church is people like you who show up, who make space in each other's lives, and who carry on the tradition, compassion and caring of the community come what may.

In the next few months we will take time together to examine challenges, to celebrate successes, and to say a whole-hearted goodbye. There will be opportunities for reflection and farewell as we begin a new chapter in our lives.

Thank you for everything you have shared, inspired, and taught me these past six years. You are a tremendous blessing and the world needs you - the gifts you share and the love you offer - now more than ever before.

With love & care,  
Rev Pam